



**Brook Creek Neighborhood Association**  
**Meeting Minutes (DRAFT), 6 May 2015**  
(by Michael Almon, Secretary)

**Present:** Rena Figures (President), Byron Wiley (Vice President), Jenna Coker (Treasurer), Michael Almon (Secretary), Emily Winters, Andrea Repinsky, Melinda Henderson (Directors), two other Association members, and Julie Banhart.

**Agenda:** Rena passed around an agenda to which we added a couple items and approved.

**Introductions:** Rena asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

**Minutes of prior meeting:** Michael presented the draft minutes from the 1 April meeting.

Action taken: Moved by Jenna, seconded by Andrea to approve the minutes. Passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** as of 30 April 2015, \$58.00 petty cash. \$1507.85 in checking account. \$1565.85 total revenues.

Action taken: Moved by Rena, seconded by Michael to approve the report. Passed unanimously.

**Guest speakers:**

Byron talked about the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project, a local not-for-profit that he is a member of. They began in 2009 to promote the growing and use of fruit trees and berry bushes as edible landscaping. They do educational workshops, promote access to healthy local food, encourage community wide gleaning of excess fruit by individuals, and mostly they operate the Community Orchard at Garfield St. just east of Burroughs Creek and south of 13th St. The Orchard was begun in 2013 as part of the Lawrence Common Ground Program on City owned land. It is grown organically by a collective effort, with community volunteers, and the public is welcome to pick fruit in moderation. Byron gave a partial rundown of the many species growing there.

Jenna talked about her home garden on a double lot that is a native plant sanctuary. She is a Master Gardener since the early 1990's through the Douglas County and K-State program. She emphasizes native perennial flowers, which people can pick, or sometimes she puts bouquets by the street for the taking (not for sale). She has a diversity so that something is blooming almost all the time. She recommends using lots of mulch for many benefits - to build the soil, hold in moisture, and repress weeds. Ron Bishop reminded folks of the Monarch Watch native plant sale this weekend for flowers that attract pollinators.

Michael mentioned as a follow up to a couple of our discussions about Amur Honeysuckle that he is planning on approaching the Lawrence Parks & Recreation Dept. about their possibly getting that invasive plant under control in our parks and along streets.

### **Fireworks – City ordinance enforcement:**

Melinda brought up her perennial effort to get the police to enforce the Lawrence fireworks ban. There are veterans who suffer from post traumatic syndrome that is triggered by so much loud explosions. She emphasized that this is a public health issue. Others also noted that the billowing smoke can be an asthmatic issue. Melinda went with a police officer last 4th of July on his night rounds, and said he was professional and diligent, but there were far too few officers on duty.

Anticipated action: Melinda is lobbying for much more patrolling this year.

### **Lawrence 2016 budget hearings:**

Michael and Melinda went to the 4 May budget public input session at the UPRR depot. The format was a “vote with dots” for categories listed on the wall, and then a discussion in the round about the vote priorities. The categories that got votes for increased funding were police, parks maintenance (not facilities), and code enforcement (not Planning). A category that was notable in its absence was pedestrian-bicycle transportation. Quite a few people brought this up, and it prompted much discussion. Michael mentioned that with such a tight budget this year, 19th Street does not need to be funded, built, and opened for a number of years, until the Venture Business Park has tenants. There will be a community survey sent out soon by the City, and the results will come to the Commission in a month or so to help with budget priorities.

Anticipated action: Folks can go to the next public input session on 14 May at Fire Station #5, 19th & Stewart Ave.

### **City transit lacking in Brook Creek:**

Brook Creek Neighborhood is remarkably underserved by the Lawrence Bus System. To take the only bus through our neighborhood to downtown, you have to get on at Haskell Ave., ride all the way out to Prairie Park before heading downtown, which takes longer than walking downtown. Considering the low income demographics of Brook Creek, there should be a much higher level of service. Melinda had a great satirical photo of a folding chair someone had placed at the 15th & Haskell bus stop with “bus bench” written on it.

Anticipated action: Melinda will push for better service.

Someone brought up a related issue of the continued motorist parking in the bicycle lane on 15th St. by the East Heights south door for child pick-up after school. Melinda said the City has given the School District an exception from the ordinance prohibiting parking in a bicycle lane, but no one could verify this waiver. Michael pointed out how ironic it is that last Fall the City passed that ordinance around the same time the School District got a waiver from it.

Anticipated action: We will investigate this and take whatever action is appropriate.

