

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date	Activity Description	Number of Attendees
November 2012	<p>Meetings: The BCNA November meeting was held on November 14, 2012 at the East Lawrence Recreation Center, beginning at 7:00 p.m..</p> <p>Communications: Meeting information was in the September – November 2012 newsletter. Email reminders were sent to residents (see communications section of this report).</p>	12
December 2012	<p>Meetings: The BCNA December meeting and Holidays Party was held on December 12, 2012 at the East Lawrence Recreation Center, beginning at 7:00 p.m..</p> <p>Communications: Meeting information was in the December 2012-March 2013 newsletter. Email reminders were sent to residents (see communications section of this report).</p>	17 (plus guests)
January 2013	<p>Meetings: BCNA does not meet in January.</p> <p>Communications:</p>	NA

MINUTES**November 14, 2012**

President Julie Mitchell, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., with 12 members present.. Susan Miller read the Treasurer’s report, and there were no new claims or objections.

Susan also read the letter she sent to the ONA, thanking them for the kind thought in sending a check to pay our LAN dues, but returning the check as our dues had already been paid.

Julie Mitchell reported that, at the Community Advisory Board Committee meeting, Dave Corliss gave a presentation concerning the new Library, the proposed Recreation Center, the newly distributed trash cans, and the South Lawrence Trafficway.

It was proposed that we change our meeting schedule to quarterly meetings, and the newsletter schedule be adjusted to coincide with the meetings. On average, our attendance is highest at the meeting in the month when the newsletter is delivered. This led to a discussion of ways to improve attendance. A “buddy system” was proposed, whereby attending members would recruit a second attendee. Also mentioned was a more thorough posting of meeting agendas and times in local media, but the *Journal World* no longer posts the times of neighborhood meetings, as these are regarded as of local, and not general, interest.

BCNA’s coordinator, Julie Banhart, reported that CDBG proposals are due by December 3. Susan Miller pointed out that there is a postal rate increase proposed for the first of the new year, so we will have to factor that into the cost of the newsletters when preparing the proposal budget.

BCNA vice president Andrea Repinsky reported that, essentially there has been no progress on the move of the East Lawrence Recycle Center to its new home on 11th street. Julie Mitchell said she will email Scott McCullough regarding future developments.

Julie Mitchell also reported that Matt McCluer, lieutenant with the Salvation Army (SA), contacted her regarding a future meeting with BCNA. The City has purchased the old SA building at 946 New Hampshire, and the SA will be building their new Lawrence headquarters in the 1800 block of Haskell Avenue. The new site will have a church and accommodations for transitional housing. Members present had no objection to transitional housing, which would be similar to that by the Indian Center at 15th and Haskell. The Salvation Army hopes to have the new facilities operational within 3 years.

Elections for BCNA officers will take place at the December meeting. We were heartily encouraged to put the word out for any interested parties to attend the meeting, which will also include our annual Holidays Party.

In other business, possible plans for a spray park in the vicinity of the new Prairie Meadow Park on 15th Street were discussed. Julie Banhart pointed out that she is always looking for instances of good neighboring, which must be included in the quarterly reports to the City. Please email any instances to her at BrookCreekNA@gmail.com.

The idea of setting up, as some other neighborhoods have done, an easily accessible place for the free exchange of books was raised. A brief discussion ensued as to where to place such a booth, which could also be used for needed announcements.

Also discussed was the possibility of a grant proposal for hand tools that could be borrowed by residents' for use in their yards. BCNA did this many years ago, and requests for reviving the project are occasionally received. Types of tools and prices will be researched and, if feasible, a proposal for such included for the next fiscal year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

December 12, 2012

Vice President Andrea Repinsky opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with 17 members attending plus guests who were principally interested in the main agenda item, which was the new trail system being implemented in Brook Creek Park.

Susan Miller gave the treasurer's report. There were no addendums or objections.

Garrett Jones, president of the KU Running Club, gave an overview of his passion for running, especially in natural spaces such as Brook Creek Park. Garrett went on to explain his perception of the need to level the five foot wide trail that has already been cut through the natural landscape.

Mitch Young, District Supervisor of Lawrence Parks and Recreation, gave an overview of the process the KU Running Club went through to apply for permission to create the trail, and his subsequent approval and cooperation in creating the trail. Mitch further apprised attendees that Lawrence Parks and Recreation does not normally contact neighborhood associations regarding modifications, such as the recent replacement of cement in the more exposed portion of the park inclusive of the gazebo and picnic tables.

A letter from Michael Almon, who could not attend, was read by Beth Anne Heckler outlining a meeting concerned neighbors of the park had with Mitch Young on November 19th. The meeting brought to light an historical agreement whereby the park was to remain a wilderness park and to have no human modifications. Mitch Young commented that he could find no record of this formal agreement.

