

Quarterly Neighborhood Performance Report - Quarter Three (February-April) Due May. 10

Neighborhood: Brook Creek Neighborhood Completed By: Emily Winters Date: 6/9/16 Phone: N 6/9/16 (May Quarterly report)

Each Neighborhood is required to have at least quarterly meetings. (minutes must be attached.)	Meeting Date #1	<u>2/3</u>	Minutes Attached?	<u>yes</u>
	Meeting Date #2	<u>3/2</u>	Minutes Attached?	<u>yes</u>
	Meeting Date #3	<u>4/6</u>	Minutes Attached?	<u>yes</u>

How was the neighborhood notified of the meeting(s)? (check all that apply)	email	<u>yes</u>
	newsletter	<u>yes</u>
	other announcement? (please specify)	Facebook and website

Officer elections this quarter? (if so, attach list of new officers)	No
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Each Neighborhood is encouraged to produce regular newsletters.	Date of Newsletter	<u>April 2016 (spring)</u>	Copy Attached? (required)	<u>yes</u>

Also to be attached:

Neighborhood activity list for the quarter, including method of notification as well as estimated attendance. (Required)

Best practices in regard to neighborhood events that can be shared with other neighborhood associations. Provide information on outreach, event, and outcome. (recommended)

Any other information your neighborhood association feels will be information that will help to provide a clear view of your neighborhood associations accomplishments. (recommended)

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association - 3rd Quarter Report

Neighborhood activity list for the quarter, including method of notification as well as estimated attendance. (Required)

- February business meeting
 - notification by newsletter, email, Facebook
 - 8 in attendance

- March business meeting
 - notification by newsletter, email, Facebook
 - 11 in attendance

- April business meeting
 - notification by newsletter, email, Facebook
 - 12 in attendance

Best practices in regard to neighborhood events that can be shared with other neighborhood associations. Provide information on outreach, event, and outcome. (recommended)

- Continued E-news every Tuesday, we currently have 96 subscribers.
- We continue to encourage neighbors to utilize our LISTSERV to communicate with each other in an informal, electronic way. We currently have 69 members enrolled.
- We continue to provide neighborhood and relevant city updates through our official Facebook page and also keep a neighborhood forum page that allows neighbors to interact with each other.
- We had a neighborhood park clean-up in coordination with ELNA and had Big Event volunteers help. About 20 neighbors help out.
- We had our first neighborhood wide yard sale that was publicized by the neighborhood organization in return for a \$10 donation as a fundraiser to help cover newsletter costs.

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes, 3 February 2016

(By Byron Wiley, Vice President and
Edited by Melissa Fahrenbruch, President)

Agenda (directors/core people present - Melissa F, Melinda, Ron B, Byron W, Emily)

- Introductions/Welcome**
- Review minutes (vote)**
 - Action taken: Postpone till next meeting
- Treasurer's report (vote):** as of 31 January 2016; \$32 in dues; \$41 new petty cash amount, LAN dues, expenses, copies, printer ink; \$1652.97 ending balance.
 - Action taken: It is approved by vote.
- Speaker from Dollar General (25 minutes)** Tyler Oliver - speaker.

Speaker Tyler Oliver develops stores for Dollar General. He describes the store as a small Wal-Mart and no franchises, all corporate owned. Dollar General thinks we are unserved.

Site in question is in the parking lot south of the gas station at Haskel and 19th St. They have looked at this site for a number of years. The store will be 9100 sq foot, with access on the SW entrance off of Haskel and also from 19th. Propose 31 parking spaces on three sides with walk up traffic from the sidewalk and bus stop on Haskel. The building will be four sided block and brick, all to code. (He showed the second print out that showed the exterior brick.) They will have a 15 year lease signed with the center and will own the land. He thinks that this store will be nicer, with landscaping, all four sides looking clean.

