

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date	Activity Description	Number of Attendees
February 2012	<p>Meetings: The February BCNA meeting was held on February 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at the East Lawrence Recreation Center.</p> <p>Communications: Meeting information was in the December (2011) – March (2012) newsletter. Email reminders were sent to residents (see communications section of this report)..</p>	8
March 2012	<p>Meetings: The BCNA March meeting was held on March 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Lawrence Recreation Center.</p> <p>Communications: Meeting information was in the December (2011) – March (2012) newsletter. Email reminders were sent to residents (see communications section of this report).</p>	10
April 2012	<p>Meetings: The BCNA April meeting was held on April 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Lawrence Recreation Center.</p> <p>The annual Spring Park Cleanup was held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 in the Brook Creek Park and Nature area.</p> <p>Communications: Meeting information was in the April – June 2012 newsletter. Email reminders were sent to residents (see communications section of this report).</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10</p>

MINUTES

February 7, 2012

The meeting began @ 7 p.m. with eight members present. The treasurer's report was presented by Susan Miller, and unanimously approved.

A LAN update was provided by Melinda Henderson, and included the fact that other neighborhoods, besides the concerns with East Lawrence, have issues with code enforcement. These issues include: synthetic turf, construction of a hotel in Old East Lawrence, problems with multiple occupancy dwelling units, and the Dillons and Kwik Shop stores being reconstructed on Massachusetts Street. Neighborhood associations are helping to hold city planners accountable to resident's concerns.

Payment of LAN dues was discussed. The Community Development Block Grant no longer reimburses neighborhoods for LAN dues.

The Community Development Advisory Committee is looking closely at neighborhood association CDBG applications to ensure that funds will be used appropriately. It was discussed the some neighborhoods have officers and board members who do not actually live in the neighborhood.

Melinda also gave an update on the 12th and Haskell Recycle Center. Zoning issues have been raised, and it is likely that Bo Killough, owner of the Recycle Center, will appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals. It was pointed out that Mr. Killough's attorney sits on the City's Planning Commission. Questions were raised concerning a possible ethics violation. It was proposed that Brook Creek Neighborhood Association write a letter to the Board of Zoning Appeals, which is scheduled to meet on March 6th, in support of enforcing the current zoning ordinance. The prospect of taking enforcement of noise ordinance issues to Municipal Court was raised.

Our Spring Park Cleanup was scheduled for April 28th, with a rain day scheduled for May 5th.

A brainstorming session ensued to increase attendance at monthly meetings. Ideas included drafting block captains to reach out to prospective blocks, expanding availability of the newsletter by possibly leaving some at places like Cottin's Hardware Store, increasing visibility with a page on Facebook, and the need for a social event like a block party (we have a volunteer to DJ). Also, the subject of advertising in the newsletter was raised. Comparisons will be made to establish a pricing scheme.

March 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Mitchell at 7:00 p.m. Susan Miller provided the Treasurer's Report, which was approved.

Julie Mitchell reported that CDBG funding is not finalized, but BCNA may receive the same amount of funding as in 2011.

Melinda Henderson reported that LAN is growing and active, and has been pursuing enforcement of noise and blight ordinances. LAN will be asked to reconsider the \$25 annual dues amount because CDBG funds cannot be used to pay the dues.

12th & Haskell Update: Some neighbors received a list of planned changes to the operation at 1146 Haskell. Melinda discussed the list with Lawrence Planning Director Scott McCullough, who said that a site plan has not been submitted to the City. Mr. McCullough said that the use of industrial equipment, machinery, noise, and allowed uses are "gray areas," and that City attorneys have been reviewing case law to determine the City's approach to the ongoing problem. A list of case citations has been requested. Mr. McCullough said that Bo Killough, owner of the site, plans to expand the interior paved area and that he considers the land use "grandfathered" to some extent, and that "grandfathered" is the same as "nonconforming," despite the absence of this information in the City Development Code.

The City Prosecutor decided against prosecuting the noise ordinance if presented with a police report on the noise at 12th & Haskell until the Board of Zoning Appeals considers the land use at the site on April 5. Supervising City Prosecutor Jerry Little told Melinda that Mr. McCullough asked Mr. Little not to prosecute at this time as the city was working with Mr. Killough to bring his site into compliance.

Mr. Killough invited some neighbors to discuss his plans for 1146 Haskell from 4 to 8 PM on March 14 at Building 21 in the Fairgrounds.