Though no formal agreement existing in writing may be found, members of the BCNA clearly recalled the purchase of the additional 43 acres of wooded area in 1996. Apparently there was much talk at this time by

both city and county commissioners in regards to the leaving of this land as pristine wilderness and members agreed that a verbal agreement to do this was reached with then head of Parks & Rec, Fred deVictor. .

Several attendees gave impassioned accounts of their personal experience as frequent visitors to this undeveloped area, and mentioned that it was a primary reason for the purchase of a home in the area. Fears were raised that the cutting of a trail, especially one this wide, would lead to the unlawful incursion of motorized and all terrain vehicles, and that the cutting of trails violated the natural beauty.

Jones admitted to being taken aback by attendees' impassioned pleas to leave this area untouched, and assured members of BCNA that there would be no more cutting of trails. Jones expressed his astonishment that he had no idea of the historical significance of the park, and thanked neighborhood residents for informing him.

Mitch Young spoke about the efforts being carried out at Clinton State Park to control aggressive and invasive species such as honeysuckle, and admonished attendees that efforts of this nature might benefit the park.

There was some discussion of placement of the trail head and the placement of signage. Objections were raised as to even this much human involvement in the park, and we were reassured that such devices would be kept to a minimum. However, Mitch did wonder whether some mention of the historical significance of the park might be in keeping with local residents' interests. This idea was not widely embraced.

It was resolved that a letter be drafted directed to the City Commissioners and the Lawrence Planning Department outlining BCNA members' objection to the development of trails, and that the approval of this letter should be discussed at our February meeting. Andrea Repinsky agreed to author the letter, and requested that, in the meantime, further discussion be carried out by email. A sheet of paper requesting email addresses was circulated, so that members not already on the email list could be added

In another agenda item, Dickie Heckler gave the LAN report. It is a concern of LAN that the development along Rhode Island Street will ultimately expand into East Lawrence, and disrupt the single family nature of the neighborhood. Honoring the historical nature of the East Lawrence Neighborhood would ultimately benefit the Brook Creek Neighborhood in avoiding similar expansion.

The plan for the spring cleanup of Brook Creek Park was discussed, and members wisely suggested this effort could be coordinated with KU's Big Event on April 13.

There was no formal update to the progress made by the East Lawrence Recycle Center, but it is reported via a brief interview with one of the employees that a move was being planned for December.

There was an election of officers, and basically all officers were reelected without objection for another year.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:00 p.m. and was followed by the BCNA Holidays party.

COMMUNICATIONS

Messages to email list:

11/12/12 – Reminder of November meeting.

12/11/12 – Reminder of December meeting.

12/12/12 – Communication with potential new members (they joined).

12/14/12 – Communication with member regarding the February meeting time and place.

NEWSLETTER (follows)



BROOK CREEK BREEZE

December 2011 / February 2012 / March 2012

<p>Wednesday December 12, 2012 Holidays Party /Election of Officers Running Trail in the Park 7:00 p.m. East Lawrence Rec. Center</p>	<p>Wednesday February 6, 2012 7:15 p.m. East Lawrence Rec. Center</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 6, 2012 7:00 p.m. East Lawrence Rec. Center [Tentative: Parks & Rec. could schedule the room.]</p>
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SPECIAL BUSINESS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER MEETING

Please make every effort to join us for our December 12 meeting. It's going to be an important one:

- We will elect officers for 2013.
- We will have a special guest to discuss proposed changes in the woods at Brook Creek Park. The University of Kansas Running Club and Parks & Rec have partnered to create a running trail in the woods at Brook Creek Park. Mitch Young, of Parks and Rec. arranged for Garrett Jones from the KU Running Club to be at our December meeting to discuss the project. Parks & Rec has mowed a trail through the woods, but has placed all actual trail improvements on hold until after this meeting.
- And, it's time for our annual Holidays Party (see invitation on page 3).

MINUTES

September 19, 2012

Susan Miller brought the meeting to order, with 12 persons attending. She also read the treasurer's report, which was unanimously approved with no additional claims or adjustments.

Dickie Heckler gave the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN) report. Among the LAN activities was a visit by Greg Williams, the new president of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, at one of their meetings. LAN also discussed the new mega-dollar Sports Complex (previously discussed at a BCNA meeting). At the LAN meeting, it was noted that the proposed Sports Complex was getting even more complex, as KU's purchase of the proposed 146-acre site would mean it would be state owned.

In keeping with the City's agenda to create new play areas, Dickie noted several options that would greatly benefit the area neighborhoods. Among these was a suggestion for the expansion of the East Lawrence Recreation Center to include a new basketball court and, possibly, an additional meeting room.

Other developments and their, seemingly requisite, high-dollar consulting fees were discussed. One that had touched on the interests of the Brook Creek Neighborhood was the week-long (and expensive) planning workshop in 2007 that resulted in the proposed redevelopment of the 19th and Haskell shopping center, which, to date, has shown few (and no really noticeable) changes. (For background on this, see the Lawrence *Journal World's* February 3, 2007 article, "A Vision of the City's Future").