Park and ride will be moved to the NE of site. Large truck delivery will be on the SE side of the building with regular doors, 30 minute unload time and will exit out on to Haskel between the Dollar General and the gas station. Community-made bus benches on the west side of building will stay, the curb will stay with some landscaping up front. There will be a monument sign in the NW corner of their new property and the current shopping center sign will be moved.

The store is slated to make \$1,200,000 year gross (?), which would equate to 20 cars per hour after extrapolating the numbers. They will have 7 - 10 employees' full time and have part time jobs as well. The store hours would be "8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, however, store hours may vary by location", according to their website. However, Mr. Oliver thought it would be 7:00 p.m. closing on weekdays and 9:00 p.m. closing on weekends.

A neighbor that came to the meeting is really concerned about the impact on traffic, (lives on cul-de-sac on 19 St. She stated that she experiences a lot of traffic, and is hard for her to get out and thinks there are traffic access issues. Also the bar is hard for the neighborhood.

Melinda stepped in to ask that Mr. Oliver address the traffic, the bus area, etc. in more depth. Which he gave more information, as seen in the above information, as well as, stated it would be more accessible to pedestrians. He was hopeful that this was one step to making the center more energized, and will improve the area. He stated that, the owner of the shopping center was not spending money on the center. Melinda asked about Historic Resources Review. Tyler said that it is being reviewed by the city. They have made an application with the city. Some discussion about the planning process was talked about. He said approval process with the city is fairly normal.

The neighbor is still concerned. What times trucks came through were not available and addressing the traffic concerns with trucks coming on K10 and then turning on to Haskell, concerned that if 19th street goes all the way through in the future. General feeling still that there is not any significant negative effect of this development. Neighbors are mostly okay with the project. It was discussed that possibly the east side of property could become an apartment, in future. Questions could be sent to Tyler Oliver of Colby Capital, at tyler@colbycapitalllc.com.

- Anticipate Action: Next step is working on the plat, and then the historical preservation group. The timeframe on the project was; close on the land April 1, 2016, open sometime in the summer of 2016. Working hours of construction was thought to be 7 a.m. to 4p.m. or 5 p.m.

□ **Update on Interpretive Signage Project, by Lane Eisenbart**

Working with Henry Fortunado, wanted to hire someone who had knowledge of people. Lane Eisenbart is an independent contractor community liaison, promoting the events. She may be able to help with some programing. She had a handout and a summary of the project.

The project is interpretive signage, Hike through History. Henry is a walker, likes to read about happenings such as, the Oregon Trail crossing, Quantril raid, William Burroughs, POW camp, Haskell Mansion, and hopes to have 6-10 events for Burroughs Creek trail. Their goal is making info concise for the panels. They have run into resistance from the city and will become more of a mobile display. He will create panels, first at the library, then at the East Lawrence Rec Center, possibly a few other places. The cultural district would be included. Branding is possible issue.

Objective is to collect the space specific history, to share and preserve it; and to encourage more people to use the trail. A sample panel will be on display in the Library in March and will tie in with the summer reading program. She wants to collect some local, personal history related to the trail. Stuff she is utterly unaware of, related to the trail.

Comment - add the railroad, first railroad out of here going south, per Ron B. and should include something about the rail to trail project. There was mention of a fair, which happened right off the trail, book *Not Without Laughter, by Langston Hughes*. Melissa F suggested she reach out to the Senior Center to get local senior stories about the trail and area.

□ **Update on Downtown Grocery Project, by Melinda**

- Melinda - sent a summary to the board members, and the summary from the city. States, that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. David Crawford (running the show), reached out to the adjacent neighborhoods for support and wants to work with the city to see how they could help. Perhaps some infrastructures help. Mayor Mike Amyx has been involved, very supportive. Price Chopper may be looking at the location where Barns and Noble used to be. Checkers refused the project. Hopeful people took the survey.

□ **Budget/Newsletter Plans and update on CDGB, by Emily**

- Emily - makes a proposal. Other neighborhoods are mailing out postcards. It costs 30 cents bulk mailing, Every-door direct delivery. Have to do one carrier's route, we have three routes. 18 cents. Other neighborhoods use this to promote events. CDBG, not required. Can squeeze in three newsletters, possibly. The year starts in August 2016.