### **11th & Haskell Recycle Center SUP:**

We think our letter expressing our views about the Recycle Center flaunting the law and the

lack of enforcement by the Planning Office got their attention, even though the Commission granted the S.U.P. as proposed. Michael commented, however, that we went off somewhat half cocked because of late notice and no time to adequately research. As a result we sent mixed messages, asked the Commission to pull the item from the consent agenda, and then didn't have anyone there to clarify our position. He thought this looked bad, but others disagreed. The City authorities know we are watching, and KDHE is more attentive to Bo Killough's operation also.

Anticipated action: We will do our homework better, and be pro-active in learning about other land use issues in the future.

### **Letter to Parks & Recreation:**

Andrea has been working on our letter requesting a meeting with Parks & Recreation about several proposals we are making for our neighborhood. The topics include: the corner of the Public Works garage parcel that could become part of Burroughs Creek Park; a management plan for the Brook Creek Woods; landscaping in Brook Creek Park; a dog park; a bocce ball court; invasive species control; bicycle trail through Struct/Restruct park parcel; and a foot bridge crossing from the Community Orchard to 13th Street. We reviewed her letter and approved it with additions.

Anticipated action: Andrea will finalize the letter, address it to Ernie Shaw (Interim P&R Director), Mark Hecker, and Chuch Soules (PW Director), and CC the Commissioners and Diane Stoddard (Acting City Manager). She will then run it by the BCNA Officers before sending it.

**Meeting adjourned**

**BCNA Neighborhood Accomplishments**  
**4th Quarter (May-July 2015)**

- Sale of print ads in the newsletter continued.
- We continued collecting email addresses to reach more members with announcements of importance to the neighborhood.
- Email announcements continued to members with reminders of meetings and notices of special events of interest.
- The website is up and running, with more items added to the archives regularly. The BCNA Facebook is also up and running.
- We participated in LAN

BROOK CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ACTIVITY LIST FOR 2014-2015 QUARTER 4

May 6, 2015 General Meeting

Method of Notification:

April/May 2015 Newsletter

Email notification to those on the email list.

Estimated Attendance: 12

BCNA holds no meetings in June and July.

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

1944 Miller Drive

Lawrence, KS 66046



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LAWRENCE, KS  
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# The Brook Creek Breeze

The Newsletter of the  
Brook Creek  
Neighborhood Association

April—May 2015

## Neighborhood Events

### April

- 1 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,  
East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 7 City Elections—VOTE!
- 11 City Earth Day Celebration
- 18 Park Cleanup
- 25 Park Cleanup Rain Date

### May

- 6 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,  
East Lawrence Rec. Center

## April 18 Brook Creek Park Cleanup and Picnic

Every year, BCNA has a clean up event in the spring to help clear debris and garbage out of Brook Creek, which runs through our neighborhood. This year, we will have the event on Saturday, April 18th from 10am-2pm. Meet at the Brook Creek Park gazebo.

This important event in our community is your chance to come out to meet your neighbors, and help keep our little corner of Lawrence beautiful! Gloves and trash bags will be provided, as well as water and lunch donated by local businesses.

As we did last year, we are holding our clean up on the same day as the Big Event at KU, a community service day for students. We will be inviting KU volunteers to help spiff up our neighborhood! We enjoyed meeting Hashinger Hall volunteers during the 2014 park cleanup. In the event of poor weather or rain, we will have a rain date for the following Saturday. Please see the ad in our newsletter about the Big Event at KU to learn more about how you could have volunteers help you with one of your projects.

## Brook Creek Accepting Director Nominations

We are still extending an invitation for more Director nominations! Do you know someone who likes to help plan events, or has fundraising skills? Do you have an interest in local history? Do you like to write articles? We'd love to hear from you. Better yet, we'd love to see you at our meetings! Even if you only have a little time to spare, or would like to write just a few history articles per year for the newsletter, we'd love to put you to good use.

### In This Newsletter:

- P. 3 Verizon cell tower proposal update
- P. 4 Insects we like! Insects we don't!
- P. 4 'The Burroughs' event space proposal
- P. 5 Who is Brook Creek?
- P. 6 What went down in the February meeting

## Join Brook Creek Neighborhood Association for only \$1.00

Support BCNA so that we can effectively represent you.

### MEMBERSHIP RATES

In-neighborhood individuals \$1.00      Out-of-neighborhood individuals and businesses \$5.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Member information is used only for neighborhood communications, and not distributed or sold.