Larry Kelley reported that he visited with City Manager Dave Corliss about options for relocating Mr. Killough's operation, and Mr. Corliss said that the City wants to bring Mr. Killough into compliance at 1146 Haskell.

The Board of Zoning Appeals will review Mr. Killough's appeal of the City's second Notice of Violation on Thursday, April 5 at 7 PM in City Hall.

Two potential school closings are BCNA kids' schools, New York and Kennedy Elementary. BCNA President Mitchell will invite residents to express their opinions in the spring BCNA newsletter.

A Burroughs Creek Trail cleanup may be organized with East Lawrence and Barker Neighborhood Associations. More details will be distributed as plans are made for this event.

The Brook Creek park cleanup is Saturday, April 28 from 10 AM to 2 PM. The rain date is May 5.

Glass recycling is available at the On the Rocks liquor store at 1818 Mass. St.

An electronic recycling event will be held on May 12 at Free State High School. Fees are charged to dispose of selected items.

The next BCNA meetings will be Wednesday, April 11, May 9, and June 13.

April 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Mitchell at 7:00 p.m. Sixteen members were in attendance. Treasurer Susan Miller gave the Treasurer's report.

Guest speaker Bonnie Uffman, who serves on the Lawrence/Douglas County Advocacy Council on Aging, presented information about a nascent movement to start a Village program in the eastern part of Lawrence. Based on the Beacon Hill Village model in Boston, Massachusetts, the program is designed to help senior citizens (anyone over the age of 50) remain in their own homes as long as possible. What drives many of these citizens into assisted living is the difficulty and cost of maintaining their homes. Ms. Uffman told us that Villages programs exist in many cities across the country, and each is independently run by the people living in those neighborhoods and adapted to that neighborhood's needs. Basically, volunteers will serve on a board or council and will, with input from the residents of the area, hire a coordinator as liaison between those needing help and those willing to provide it. Such help could be, for example, volunteer labor to help shovel walkways in the winter. Or, if major repairs were needed, the coordinator would work with local companies to negotiate reduced rates for that repair service.

The Villages program is a grass-roots program that, according to Ms. Uffman, "will happen because we do it ourselves. To learn more about the Villages concept, information can be found on the Internet at <http://vtvnetwork.clubexpress.com/> or <http://beaconhillvillage.org/>.

Dickie Heckler, the BCNA representative to LAN gave us an update on LAN proceedings. According to Dickie, LAN is "keeping an eye on City Hall." Of concern is the proposed hotel to be built at Ninth and New Hampshire. Also on LAN's agenda are rental regulations, the starting of neighborhood watch groups, and the menace of purple loosestrife. Anyone desiring a comprehensive LAN update can reference agendas on the web at http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/neighborhood_information.

BCNA Vice President Andrea Repinsky gave an update on the 12th & Haskell Recycling Center. The City of Lawrence sent owner, Bo Killough, a notice of violation without compliance. Mr. Killough has appealed this to the Board of Zoning Appeals, which backed the notice of violation.. It was reported that the possibility of legal action is being considered by some area residents who hope that litigation will not be needed against the City of Lawrence.

President Julie Mitchell reminded participants about the Spring Cleanup scheduled for April 28th. The cleanup will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end around 2:00 p.m. There will be an egg hunt for children. Trash bags, gloves, and some boots will be provided for those who come to help. Lunch will also be provided. A rain date for the park cleanup is scheduled for May 5th.

Susan Miller brought a copy of *The Flame* which appears in our monthly water bill. It included an update of the city's Occupancy Code. It is noted that this has been an extensive subject for both BCNA and LAN. Additionally we are reminded of the electronics recycling event, Saturday, May 12th and the wood chip sale on April 12th and 13th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Messages to email list:

2/6/12	BCNA Meeting Agenda
3/1/12	Info re the KU Big Event; Gardening tips from Tenants to Homeowners; Traffic Safety Commission Agenda
3/5/12	Notice of BCNA March meeting
3/19/12	Notice of the Community Orchard Project
3/20/12	A Thank You from the Fruit Tree project for volunteers who helped with the Community Orchard project
4/7/12	Notice from LAN about a Town Hall meeting regarding underage drinking and drug use
4/24/12	Reminder of the April 28 Park Clean-up.
4/24/12	Announcements of various community meetings and events

NEWSLETTER (follows)



BROOK CREEK BREEZE

April – June 2012

Wednesday April 11, 2012 7:00 p.m. East Lawrence Rec. Center	Wednesday May 9, 2012 7:00 p.m. East Lawrence Rec. Center	Wednesday, June 13, 2012 7:00 p.m. East Lawrence Rec. Center
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PLEASE NOTE:

Usually we have no meetings in June and August, but meet in July. This year, because of scheduling changes at the East Lawrence Recreation Center, we cannot meet in July. So, we will meet in June and have the months of July and August off.