We are not able to do another newsletter. We have sent out two this fiscal year. There is only \$271 left. Coordinator stated she could shave off hours to help. She is doing 30 hours a month right now and projects 15 hours in June and July. We have added revenue from newsletters already sent. Proposal is to do one more newsletter, late March, early April. Future suggestion, 3 newsletters next year is probable.

Postcard cost - mailing the most expensive, does not make sense, \$303 postage to mail anything for our 1012 addresses. 6 page newsletter \$847.99 total and 8 page is \$878.43 thought worth using the 8 page, sell more advertisements.

Our address list comes from the energy bill; need to reach out to printer to get the addresses. We can get from the utility companies a list better than from the city listing. \$100 to request the mailing list, but will be time consuming. Emily did the numbers and thinks we can financially do one more.

- We have 99 people on the email list and should try to promote more.
- Reminder: Neighborhood garage sale in May.

□ **Announcements**

• **Lawrence Transit System**

- Melinda - sent email with updates and routes. (Baby steps.) They have cleaned up 11th and Haskell, south. Proposing one route starts downtown, 11th, Haskell, 15th, Harper to 23rd. Now comes back same way. Probably not going to get the jog through Oak Hill. August is when changes are published related to the routes. They have built one bench and will not do more till the routes are solidified. Also, ridership numbers are important to warrant a bench.
- Also will put fireworks on the agenda on April.

- **Urban Agriculture Zoning Code Amendment:**

- Melissa, in place of Michael, talked about the updates. General updates, promoting smaller scale gardening, etc. The final draft is on the 22 February agenda for the Planning Commission as the official hearing. Slaughtering animals in town is a concern; the Planning Commission had been much divided on the subject. This is the hot button issues. So many requirements would need to be put in place. Residents have to take it somewhere right now, butcher shop or processing shop. There was a suggestion that people become licensed to do this, like a hunter's license. Not sure who would do the training.
- Might have Sunrise Project come talk to our group.
 - Melissa will reach out to them to schedule presentation.

- **Other announcements:**

- The traffic letter was sent - from Emily
- Feb 13th is the Seed Fair

□ **Meeting adjourned 8:28 pm**

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes DRAFT, 2 March 2016
(by Michael Almon, Secretary)

Present: Melissa Fahrenbruch (President), Byron Wiley (Vice President), Michael Almon (Secretary), Jenna Coker (Treasurer), Andrea Repinsky, Ron Bishop, Melinda Henderson (L.A.N. Rep), two other Association members, Emily Winters (Coordinator), and one member of the public.

Guest speaker: Rebecca Buford, Tennants To Homeowners

Agenda: Melissa distributed an agenda,. We approved the agenda.

Introductions: Melissa asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

Minutes of prior meetings: Because there had been no motion at the February meeting to approve the December 2015 minutes, Michael presented them here. He also presented the February 2016 minutes which have been posted on the website for a couple weeks.

Action taken: Moved by Emily and seconded by Jenna to approve both minutes. Passed, with Andrea abstaining.

Treasurer's report: Jenna presented the report. As of 29 February 2016: \$41 in petty cash; \$1733.04 in checking account. \$1774.04 total revenues. Also, BCNA dues are due in January.

Action taken: Moved by Andrea, seconded by Ron, to approve the report. Passed unanimously.

Guest speaker: Rebecca Buford, Tennants To Homeowners

Rebecca is the Executive Director of Tennants To Homeowners (TTHO), an organization that builds energy efficient, affordable, workforce housing in Lawrence. They operate as a community land trust that holds the real property (land) in trust, and sells the house to the purchaser. This helps make the house affordable because the purchaser is not buying the land.

