

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date	Activity Description	Number of Attendees
August 2007	Meetings: BCNA does not hold any meetings in August Communications: The September/October newsletter is prepared and mailed to members (see below).	
9/11/07	Meetings: Annual Picnic in the Park. Social meeting. BCNA provides the fried chicken and soft drinks/water. Residents bring side dishes and desserts.	40
9/18/07	September general meeting (minutes below) Communications: The September/October newsletter reaches the residents. Email reminders of the meetings and picnic are sent to those who provide email addresses (see below).	10
10/8/07	Meetings: October general meeting (minutes below) Communications: Email reminders of the October meeting are sent to those members who provide email addresses (see below).	14

MINUTES

September 18, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Comstock at 7:09 PM with 10 people in attendance. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

Our new NRC representative is Julie Mitchell. Thanks to Julie for volunteering to fulfill this position.

The suggestion was made that we have 12 monthly meetings but the decision was to add a meeting in July, to meet at the Brook Creek Park gazebo (the East Lawrence Recreation Center as the rain alternative). This will give us 9 monthly business meetings: September - December, February - May, and July. We will, of course, also have our Picnic in the Park as a social occasion in September.

It was reported that the debris-filled culverts at 13th and Brook Street have been cleared.

The sidewalk on 15th Street in front of Oak Hill Cemetery is in need of repair.

There will be a Fall clean-up on November 3rd beginning at 10 AM and lasting to 3 PM or later.

The properties adjoining the Burroughs Creek Corridor are to be integrated into the neighborhoods with residential or commercial zoning. Homewood St. properties have been rezoned as residential, but it is up to the neighborhood to get the Burroughs Creek Corridor rezoned, particularly around the Salvation Army property. 2 weeks ago, the City Commission approved a plan for Burroughs Creek.

There was no new information regarding the plans of rezoning the northwest corner of 19th and Haskell.

Rebecca Buford from Tenants to Homeowners gave an update on the housing construction on Bullene. The homes are completed as energy efficient with cement siding and a 30 year roof.

It was mentioned that an historic spring was located near the railroad tracks on Ward Avenue and that an effort to preserve the spring should be made.

Some concerns about the proposed Business Park near the Airport were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

October 9, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Comstock at 7:05 PM on October 9th with 14 people in attendance.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Michael Almon reported that the City has asked that BCNA update its letter of support for the Burroughs Creek Trail and Park to support the City in its quest for funding, and that James Grauerholz has agreed to write that letter.

Coordinator Julie Banhart reported that CDGB funding requests are due on December 3. Two things that residents would like to see done were restoring Brook Creek and maintenance of the wooded area to the north and east of the Brook Creek Park. A general discussion of the types of things that can and cannot be funded ensued. While upgrading of individual properties cannot be funded by CDBG, members were reminded that there are grants and/or low cost loans available to the homeowner for such projects. A summary of the available grants/loans will be included in the next newsletter and brochures may be available at future meetings. A suggestion was made to see if funding might be available to help identify and record blighted areas in the neighborhood. The blighted area would then be reported to BCNA for discussion at the next meeting, and if agreement was reached that it was, indeed, blight, referred on to the appropriate city official.

Remember that another Brook Creek Park clean-up is scheduled for November 3rd from 10 AM to 3 PM. Lunch will be provided.

The next Brook Creek Neighborhood Meeting is November 13th. Bring your ideas for improving the neighborhood with you.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

COMMUNICATIONS



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Date: Tue, 4 Sep 2007 05:06:36 -0700 (PDT)

From: "Julie Banhart" <brookcreek@sbcglobal.net>

Subject: Important Information about Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