MINUTES

December 14, 2011

Julie Mitchell, President, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., with 17 members present. The treasurer's report was presented and approved with no new submissions.

Julie Mitchell reported that the Community Development Advisory Committee met last week. The understanding is that neighborhood associations will probably have their funding from HUD substantially reduced for the upcoming fiscal year. It was recommended that a future meeting consider how to fill in potential gaps.

An update was given regarding the recent City Council meeting where several Brook Creek residents participated in a discussion of the problems the neighborhood has with the 12th & Haskell Recycle Center. During the public comment portion of the meeting, BCNA members presented an overwhelming amount of both recited and recorded information, including support from two previous Lawrence mayors and a land-use attorney. Byron Wiley formulated that the next step would come as a decision to be announced by the City Commissioners and, pending that, a probable zoning appeal, followed by a possible battle in the Kansas District Court. Kudos were voted for all participants in the battle for the restoration of peace and quiet. Andrea Repinsky, vice president, recommended that some written acknowledgement be made, but no formal motion was presented.

A resident had called BCNA with a complaint about the noise from grain dryers/blowers on Moodie Street. An explanation was sought from the City's Brian Jiminez and presented to the meeting: Drying the grain is essential to avoid an explosion and fire. Constant running of the dryers occurs annually, from the harvest until all the grain is gone. The dryers cease running when all the stored grain is shipped out. Nothing can, or should, be done to stop the process.

A motion to re-elect the current officers passed without objection.

The meeting concluded at 7:45 p.m. for our Holidays party.

February 7, 2012

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Contact Information

If you need to contact us with any questions or comments, please email us at BrookCreekNA@gmail.com. If you do not have access to email, you can call Julie Banhart at 841-4997. Also, check us out at LawrenceMarketplace.com.

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

1212 E. 13th St. - Jay B. Hauptli	915 Oliver's Court - Robert D. Garrison	1612 E. 19th St. - Randall Bryans
1620 E. 15th St. - Phyllis A. Bia	1514 E. 18th St. - Jamie & Radha Edwards	1655 Bullene Ave. - Sarah Raymond
1622 Irving Court - Nick N. Nguyen & Mai T Dang	1608 Matthew Terrace - Trent J. Herda & Ashley A. Walter	

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is officially here in Brook Creek, which means it is time for our annual Brook Creek Park cleanup. Join us on Saturday April 28th 10:00 to 2:00 at Brook Creek Park, 12th and Brook Street, for this wonderful event. Volunteers are needed for tasks ranging from cleaning trash

out of creek to staying at the gazebo to help other volunteers find the supplies. There is a job for everyone. Stay all day or join us for an hour; everyone's help is appreciated! This year we will also have an egg hunt for small children. The spring cleanup is a wonderful way to meet new neighbors and catch up after winter. The cleanup rain date is Saturday May 5th.

In addition to our annual Brook Creek Park cleanup on April 28th, a joint neighborhood cleanup along the Burroughs's Trail is tentatively scheduled for Saturday April 15th. The Old East Lawrence neighborhood is spearheading the event, and we hope other neighborhoods along the trail will be able to participate. Due to the short notice, dates/times are still not confirmed, so please check your email or the BCNA Marketplace website (<http://www2.ljworld.com/marketplace/businesses/brook-creek-neighborhood-association/>) for more information. Hopefully, a joint neighborhood trail cleanup will become an annual event.

Spring, which can bring severe weather including thunderstorms, tornados and flash floods, is here. If you do not already have a weather radio, consider buying one. Parts of the Brook Creek neighborhood are prone to flash flooding during heavy rains, especially the intersections of 11th and Haskell, 12th and Brook, and 13th and Brook. Do not try to cross water-covered roads. The water moves fast and can carry large debris.

Hope to see everyone at the Brook Creek Park cleanup on April 28th. In the meantime, enjoy the beautiful spring flowers that are coming up in yards all over the neighborhood!