TTHO built a number of homes along Bullene Ave. and nearby, and are now in the process of building three more on 50 foot lots at the corner of Bullene Ave. and La Salle St. The previous house on the lots was blighted and foreclosed, but the previous owner died without heirs. So TTHO had to use the Owners Comprehensive Home Loan Program to legally get a clear title. One of the three houses will be their first in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity. TTHO will steward the new owner long term about land trust and affordability issues, because Habitat typically builds homes and then cuts the buyer loose on their own.

Our BCNA members had some suggestions for Rebecca, and she was very receptive. We suggested the garages not be the prominent feature, and that covered porches be the main feature. Front porches are important to new urbanism, facilitate more neighbor-neighbor

interaction, and provide “eyes on the street” safety. Rebecca said one of their architects, Mike Myers, hates full frontal garages. We also suggested basements for added value and long term storage, but Rebecca said that adds about \$20,000 to the cost. They already have an additional \$10,000 for energy efficiency and garages, and a garage can be partially for long term storage. She'll keep us updated as the project progresses.

Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods report: Melinda gave a brief report on Kansas Legislative Bill #633 that would compromise home rule by blocking local ordinances for inclusionary zoning (mixed income housing). Melinda had alerted the City Commission on this, because Scott McCullough, the Planning Director, had not, even though he knew about it. His rationale for withholding the information was that, in his opinion, Lawrence won't use this zoning as a tool to achieve affordable housing. Andrea pointed out that this may be another case of Scott being ethically challenged.

Bus route changes:

Melinda also gave a brief report on her efforts to get improved bus service through Brook Creek Neighborhood. The current proposal has Route #1 as a back-and-forth route. It will go from downtown along 11th, Haskell, 19th, Harper, 23rd, O'Connell, and Venture Park, to Greenway Circle, and back.

The transit system is funded by the 2007 ten-year sales tax, so the upcoming 2017 public vote on renewing the sales tax is critical. It currently pays for transit, sidewalks, bicycle paths, and general infrastructure. It's important that the new tax referendum include all those as well.

Earth Day creek & park clean up:

The clean up of Brook Creek and Burroughs Creek Parks will be on 16 April 2016 so we can make use of the K.U. Big Event volunteers. It will be from 10:00am – 2:00pm, starting at the Brook Creek Park gazebo. We also are cooperating with East Lawrence Neighborhood Association for this. ELNA will provide morning coffee and bagels, and BCNA will provide sandwiches and veggies for lunch for an estimated 30 people. We need gloves and trash bags, which supposedly Rena has. We also need bottled water.

Anticipated Action: Emily will approach Mr. Goodcents Subs for sandwich donations.

Anticipated Action: Michael will approach HyVee on Clinton Prkw. for donation of veggie and fruit platters.

Anticipated Action: Emily will contact Rena and Danni at Community Development

Anticipated Action: Emily will look into getting bottled water donated.

Newsletter:

Andrea is preparing the March-April newsletter. She wants to include short biographies of the new Board members.

Anticipated Action: Emily will abbreviate meeting minutes to include.

Anticipated Action: Emily will approach advertisers personally.

Brook Creek stormwater improvements:

Michael said that Cash Hyatt at 1209 E. 13th St. has expressed interest in having the City Stormwater Division line the bottom of Brook Creek with rip-rap rocks to reduce the standing water where mosquitos breed and children could fall in. We weren't sure of the implications for the creek health by doing this. Michael said that his only concern was that the Stormwater Engineer has plans to widen and naturalize Brook Creek like they did to Burroughs Creek, and rip-rap may be counterproductive and a waste of money. We have wanted this naturalization for about ten years now. We decided that before taking a position on the rip-rap, we should get the opinion of the Stormwater Engineer, Matt Bond.

Anticipated Action: Michael will investigate Mr. Bond's plans for Brook Creek improvements, and the pending Capital Improvement Plan projects.

Anticipated Action: Emily will ask Mr. Bond to speak at our September meeting.