To: "Michael Almon" <paradigm@ixks.com>, "Delbert Baxter" <DMBaxter@sunflower.com>, "Leslie Bayers" <lbayers@lycos.com>, "Linda Benitez" <lbenitez@ku.edu>, "Amanda Bhattachan" <abhattachan@yahoo.com>, "David Blair" <DaveBlair@aol.com>, "Melissa Bower" <MBower31@aol.com>, "Aaron Brown" <aaron@thebrownproject.com>, "Craig Comstock" <craig_comstock@yahoo.com>, "Mark Creamer" <markrcreamer@hotmail.com>, "Sharon Davis" <sharon_18166@msn.com>, "Ann Dean" <anndean@sunflower.com>, "Debra Nelson Delores Meyer" <debokay@sunflower.com>, "Karin Feltman"

<eramazon@aol.com>, "Rebecca B Fox" <rebeccabfox@ku.edu>, "jodi gentry" <jodigentry@hotmail.com>, "James Grauerholz" <seward23@aol.com>, "Richard Heckler" <rheckler2002@yahoo.com>, "Terresa Hoke" <terresa.hoke@us.army.mil>, "Tenants to Homeowners" <lawrencelandtrust@yahoo.com>, "Robert Jackson" <robandrisha@gmail.com>, "Nathan Jeffries" <n8n2010@yahoo.com>, "Nathan Jeffries" <nathanj@ksdot.org>, "Anna McCoy" <pmccoy6002@esagelink.com>, "Douglas Miller" <dgsbmiller@hotmail.com>, "Julia Mitchell" <juliahenrym@yahoo.com>, "Julie Mitchell" <jmitchell@allenpress.com>, "Bill Myers" <wmyers@sunflower.com>, "Natasha Naramore" <natasha.valana@gmail.com>, "kevin player" <playerkevin@hotmail.com>, "Jami Pritts" <jamijane76@yahoo.com>, "Andrea Repinsky" <arepinsky@marc.org>, "Lesley Rigney" <lrigney@ci.lawrence.ks.us>, "Tyler Schmidt" <tylerschmidt@yahoo.com>, "greg seibel" <gregseibel3@yahoo.com>, "Cindy Sexton" <cjs Sexton@ku.edu>, "Lori Strecker" <lorijds@yahoo.com>, "Melissa Uecker" <melissarmanire@msn.com>, "Marilyn Wiggins" <marilyn.wiggins@sbcglobal.net>, "Byron Wiley" <bwiley@sbcglobal.net>, "Randi Young" <randijay@hotmail.com>

BCNA's operations are funded each year by CDBG funds. The allocation of those funds is done by members of the Neighborhood Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC). Our representative for several years has been Kirsten Roussel. Her term is over this month, and we need to find another representative, quickly.

If any of you would be willing to serve on this committee and represent our neighborhood's interests, please contact us at one of the following numbers / addresses. Either of us can give you more information about the position.

Julie Banhart, Coordinator
841-4997 (afternoons and evenings)
juliebanhart@sbcglobal.net

Craig Comstock, President
craig_comstock@yahoo.com

Our newsletter is due out any day now, but Minuteman Press, which handles our printing and mailing, has informed me that there have been changes in how bulk mail is handled by the postal service, which may result in a later-than-desired delivery. So, please do not forget that our annual potluck picnic in the park will be this coming Tuesday, September 11. Come to Brook Creek Park any time after 6:00 p.m. Food should be set up and ready to eat by 6:30. BCNA is supplying the chicken and soft drinks/water. Please bring one of your favorite side dishes or desserts to share with your neighbors, plus eating utensils.

The picnic will be a social evening. We will have our September business meeting the following week on Tuesday, September 18. It will be at the East Lawrence Recreation Center at 7:00 p.m. Please also plan to attend that meeting.

Please remind your friends and neighbors who may not be on our email list of all three items -- the NRAC vacancy, the picnic, and the September 18 business meeting. We look forward to seeing you at both the picnic and the business meeting. Thank you.