Please **check**  any box that applies:

- I do not want my name printed in the newsletter as a new or returning member
- I would like to be included in a neighborhood e-mail list-serve
- I would like to receive a weekly e-newsletter

Mail this form and your check payable to BCNA to:  
**Brook Creek Neighborhood, 1406 Oak Hill Ave., Lawrence KS 66044**

Visit us at <http://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com/>

## Curbside Recycling Dates

### North of 15th Street

- March 25
- April 8
- April 22
- May 6
- May 20

### South of 15th Street

- March 27
- April 10
- April 24
- May 8
- May 22

Yard waste collection is operating.

Go to [notify.lawrenceks.org](http://notify.lawrenceks.org) to sign up for email or text notification of recycling, trash, and yard waste dates.

## Neighborhood Contacts

### Rena Figures, President

thegreensoaper@yahoo.com  
766-7571

### Byron Wiley, Vice-President

bwiley@sbcglobal.net

### Michael Almon, Secretary

paradigm@sunflower.com

### Jenna Coker, Treasurer

fredandjenna@sunflower.com  
Send membership renewals to:  
1406 Oak Hill Ave.  
Lawrence, KS 66044-3638

### Directors

Nathan Jeffries  
Andrea Repinsky  
Emily Winters

### Lawrence Association of Neighbor- hoods Representative

Melinda Henderson

### Julie Banhart, Neighborhood Coordinator

BrookCreekNA@gmail.com  
841-4997



brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/  
brookcreekneighborhood

## A Letter from the President

The BCNA springs into action with a newly expanded board! We would like everyone to extend a warm welcome to our new Directors: Andrea Repinsky, Emily Winters, and Nathan Jefferies. This wonderful addition to our team will help us as we continue to become more actively involved in the community, and help us serve the needs of our neighborhood.

Most CDBG-funded Neighborhood Associations took a cut in funding for the next year. If you're not already a member, please consider joining by sending in your \$1 donation, and talk to your neighbor about joining as well. Every dollar counts. Also, stop in to one of our monthly meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month (we do not meet in June, July, August, or January) so that we can meet more of our members and supporters. Your Neighborhood Association is important because it provides an active and collective voice, advocating for us on important issues. It also provides the city and local businesses with an avenue for reaching us! We host speakers who are trying to reach their community either to send out a message, or gain feedback from the community. Neighborhood Associations are important to everyone! We thank you kindly for all your support.

- Rena Figures

## Do You Want to Host a Job Site for The Big Event 2015?

The **BIG EVENT** is the largest single day of community service and volunteer activism at the University of Kansas. The Big Event connects the KU campus with the Lawrence community by recruiting thousands of student, staff and faculty volunteers to work at hundreds of local job sites during one day of service.



The Big Event will be held **Saturday, April 18, 2015**. There are no requirements for signing up, no need-based considerations - just that you are within Lawrence city limits.

Sign up online at [www.thebigeventku.com](http://www.thebigeventku.com)

Please contact us if you have any questions:  
(785) 864-7469 or [bigeventku.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:bigeventku.outreach@gmail.com)

### 2015 BCNA Membership Dues can be paid now!

Bring your \$1 membership  
dues to the neighborhood  
meeting or mail to 1406 Oak  
Hill Ave.

### Welcome to the Neighborhood! Recent Property Transfers

John & Janet Evans: 930 Ward Street  
Bobby & Della Osburn:- 1541 Harper Street  
Thomas Supancic: 1225 Prairie Ave.

### See your ad here!

Contact BCNA Coordinator Julie at 841-4997 for more information.

### Did you know

that many of the advertising businesses in our newsletter are Brook Creek residents?  
Support your neighbors!

 **Paradigm Design**  
Lawrence, KS 785-840-0313

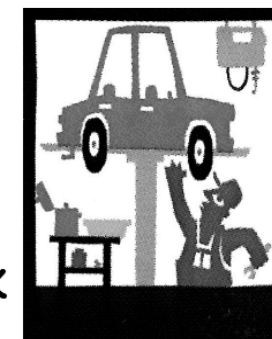
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bamboo, cork, & Marmoleum floors  
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SUITE D & E  
LAWRENCE KS 66044  
785-842-5079

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OWNERS



  
**Cat Clinic**  
of Lawrence

Jennifer O'Driscoll, DVM (785) 856-6369  
1701 Massachusetts St. [www.catcliniclawrence.com](http://www.catcliniclawrence.com)



## February 4, 2015 BCNA Meeting Notes

**Condensed from minutes recorded and submitted by Secretary Michael Almon**

**Present:** Rena Figures (President), Byron Wiley (Vice President), Jenna Coker (Treasurer), Michael Almon (Secretary), and five other Association members.