May neighborhood yard sale

The neighborhood-wide yard sale will be Saturday, 21 May, from 7:00am to about 2:00pm, though anyone can keep selling after that. We noted that regardless of when we post a start time, early callers will invariably show up at 6:30am, so be ready! If residents want their address included in our publicity, they will have to pay the \$10 fee by Tuesday, 10 May. In addition to Craig's List, the LJW and UDK, we'll have signs at major intersections on the day of the sale. We'll make signs at our May meeting on 4 May. We'll need old political signs, big marker pens, and a list of the planned intersections for volunteers to post the signs.

Anticipated Action: Emily will compile a list of major intersections.

Anticipated Action: Emily will gather sign making materials

Anticipated Action: Volunteers are needed to post signs the night before, or early morning.

Meeting adjourned

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes DRAFT, 6 April 2016
(by Michael Almon, Secretary)

Present: Melissa Fahrenbruch (President), Byron Wiley (Vice President), Michael Almon (Secretary), Jenna Coker (Treasurer), Andrea Repinsky, Ron Bishop, one other Association member, Emily Winters (Coordinator), and four members of the public.

Guest speaker: Mark Hecker, Lawrence Parks & Recreation; with Rowan Green, L P&R

Agenda: Melissa distributed an agenda,. We approved the agenda.

Introductions: Melissa asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

Minutes of prior meetings: Michael presented the March 2016 minutes which have also been posted on the website.

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

Treasurer's report: Jenna presented the report. As of 29 February 2016: \$41 in petty cash; \$1818.04 in checking account. \$1859.04 total revenues.

Action taken: Moved by Emily, seconded by Ron, to approve the report. Passed unanimously.

Guest speaker: Mark Hecker, Lawrence Parks & Recreation

Mark was here by invitation to discuss the letter we had sent to Parks & Rec concerning a number of our neighborhood goals. He first of all mentioned to us that P&R is in the process of revising the Parks Master Plan. Some parks have plans, and some don't. A Master Plan Steering Committee will meet for the next six months with a goal of completing the Plan by October this year. He suggested we send a rep to the stakeholder meetings, and attend the Steering Committee meetings.

We thanked Mark for telling us about that Plan, but reminded him of the letter we had sent, and provided him with a copy. We then had a group discussion. The issues we covered were:

Brook Creek Woods Plan: Mark said he recalled the problem a few years ago when Mitch began cutting a running trail through the woods, and we complained because we hadn't been informed. We had stated for years that we want the woods to be a wilderness park, with no improved trails, lights, park benches, or anything like that. We said that as a result of that trail intrusion, we want a written agreement and plan that requires the woods be a wilderness park, and that the City must comply with. It should be similar to the Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan which is formally a part of the Lawrence Comprehensive Plan. Mark said he was fine with that, and we can meet with Rowan to work out the particulars. We can draft ideas, run it by the Advisory Board, and bring it back to BCNA.

Anticipated Action: **Melissa** will schedule a meeting of our Officers to work up our wilderness park principles and goals in anticipation of meeting with Rowan Green.

Improved Brook Creek Park landscaping: Some years back the 13th Street frontage to Brook Creek Park had nice landscaping of flowers, ornamental grasses, flowering shrubs and trees. Now there's just a couple scrawny trees. We'd like the overall park landscaping improved. Mark said it was a maintenance cost issue, because the City Commission is putting them in charge of more and more areas each year, like the new East 31st St., Memorial Cemetery, any new traffic circles they build, and more. Mark wants improvements in other parks too, like more parking and playgrounds.

Re-shape the Burroughs Creek Park where the trail adjoins the Public Works yard: We asked if the fence of the Public Works yard could be moved north so the unused triangle of land could become available for park use. Mark didn't object, saying it would have to be signed off by Public Works, and they would require P&R to pay for it. Another budget issue.

A dog park on the east side of town: Mark said Lawrence has two dog parks, and needs four. They are already looking at six sites with two on the east side, possibly in Edgewood Park. We suggested also the acre behind Struct/Restruct. This will be looked at in the Master Plan.