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Date: Sat, 6 Oct 2007 07:22:19 -0700 (PDT)

From: "Julie Banhart" <brookcreek@sbcglobal.net>

Subject: BCNA Meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2007

"Michael Almon" <paradigm@ixks.com>, "Delbert Baxter" <DMBaxter@sunflower.com>, "Leslie Bayers" <lbayers@lycos.com>, "Linda Benitez" <lbenitez@ku.edu>, "Amanda Bhattachan" <abhattachan@yahoo.com>, "David Blair" <DaveBlair@aol.com>, "Melissa Bower" <MBower31@aol.com>, "Aaron Brown" <aaron@thebrownproject.com>, "Craig Comstock" <craig_comstock@yahoo.com>, "Mark Creamer" <markrcreamer@hotmail.com>, "Sharon Davis" <sharon_18166@msn.com>, "Ann Dean" <anndean@sunflower.com>, "DebraNelson DeloresMeyer" <debdokay@sunflower.com>, "Karin Feltman" <eramazon@aol.com>, "Rebecca B Fox" <rebeccabfox@ku.edu>, "jodi gentry" <jodigentry@hotmail.com>, "James Grauerholz" <seward23@aol.com>, "Richard Heckler" <rheckler2002@yahoo.com>, "Terresa Hoke" <terresa.hoke@us.army.mil>, "Tenants to Homeowners" <lawrencelandtrust@yahoo.com>, "Robert Jackson" <robandtrisha@gmail.com>, "Brandon&Jennifer Jalali" <jjalali777@yahoo.com>, "Nathan Jeffries" <n8n2010@yahoo.com>, "Nathan Jeffries" <nathanj@ksdot.org>, "Anna McCoy" <pmccoy6002@esagelink.com>, "Douglas Miller" <dgsbmiller@hotmail.com>, "Julia Mitchell" <juliahenrym@yahoo.com>, "Julie Mitchell" <jmitchell@allenpress.com>, "Bill Myers" <wmyers@sunflower.com>, "Natasha Naramore" <natasha.valana@gmail.com>, "kevin player" <playerkevin@hotmail.com>, "Jami Pritts" <jamijane76@yahoo.com>, "Andrea Repinsky" <arepinsky@marc.org>, "Lesley Rigney" <lrigney@ci.lawrence.ks.us>, "Tyler Schmidt" <tylerschmidt@yahoo.com>, "greg seibel" <gregseibel3@yahoo.com>, "Cindy Sexton" <cjsexton@ku.edu>, "Lori Strecker" <lorijds@yahoo.com>, "Melissa Uecker" <melissarmanire@msn.com>, "Marilyn Wiggins" <marilyn.wiggins@sbcglobal.net>, "Byron Wiley" <bwiley@sbcglobal.net>, "Randi Young" <randijay@hotmail.com>

Please don't forget the Brook Creek Neighborhood Association meeting scheduled for this coming Tuesday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the East Lawrence Recreation Center. We should have an interesting meeting, including not only business but also fielding ideas for some possible social events in the coming months, and what we hope will become an annual gathering in Brook Creek Park in the fall for a second clean-up of the park and creek. We need your ideas and input on these things, so please reserve the time and come to the meeting.

If you have any questions, you can email me at this address or call me at 841-4997.

Julie

NEWSLETTER

The September/October 2007 newsletter follows.



BROOK CREEK BREEZE

September October 2007

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 19, 2007
7:00 p.m.

East Lawrence Recreation Center
Agenda: **Select new NRAC member**

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 9, 2007
7:00 p.m.

East Lawrence Recreation Center

ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC IN THE PARK

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Come any time after 6:00 p.m. Food will be set up and ready by 6:30 p.m.

Brook Creek Park Gazebo

BCNA will provide the fried chicken and soft drinks

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with your neighbors.

Come and enjoy good food, good conversation, and good friends.

NEW NRAC REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED -- QUICKLY

After several years as serving as BCNA's representative to the Neighborhood Resources Advisory Committee, Kirsten Roussel's term is over. We wish to thank her for the time and effort she has put in on the neighborhood's behalf.