LAWRENCE FRUIT TREE PROJECT COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The Lawrence Fruit Tree Project is planting a community orchard along the Burroughs Creek Trail at Garfield Street. It's truly a community amenity-- the public is invited to visit, enjoy, harvest, and help at the orchard. Contact LFTP at lawrencefruittreeproject@gmail.com to participate.

RECYCLING: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

The GOOD: Recycling conserves our natural resources, saves landfill space, conserves energy, and reduces water pollution, air pollution and the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. We all want to do our part in saving the planet if we can.

The BAD: A Recycling Processing Center is a HEAVY INDUSTRIAL use. Our city code clearly states that such industrial uses are not compatible next to residential areas. Between 1993 and 2003, only commercial auto repair and towing companies occupied the space at 1146 Haskell Ave. In 2003, the 12th & Haskell Bargain Center was granted a permit to purchase returned or rejected housewares and outdoor appliances and furniture from distributors and salvage such items to reassemble and sell. It was anticipated that there would be limited palletized outdoor storage of materials and that most of the assembly work would be conducted within the structure on the site. No heavy industrial uses were permitted. Unfortunately, over the years, the 12th and Haskell Bargain Center has become the 12th & Haskell Recycling Center and a Recycling Processing Center across the street from a residential neighborhood is a bad thing. That's why city code does not permit such uses to develop next to each other. Neighbors suffer from noise and air pollution from the heavy industrial equipment, road deterioration due to lots of heavy trucks on our neighborhood streets, and lots of trash, especially along 12th Street. This simply is not right, nor is it fair to those of us who live here, whether we are tenants or property owners.

The UGLY: Zoning laws are important to every city. They help keep residential neighborhoods from being invaded by heavy industrial businesses. When the 12th and Haskell Bargain Center opened for business in 2003, it was allowed to do business as described above. However, in 2005, the owner decided to expand the business to a full-scale Recycling Processing Center, without notifying the city. This was, and continues to be, illegal. Brook Creek neighborhood is a lovely place to live, and we have every right to expect the city to uphold its laws. As of the printing date of this newsletter, the owner of the 12th and Haskell Recycle Center is trying to pull a fast one. He has been ordered by the city to reduce his activities to what was granted in 2003. Instead, he has submitted plans to continue using his property as a full-scale Recycling Processing Center and wants the city to approve that.

Recycling is a good thing, but it must be done in an appropriately zoned area. Living next to a Recycling Processing Center is bad. Blatant disregard for the law is ugly. Brook Creek Neighborhood deserves better treatment than we have been shown over the years and the city should make sure that our neighborhood is treated just as fairly as the other neighborhoods in town. Help make that happen. Please join your neighbors at the city commission meeting on April 3rd to let the city commissioners know that WE MATTER and expect the city to uphold its zoning laws. And plan to attend the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on Thursday, April 5th, to let the BZA commissioners know that we expect them to interpret the zoning code as it is written.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email our neighborhood coordinator (brookcreekna@gmail.com) and she will make sure that someone gets back to you asap.

BCNA FY 2011/2012-3rd Quarter Performance Report (February 2012– April 2012)
Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
1944 Miller Drive
Lawrence, KS 66046

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Come to the Spring Brook Creek Clean-Up

Saturday, April 28, 2012 -- 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Rain date: May 5, 2012)

Come help us clean up the creek and the nature trails. If wallowing around in mud is your idea of fun, join like-minded others and get down in the creek to remove wintertime debris. If you like to use the nature trails, come help us clean up debris and trash from the trails and the woods.

We'll get started about 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children, so bring your whole family. Everyone's help is appreciated, whether you can stay and help for a long time or a short one.

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

In addition to the usual unsung and unreported instances of neighbor-helping-neighbor in the Brook Creek neighborhood, it's been a busy time for being good neighbors to **all** residents of Brook Creek – including the 4-legged ones.

It's springtime and, try as dogs' owners might, the dogs get loose sometimes. I got reports of the rescues of two dogs (separate incidents and days) running loose, gathered in, and returned to their respective owners.

A group good neighboring effort is helping a cat who was abandoned when her owners moved out of 1219 Brook. One neighbor got her some flea medicine and a little house to sleep in on his porch. Other neighbors along 12th and Brook are helping take care of the cat while they all look for a new forever home for her.