Invasive species removal: Andrea described that the Brook Creek Woods and other areas of the neighborhood are infested by Amur Honeysuckle, Euonymus, garlic mustard, and more. Mark noted that Michael Almon had proposed in the 2015 City budget that they spend \$1 million to eradicate Amur Honeysuckle, but the Commission didn't have the money. We pointed out that we don't want wholesale, ongoing herbicide use, but a one time use to kill the invasives would allow for planting and seeding native species.

Burroughs Creek Trail extension NE of Struct/Restruct to the River: This was negotiated when Bo Killough rezoned the property from junkyard use to Open Space zoning, and was one of the carrots to get BCNA to agree to the Struct/Restruct Industrial zoning. Now the City has abandoned the trail idea, but we want it revived. Mark didn't have much to say about that, and focused instead on the grant to extend the Trail north to City Hall. He said KDOT is supposed to announce the grant awards in April.

Brook Creek naturalization like Burroughs Creek: We have submitted a CIP request through the Stormwater Engineer's office, but it would be of some concern to P&R because it goes through the park. Mark thinks P&R is a spectator on this one.

Splash Park: This is one of Mark's pet projects, and it could be considered in the Parks Master Plan. We pointed out that the Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan calls for it to be at the old Capitol Concrete (Morton Block) site just north of 15th St play equipment. Mark said that old building is being used for police evidence storage, which we noted violates the City agreement for that building. But it's in the East Lawrence Neighborhood, so not directly our concern.

Bocce ball court: Mark said that would be an easy one, and that they were already considering one somewhere. We suggested a few places like the old Sale Barn site or Parnell Park at 15th St. and Oregon St.

Other parks in Brook Creek Neighborhood: Mark said he would like to work with BCNA on improvement plans for other park areas in our neighborhood. For example, he wants to expand the parking at the East Lawrence Community Center. This and some of the ideas we just mentioned could be covered by the new Parks Master Plan. We stressed that the Master

Plan could be a good venue, but that a wilderness park conservation plan for the Brook Creek Woods should be a separate document just like the Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan, which is formally a part of the Lawrence Comprehensive Plan.

Anticipated Action: Melissa will send a letter in support of a dog park, a splash park, and the Community Center parking expansion to the Parks Master Plan Steering Committee.

City Capital Improvement Project (CIP) proposals:

Byron had submitted a CIP form and letter over Melissa's signature in support of the Stormwater Engineer, Matt Bond's, proposal for a new bridge and creek culverts under 13th St. We noted that such a bridge would have ample room for pedestrians, so a second foot bridge would not be necessary across the creek. Michael has submitted a CIP form and letter that he had written, and run by everyone by e-mail, in opposition to the 19th St. connection to O'Connell Rd. and Venture Business Park. He is setting up appointments with each of the City Commissioners to explain our position in advance of the City budget hearings.

Anticipated Action: Michael will meet with as many Commissioners as possible, and report back in May.

Dollar General update:

Melinda was ill and unable to make her report.

Burroughs Creek Trail interpretive sign update:

Lane Eisenbart was here as Community Laison to neighborhoods for the Burroughs Creek Trail interpretive sign project. She is working with Henry Fortunato, who told us about his project at our October 2015 meeting. Freedom Frontier has granted them \$4500 for the introductory phase. They have scholars who are writing text for each of the signs based on research by Angela Murphy in 2014 at the Hall Center for the Humanities. There will be a Lawrence Library presentation by Henry on 16 June, and a walk along the trail on 18 June.

Earth Day creek & park clean up:

The clean up of Brook Creek and Burroughs Creek Parks will be on 16 April from 10:00am – 2:00pm, starting at the Brook Creek Park gazebo. We are cooperating with East Lawrence Neighborhood Association for this. ELNA will provide morning coffee and bagels, and BCNA will provide sandwiches and veggies for lunch for an estimated 30 people. HyVee has declined our request for veggie and fruit plates. Dillons hasn't responded yet. Mr. Goodcents is donating water, chips, and cookies. Parks & Rec is providing rubber gloves and trash bags.