We need a new representative as early in September as possible. NRAC meets at least once a month, with meetings increasing as circumstances dictate. This is the committee to which we submit our grant proposals and that develops the initial CDBG funding approval for the neighborhoods, so it is very important that our neighborhood be represented on the committee.

If you are willing to serve, please contact Julie Banhart at 841-4997 (or juliebanhart@sbcglobal.net), or email Craig Comstock at craig_comstock@yahoo.com. You can also submit your name or discuss your willingness to serve in this position by coming to our general meeting for business on September 18.

MINUTES

April 10, 2007

The Brook Creek Neighborhood Association meeting was called to order by secretary Doug Miller at 7:30 PM on April 10th. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Julie Banhart reported that she had only one request for a garden plot in the community garden. She said that if no one else requested a garden plot, the community garden plot would be returned to City control. (*No other requests were forthcoming, and the plot was turned back to the City.*)

Mary Martin reported that the culverts in the 1300 block of Brook Street were blocked with debris and that she would report this to the City.

The Park Clean Up was discussed and we decided that, in the future, it should not be scheduled the day before Easter.

June 12, 2007

BCNA held a meeting on June 12, 2007 to replace the February meeting that had been cancelled due to bad weather. We met in the gazebo in Brook Creek Park. The meeting was called to order by president Craig Comstock. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

It was reported that Kirsten Roussel, who has been our representative to the NRAC (Neighborhood Resources Advisory Committee) for several years, will be unable to serve in that capacity for the upcoming year. We need a new representative on the committee, which makes the initial decisions about the CDBG funding for neighborhoods. Notice of the vacancy will be posted in the September newsletter.

It was requested, and decided, that we would have two meetings in September. The first will be our annual potluck picnic in Brook Creek Park on September 11, and will be a social (non-business) meeting. The second meeting will be on September 18, and will be our regular business meeting.

Susan Miller provided information about the summer lunch program at the East Lawrence Recreation Center.

Craig Comstock reported on the Central Junior High School paper-recycling project. The school requests that donations be brought to their south parking lot. The school receives \$25.00 per ton of paper turned in for recycling. It was suggested that anyone interested in taking papers to the school check with them during the fall semester to be sure the project is still going on and that the drop-off spot is still the same.

Julie Mitchell reported that there has been a problem with rats in some homes along Brook Street. It seems to be coming from the unoccupied pink house on the west side of the creek. The City has been contacted about this and says that the ownership of the home is in limbo, so there is nothing that it can do. The Health Department will be contacted to see if they can give us any assistance.

It was reported that the recycling center on Haskell now has nails and screws scattered in the road. Multiple flat tires from driving there were reported. Mark Taylor said that the center did clean up some of their trash from the creek in the early spring, at the City's urging.

Problems with the street light at the corner of 13th and Brook were reported. The light is covered by a tree and bugs need to be cleaned out of the fixture. Westar was to be called about this.

On the good news side, it was reported that yellow-crown night herons have been spotted living in our woods and flying around the park.

After the meeting was adjourned, Mark Taylor invited attendees on a tour of his garden. This was enjoyed by all who accepted his offer.

July 10, 2007

A special meeting was called in July (*a good reason to be sure Julie has your email address, as that was the only way to notify members of the meeting*) to provide information to the membership about ongoing issues.

Vice-President Aaron Brown opened the meeting. The Treasurer's report was given and approved. The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved.

James Grauerholz and Michael Almon presented information on plans, which were presented at a public meeting on July 9, for the Burroughs Creek Trail Park, which will be a linear park running from 11th to 23rd Street, along the old BNSF rail line. The City wants the park, first of all because it is a utility corridor for the City. Main and sanitary sewer lines that carry 2/3 of Lawrence's sewage run under the area from 31st Street along the rail corridor north to the City treatment plant. The City has started the process of talking to landowners along the park about acquiring the 100-foot easements on either side of the old rail line. Once the railroad abandoned the line, those easement properties reverted to the landowners. That is the crucial 1st step, and is why the plan has been laid out. It is likely that the plan will undergo revisions in the future, depending on funding, timing, etc.