**Treasurer's report:** as of 31 January 2015, \$43.00 petty cash. \$1446.00 in checking account. \$1489.00 total revenues. Our former Treasurer had suggested we not disclose our finances in our on-line minutes. Attendees voted to include BCNA finances in online minutes because we are not a profit-driven business that has proprietary needs, but rather a not-for-profit organization that is open to the public, we have an obligation to maintain transparency in our financial dealings.

**Meeting minutes:** Unapproved minutes from prior meetings were approved.

**Verizon Cell Tower Proposal:** An update was given on Verizon's application for a Special Use Permit for a microwave tower in Brook Creek Neighborhood (See article in newsletter)

**Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan:** Attendees reviewed the objectives of the Burroughs Creek Corridor plan, which calls for zoning along the trail to be made consistent with current uses. This action has not yet been taken, and the issue will be discussed in future BCNA meetings

**The Burroughs:** Silverback Enterprises presented their plan to develop an event facility at 701 E. 19th Street. (see article, next page)

**Guest Speaker Stuart Boley:**

Our guest speaker was Stuart Boley, who is running for City Commission. Though no other candidates were present, we made it clear that we are not endorsing Mr. Boley, but simply are interested in hearing his thoughts. He said that he grew up in Kansas and graduated from K.U., and his wife is from Lawrence. He is a retired I.R.S. corporate auditor, and currently works part time for the Douglas County Community Foundation. He did not think the financing for the Rock Chalk Park was handled properly. He discussed models for taxation and methods of prioritizing City spending. He also discussed the proposed transit hub at 21st and Iowa Streets, the bus routing logistics, and the populations to be served.

**L.A.N. Representative:**

Melinda Henderson was elected to be BCNA's representative to the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods .

**Nominations for Director Positions:**

Attendees considered what range of skills we needed for new Directors, including: member recruitment, list-serv moderator, webmaster, newsletter editor, land use chair, fundraiser, event planner, history chair. The people proposed were: Andrea Repinsky (newsletter editor), Emily Winters (list-serv moderator, webmaster), and Nathan Jeffries. They will be contacted to see if they are interested in serving, and elections will take place at the March BCNA meeting.

**Meeting adjourned**

## Verizon Cell Tower Proposal Now in Federal District Court

On November 17, 2014, the Planning Commission unanimously approved a Special Use Permit requested by Verizon for a new 120-foot microwave tower at 17th & Bullene, next to the Burroughs Creek Trail and several houses, and in a place that would be visible by much of Brook Creek, Barker, and The Woods neighborhoods. They did so without seeing a third party "burden of proof" document that was deemed inadequate by many neighbors. Brook Creek Secretary Michael Almon led the response of neighbors opposed to the proposal, and a protest petition was completed.

The petition required at least four votes in favor of the proposal from the City Commission. On December 9 2014, the City Commission unanimously denied the permit request based on testimony revealing that the application was in violation of the "burden of proof" requirement and the Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan. Also, dozens of people from three neighborhoods attended the meeting to encourage denial of the permit. Verizon has sued the City in Kansas City Federal District Court, which could take a year to resolve.

## Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan to be Revisited

The Verizon tower issue has prompted a reexamination of zoning amortization of the inappropriate industrial zoning near the site. One of the main objectives of the Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan is to modify existing zoning to be "consistent with use." Because all of the business uses along and near Bullene

Ave. and Lynn St. are light commercial and not industrial, the plan calls for the zoning to be changed to commercial zoning. After eight years, this zoning amortization still has not been done, and is long overdue. We will discuss this in upcoming meetings to learn how it might be done.

City Commission and School Board Elections are April 7th.

For information on all the candidates, visit the Voter Education Coalition website:

<http://www.vecdgks.webs.com/>

**COTTIN'S**  
**HARDWARE & RENTAL**  
1832 Massachusetts Street - Lawrence, KS 66044  
(785) 843-2981  
[hardware@sunflower.com](mailto:hardware@sunflower.com)  
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## What To Do With Wanted and Unwanted Insects

### Butterflies

This is the year to protect the Monarch butterfly! One very important action many of us can do is to plant their host plant, milkweed. They're an excellent native plant for your flower garden. Several milkweed species will be available at two fun events. Each event offers high-quality plants, and they benefit the non-profit host organizations.