Progress, or the lack thereof, regarding the 12th & Haskell Recycling Center was discussed. It seems they are going full steam at their current site, with little to no progress in transitioning to their new site. The question was raised: If the current site were to be rented to another business, could the non-conforming code still apply?

The meeting was concluded at 7:45 p.m.

October 3, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Susan Miller at 7:00 p.m., with 9 members present. Susan also presented the treasurer's report, which was unanimously approved with no additional claims or adjustments.

A discussion ensued when Susan Miller informed the members that BCNA had received a letter from the Oread Neighborhood Association, which said they had heard about our problem in paying LAN dues. A check for the \$25.00 annual LAN dues was enclosed. In the ensuing discussion, it was pointed out again that BCNA's request that LAN consider reduced fees for the target neighborhoods was made, for all the target neighborhoods, which are limited to \$1.00 per year membership dues per person, and CDBG funds can no longer be used for those dues. Dickie Heckler and Susan Miller pointed out that our LAN dues have already been paid. Therefore, a motion was made to return ONA's check with a letter of thanks for their considerate offer. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Salvation Army's desire to attend a BCNA meeting to report of plans for their land at 19th & Haskell was reported..

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

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Susan also read the letter she sent to the ONA, thanking them for the kind thought in sending a check to pay our LAN dues, but returning the check as our dues had already been paid.

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Coordinator Julie Banhart reported that CDBG proposals are due by December 3. Susan Miller pointed out that there is a postal rate increase proposed for early 2013, so that must be factored into the cost of the newsletters when preparing the proposal budget.

Vice president Andrea Repinsky reported that, essentially, there has been no progress on the Recycle Center's move to its new home on 11th street. Julie Mitchell will email Scott McCullough regarding future developments.

Julie Mitchell also reported that Matt McCluer, lieutenant with the Salvation Army (SA), contacted her regarding a future meeting with BCNA. The City has purchased the old SA building at 946 New Hampshire, and the SA will be building their new Lawrence headquarters in the 1800 block of Haskell Avenue, to be operational within 3 years. It will contain a church and transitional housing. Members present had no objection to transitional housing, which would be similar to that by the Indian Center at 15th and Haskell..

Elections for BCNA officers will take place at the December meeting. Any interested parties should be sure to attend. The meeting will also include our annual Holidays Party and a presentation about proposed hiking trails in Brook Creek Park.

In other business: **(a)** possible plans for a spray park in the vicinity of the new Prairie Meadow Park on 15th Street were discussed; **(b)** Julie Banhart pointed out that instances of good neighboring must be included in the quarterly reports to the City, so please email any instances to her at BrookCreekNA@gmail.com; and **(c)** the idea of setting up, as some neighborhoods have done, an easily accessible place for the free exchange of books was raised. Further discussion will be held at a future meeting.

Also discussed was the possibility of a grant proposal for hand tools that could be borrowed by residents' for use in their yards. BCNA did this many years ago, and requests for reviving the project are occasionally received. Types of tools and prices will be researched and, if feasible, a proposal for such included for the next fiscal year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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

912 La Salle St. - Tenants to Homeowners, Inc.	1633 Matthew Terrace - Tessa M. Pennewell
1446 Elmwood - Joe L. Harness	1718 Harper - Niemack Family LLC
1626 Cadet - Robert W. Wilks	902 Oliver's Court - Allen R. & Elizabeth S. Carmichael
1538 Harper - Daniel J., III & Regan L. McAlister	1518 Wedgewood Dr. - Stacy R. Chamberlain
1628 Matthew Terrace - Valerie L. Lamont	1301 Elmwood - Robert Halady



You're Invited
To BCNA's Annual Holidays Party
December 12, 2012
7:00 p.m.
East Lawrence Recreation Center

This is the time of year that many of us are baking our favorite holiday treats. If you can, bring some of those treats to share with your friends and neighbors after our business meeting is concluded..

KU's "Big Event Day" for 2013

KU will be participating in The Big Event for the third year. It is the largest single day of community service and volunteer activism at the university. "The Big Event connects the KU campus with the Lawrence community by recruiting thousands of student, faculty, and staff volunteers to work at hundreds of local job sites during **one day of service.**"

The Big Event day is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2013. The registration form will be ready on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, to sign up asking for assistance for projects in your home or yard. Check their website (www.thebigeventku.com) on or after January 22 to register for assistance. You will be asked to provide information about what you need help with. The Big Event organizers estimate that they will be able to staff 400 job sites this year.

It's a good event and the students provide good help. If you would like to sign up for help, but do not have Internet access, call the BCNA coordinator at 841-4997 for information and assistance in how to do that.

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.
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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, particularly after the recent snowfall..