After the land is purchased, the City will apply for funds to actually build the park and trail. The plan is to do the work in phases. This will be a park, not just a trail, and landscaping, restrooms, water fountains, etc. will be put into place.

There will also be larger nodes set up. One key element is creating a node at the 15th & Haskell lot, after the police department moves to a larger evidence storage building. One building will be demolished, parking will be provided for people using the trail, plus fountains for kids to play in. Nodes like this can be considered amenities.

The hope is to make the park, with a 10-foot-wide concrete main trail, as popular and widely used as possible, e.g., by people on bicycles, in wheelchairs, pedestrians, joggers, skateboarders, etc. Safety for the users is a major concern, and the theory is that the more people there, the safer it will be. They will also address safety concerns at intersections, perhaps with speed bumps or activated signals on busy intersections.

All of this will be expensive. The question is how the plan will be implemented. BCNA's position should be to make acquisition and completion of the whole trail, from 11th to 23rd Street, the top priority. When you connect Point A to Point B, and on to the end, then the trail will be used, whether or not it has fountains, amenities, etc. right away. Then, depending on funding, phase 2 should be implemented, with more landscaping, side trails, the amenities nodes, etc.

James reported on proposed plans for the northwest corner of 19th & Haskell, which is owned by the Islamic Center of Lawrence, which has tried to find a way to make that half-acre lot a paying proposition for years. At the end of the 1990s, the land was zoned residential/office. They tried to get it rezoned to industrial, but that was denied. In 2001, it was rezoned to commercial office. Now, they are asking to rezone it to multi-dwelling/office, as it originally was. However, they have no site plan, just a picture of a similar building in Lawrence. They want a building that would have office space on the ground floor and 11 apartments on the 2nd floor. The City planner said that, with that scale of development, driveway access should be farther away from intersection than the size of the lot allows for. James and Michael have committed to concentrate on the technical aspects and keep the neighborhood informed. Because the lot overlaps the area of the historic Robert Miller house, it has to go to Historic Review first. Only the zoning and historic commission meetings are public meetings.

Brief informational discussion was had about the proposed plans for the southeast corner of 19th & Haskell, and the need for a small grocery store in the neighborhood. Traffic calming issues were raised. Michael pointed out that, while the City has put a halt to all traffic calming measures, the circulating intersection (traffic circle) at 15th & Haskell is not traffic calming, but intersection control, so it may still be considered and implemented.

Tenants to Homeowners (TTHO) is building a house on Bullene. This project had been on hold for several months because TTHO had a backlog of houses for sale, so no money to construct this one. It is finally underway. The TTHO proposal to work with the Salvation Army and possibly purchase half of the Salvation Army lot and put up single family homes was discussed. We still do not know anything. The SA has not responded to TTHO's offer to discuss the proposal. However, a recent newspaper article quoted the SA as saying the new Community Homeless Report may cause them to change their plans for a new shelter.

It was reported that Dennis Murphy, Director of Sustainability for Kansas City would speak at a public meeting in August about how KC deals with sustainability issues that will also face Lawrence in the future, such as, with urban growth, how can the existence of green space be assured, how will traffic be impacted, how will solar access be assured (prevent construction of a tall building next to your home that would cut off access to solar power).

Michael raised the possibility of a late fall clean-up of Brook Creek Park and Creek, either as our only clean-up or in addition to our spring one. A lot of trash accumulates in autumn and winter, then washes down into creek with the spring rains, before our spring clean-up. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

Michael reported on his attempts to get the City to clean up the culverts under 13th Street, with promises given but no action taken to date.