Monarch Watch Butterfly Plant Sale  
May 9, 8 a.m.—2 p.m. Foley Hall, West Campus  
Grassland Heritage Foundation Native Plant Sale  
May 16 10 a.m.—1:30 p.m, Library lawn

Also, parsley and dill are easy to grow. Both plants support black swallowtail butterflies.



Monarch butterfly  
Credit: Monarch Watch

### Mosquitoes

As the spring rains begin, help your house and your neighbors by cleaning out your gutters! Well-functioning gutters will not hold standing water that mosquitoes use to hatch more mosquitoes. Look for items in your yard that may collect rainwater, and clean them up or turn them over.

### Chiggers

As soon as the soil is warm, chiggers will be out! Linda Cottin of Cottin's Hardware suggests the following:

- 1) Mow lawns and weed garden beds regularly to prevent damp, shady chigger habitat.
- 2) Keep skin covered, with pants tucked into socks,
- 3) Sprinkle affected areas of the yard and your ankles with powdered sulfur,
- 4) Spray shrubs & trees with a solution of 1/4 Fels-Naptha soap bar grated into one quart of warm water,
- 5) Bathe or rub skin briskly with a towel immediately after spending time outdoors. (*Chigger tips originally published in Lawrence Journal-World Aug. 13, 2012*)

## Silverback brings 'The Burroughs' Proposal to Brook Creek

Silverback Enterprises, a Lawrence events promotion business, contacted Brook Creek representatives to discuss their proposal for 'The Burroughs.' Kyle Meyers, one of two owners of Silverback Enterprises, attended the February Brook Creek meeting to provide more information. Silverback is one of the most prominent event production companies in the country, with their corporate headquarters located in the old Zimmerman Steel Company building at 701 East 19th St. Meyers said that he and his partner want to have their facility become part of the fabric of the neighborhood. They have a plan for "The Burroughs," a destination that would host community events, galas and receptions, art exhibitions, performances, food festivals, and athletic events.

They recently purchased the land to the north across 19th St. (which is in Brook Creek Neighborhood) to be used for their open air events. Meyers said that they are aware that the Burroughs Creek Plan designates this site for a trail head with rest rooms, drinking fountains, bicycle service, rest area, and auto parking. Their design will incorporate trail head amenities, and they intend to downzone the site from industrial to open space zoning. They have already downzoned their building site from General Industrial to Limited Industrial zone. Brook Creekers at the February meeting thanked them for approaching the neighborhood and invited Silverback to keep the dialog going.

More information: [www.theburroughs.net](http://www.theburroughs.net)

## Who is Brook Creek? A Profile

Brook Creek is one of the oldest and largest of Lawrence neighborhoods. It covers about 1 square mile, from Burroughs Creek to the eastern edge of Lawrence, and from 11th Street to 19th Street. Here is a glance at who we are, compared to the whole of Lawrence. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Esri*

	<u>Lawrence</u>	<u>Brook Creek</u>
Population (2010)	87,043	3,176
Households (2010)	34,970	1,252
Avg. Household Size	2.28	2.52
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	46.7%	57.7%
Owned with Mortgage	35.6%	39.6%
Owned Free and Clear	11.1%	18.1%
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	53.3%	42.3%
Vacant Housing Units	6.8%	10.1%
Median Household Income (2014)	\$45,223	\$34,928
Median Home Value (2014)	\$160,244	\$98,788
Per Capita Income (2014)	\$25,517	\$17,816
Median Age (2014)	27.5	31.7
Population by Race as Reported to U.S. Census (2010)		
White	82%	75.2%
Black	4.7%	7.9%
American Indian	3.1%	6.2%
Pacific Islander	.1%	.1%
Other	1.5%	2.5%
2 or More Races	4.1%	7.0%
Hispanic Origin	5.7%	8.7%
Educational Attainment		
High School	14%	19.7%
Some College	19.6%	24.5%
Associates Degree	5.7%	2.4%
Bachelors Degree	28.6%	19.9%
Graduate Degree	24.6%	18.5%
Marital Status (Age 15+)		
Never Married	50.9%	29%
Married	36.9%	49.8%
Widowed	3.6%	3.9%
Divorced	8.6%	17.2%
Households		
With 1 Person	32%	29.1%
With 2+ People	68%	70.9%
With Children	24.4%	36.7%
Multigenerational	1.5%	3.4%