

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date	Activity Description	Number of Attendees
May 2012	<p>Meetings: The May BCNA meeting was held on May 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at the East Lawrence Recreation Center.</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>	10
June 2012	<p>Meetings: The BCNA June meeting was held on June 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Lawrence Recreation Center.</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>	9
July 2012	Meetings: BCNA held no meeting in July	

MINUTES

May 11, 2012

BCNA Treasurer Susan Miller presided over and opened the meeting. Ten members were present. Susan then presented the Treasurer's report, for which there were no claims or objections.

A discussion followed regarding the Lawrence Preservation Alliance's interest in the nomination to the historical register of the John G. Haskell residence at 13th and Haskell Streets. The status of the nomination is unknown at this time. The properties at this location figure heavily into John G. Haskell's (1832-1907) legacy. He was a well-known architect during the Kansas territorial period. While many of Haskell's buildings appear on the National and State Registers of Historical Places; his places of residence do not. It was brought out during the discussion that these structures have been subjected to alteration over the years.

Richard (Dickie) Heckler gave us an update on the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN). It seems neither BCNA nor any other neighborhood association will be given a break on the \$25.00 membership dues, even though CDBG funds can longer be used to cover the cost. It had been proposed that the fee be reduced to \$1.00, which is the charge for a single membership in CDBG neighborhoods. It was further pointed out that, for the \$25.00 fee, we do not even receive a newsletter from LAN. Dickie recommended we access the agenda via LAN's website, http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/neighborhood_information. Both Dickie and Melinda Henderson agreed to look further into the subject of LAN dues and monthly newsletters.

A further discussion ensued regarding LAN's opposition to The Chamber of Commerce as the City's economic source. It appears City Commissioners have proposed a new Economic Development Council and LAN members question the Chamber of Commerce's roll in this council as it seems the Chamber has a track record influenced more by real estate and banking than by economic development and historic preservation.

Somewhat moot since Bo Killough's purchase of the 1050 E 11th Street site was the update about the 12th and Haskell Recycling Center. It seems there is an appeal process of the original Board of Zoning Appeals' finding of fact stating that the Recycle Center was not in compliance. Apparently this appeal process runs for one month from May 3rd of this year.

We were reminded of the Farmland Master Plan meeting on the 16th of May at the Fairgrounds. This should prove interesting in light of Dave Corliss's previous visit at a BCNA meeting to outline the City's plans for this site. The opening of 19th Street would greatly affect the East Lawrence neighborhoods.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

June 13, 2012

BCNA President Julie Mitchell opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., with 9 members present. Susan Miller gave the treasurer's report. There were no additional claims and no noted discrepancies.

Julie Mitchell, who serves on The Community Advisory Development Committee reports there is no meeting scheduled for that board for August. A posting on: http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/nrac_agendas_minutes, indicated that meetings of this advisory committee have been cancelled each month since April 12th of this year. The agenda for this meeting indicates a discussion of the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), of which BCNA is a recipient.

Richard (Dickie) Heckler gave the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN) meeting report for June of this year where a reduction of the \$25.00 annual dues was discussed. Due to CDBG block grant guidelines, target neighborhoods (like BCNA) can charge only \$1.00 membership dues. CDBG has discontinued funding LAN dues, and BCNA has requested a reduction of the dues charged by LAN for itself and other target neighborhoods. Dickie reported that members of LAN gave a chilly reception to this request. It was pointed out in the discussion of this report that the \$25.00 LAN dues use up collected revenue that is also used to pay for the chicken and soft drinks for our annual picnic, as well as supplies for the annual park clean-up. The lively discussion ensured that the matter is not entirely settled and Dickie agreed to bring the matter to LAN's attention again.

It was further agreed that, if Dickie could not attend a monthly LAN meeting, Melinda Henderson is willing to substitute for him, so that BCNA will have continuous monitoring and representation at LAN meetings.

In other LAN news, Dickie passed out a copy of the recent LAN agenda along with a 2-page fact sheet generated by the June LAN meeting concerning the 50 acre sports complex proposed for west Lawrence. In the discussion that followed, it was generally agreed that increased indebtedness and the resultant increase in taxes would be a negative outcome. It was pointed out that both Kansas City and Topeka already have major sports complexes, and this proposed facility would have to compete with the already-established facilities. The expansion of the City's revenue base by nationwide participation in competitive sporting events was, therefore, questionable. The point was made that, in all probability, construction of the proposed facility would not reduce the tax burden on Lawrence's residents. A consensus was reached wherein all agreed that the proposed complex should be scaled back dramatically or eliminated entirely.

Julie Mitchell handed out a flier announcing an open house and discussion meetings about the new T-2040 transportation plan for Douglas County. It was hoped that we will get a report about this plan at our next meeting.

The East Lawrence Recycling Center's move to 11th Street was discussed briefly. The general consensus was that, because little is known about this new development, it would undoubtedly be best to wait until more is revealed. A general and continued concern for environmental pollution was raised.

Susan Miller shared an article in the Lawrence Journal World detailing the allocation of a block grant, as recommended by the CDBG Advisory Committee, of \$40,000.00 to be allocated for sidewalk repair, particularly in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. Chuck Soules, Lawrence's director of public works has yet to work out the details of the plan and the method of application for assistance. "Soules said he hopes to have details for the program finalized later this summer and for work to begin in the fall."

Julie Mitchell reminded us that our next meeting would be in September, and that the annual potluck picnic will take place at the Brook Creek Park shelter on September 12, 2012. Julie Banhart will try to get our regular meeting room at the East Lawrence Recreation Center reserved for use in case of rain.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Messages to email list:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 5/8/12 | Reminder of May meeting and invitation to Farmland property open house |
| 5/16/12 | Information from LAN regarding the Lawrence/Douglas County/Chamber of Commerce partnership. |
| 6/10/12 | Notice of BCNA June meeting |
| 7/26/12 | Safety warning from the Lawrence Police Department regarding the upsurge in the number of aggravated burglaries in Lawrence. |

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

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 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.

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.

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

There have been, as usual, countless instances of unreported instances of good neighboring noted throughout the Brook Creek neighborhood, as individuals have been seen helping neighbors with a variety of things, pretty much as an automatic reaction to a friend or neighbor needing assistance.