The fact that we need a new NRAC rep was announced. This, too, will be discussed in more detail at the September meeting, unless someone has volunteered before that.

The question of having 12 meetings a year was raised. Vice-President Aaron Brown confirmed that the question must go to the membership to decide. This, too, will be discussed at the September meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

BCNA First Quarter Performance Report
Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
1944 Miller Drive
Lawrence, KS 66046

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Join Your Neighborhood Association

Dues are \$1.00 per person, per year. This gives you voting rights at BCNA meetings. Clip, fill out, and mail to: Susan Miller, Treasurer; 1235 Prairie; Lawrence, KS 66044

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address _____

- I am enclosing my \$1.00 annual dues
 - I am enclosing _____ extra to help the neighborhood association.
-

GOOD NEIGHBORING

- Hazel Bryan did a nice, good neighboring thing for our annual Picnic in the Park. The occasion got “dressed up” because she brought beautiful candles for each table. It gave the always-happy experience an extra nice touch.
- Julie Banhart, BCNA Coordinator, got a telephone call the evening before the picnic from one of our senior members, asking for help in getting to the picnic. Unable to drive herself there, the member felt she could not walk and carry her side dish. Julie Mitchell volunteered to pick up the member and be sure she got to and home from the picnic. We were all glad that Julie did so -- the member’s side dish was enjoyed by everyone. And many of us got to meet someone new and make a new friend.
- Jenna Coker provided good news for the neighborhood. The National Wildlife Federation has recognized her yard as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Jenna has also volunteered to mentor any other residents who would like to follow her lead and turn their yards into a wildlife habitat.
- Good neighboring from Brook Creek to other neighborhoods:



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From: "Douglas Miller" <dgsbmiller@hotmail.com>
 To: "Julie Banhart" <brookcreek@sbcglobal.net>, johanning@sunflower.com
 Subject: RE: Neighborhood association question
 Date: Wed, 19 Sep 2007 13:49:49 -0500

Debbi, I'm sorry that it has taken me awhile to respond to your query. I've been out of town & am now catching up on Brook Creek's messages.

Our membership dues cards are printed with the expiration date as ending in January. Thus, our membership year runs from January to January. Since we have oodles of them, we probably won't entertain the idea of changing our current procedure until we run out & need to reorder. As yet, I haven't had any problems and may not change when the time comes. Hope that I have made myself clear in what I'm trying to say & if not, please feel free in contacting me again.

😊 Susan, Brook Creek N. A. Treasurer

Date: Tue, 11 Sep 2007 09:28:46 -0700
 From: brookcreek@sbcglobal.net
 Subject: Fwd: Neighborhood association question
 To: dgsbmiller@hotmail.com

Note: forwarded message attached.

Julie

--Forwarded Message Attachment--
 From: johanning@sunflower.com

To: brookcreek@sbcglobal.net; bethbo123@hotmail.com;
glklingenberg@sunflower.com; jodi@sunflower.com
Subject: Neighborhood association question
Date: Sun, 9 Sep 2007 19:33:08 -0500

Hello-

I got your email addresses from the City of Lawrence neighborhood contact page online, I hope you are the right people, if not I apologize!

I am the treasurer of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association. I am looking for some input on how other associations handle dues from members. Currently our dues are \$1/per year, but there is no defined period of what that year is. It's generally been assumed that the \$1 pays your dues from November to November, and that has traditionally been because our annual meeting is in November.

However, I am finding it very difficult to track members on a schedule like this. I am trying to convince the board that we need to move this to a fiscal year- Aug to July- to coincide with the fiscal year that the CDBG funds are set up on, since that is how our general budget is also set up.

Could any of you give me advice or input on how your association deals with dues and what timeframe they cover? I would very much appreciate any help you can give me.

Thanks!

Debbi Johanning

ELNA treasurer

Can you find the hidden words? Take a break and play Seekadoo! [Play now!](#)