Anticipated Action: Emily will ask Jimmy Johns on 23rd St. for sandwich donations.

Anticipated Action: Michael will ask Jimmy Johns on Massachusetts St. for sandwich donations. The night manager is a young man who grew up in Brook Creek.

Newsletter:

The Newsletter was supposed to be delivered last week, but wasn't. Emily is not happy, and will make sure we get a discount, and that the printer publishes in a timely manner next time.

May neighborhood yard sale

The neighborhood-wide yard sale will be Saturday, 21 May, from 7:00am to about 2:00pm. We'll make signs at our May meeting on 4 May. We'll need old political signs, big marker pens, and a list of the planned intersections for volunteers to post the signs.

Anticipated Action: **Emily** will compile a list of major intersections.

Anticipated Action: **Emily** will gather sign making materials.

Anticipated Action: **Melinda** has old political signs to reverse and paint on.

Anticipated Action: As many of us as can will post signs the night before, or by 6:30am that morning.

Anticipated Action: **Emily** will list the sale on Craig's List, the LJW, and the UDK.

Anticipated Action: **Michael** will contact KKFI to announce it on the Yard Sale Report.

Lawrence Facilities Survey:

A volunteer at the Lawrence Library, Logan Isaman, was here to tell us about a Lawrence Facilities Survey she is conducting as an Americorps Volunteer. When the survey is ready, she will forward it to us for our feedback.

Meeting adjourned

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
 1322 Maple Lane
 Lawrence, Kansas 66044



Neighborhood-Wide
 Yard Sale May 21!



The Brook Creek Breeze

The Newsletter of the
 Brook Creek
 Neighborhood Association

Spring 2016

Neighborhood Events

April	
6	BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Rec. Center
16	Park Clean-up, 10:00 a.m., Brook Creek Park Gazebo
19	Electronic Recycling at Free State High School, 9:00—1:00
May	
2	Deadline for yard sale sign-up (see article at right)
4	BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Rec. Center
21	Brook Creek Neighborhood Yard Sale! 7 a.m.

Brook Creek Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sale

Clear out your winter accumulation of stuff, and make some extra money at our neighborhood-wide yard sale on May 21, starting at 7 a.m. We can attract more "yard sailors" by offering a neighborhood full of bargains. Brook Creek Neighborhood Association will arrange for publicity with signs at key intersections and advertisements on Craigslist and other places online and around town. We'll list your address in all our publicity, but you must register with our Coordinator no later than May 2nd. Contact her at <brookcreekna@gmail.com> or 785-760-4742. We ask that you donate \$10 to Brook Creek Neighborhood Association to help us fundraise for newsletter costs. BCNA is happy to help you. Thanks for helping the neighborhood!

Brook Creek Park Clean-Up

Join your neighbors on a beautiful spring day to have fun and beautify our parks! The annual Brook Creek Park Clean-Up is Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year, Brook Creek is co-hosting the clean up with East Lawrence Neighborhood Association, and we'll be joined by KU student volunteers, thanks to The Big Event annual volunteer day. East Lawrence is providing bagels and coffee in the morning, and BCNA is providing lunch. Meet at the Brook Creek gazebo. We'll clean up both Brook Creek Park and Burroughs Creek Trail.

If you're a New York School family, you might also be interested in joining in a cleanup and gardening work day at the school from 9 a.m. to noon at the school.

Actions Taken to Improve Traffic Safety

Several neighbors have contacted BCNA and attended neighborhood meetings to share their concerns about dangerous drivers on neighborhood roads. In response, BCNA sent a letter to the David Woosley, the city Traffic Engineer. The letter expressed concerns about traffic speeds on East Glenn Road, Maple Lane between 13th and 15th, and Oak Hill Ave. City staff have responded and said they will do some surveys and contact the neighborhood when they have more information. Updates will be added to the website when available. If you have other concerns about safety or nuisances in the neighborhood, you are welcome to bring them to the attention of BCNA.

Plea for Email Addresses

Email is an important way for BCNA to share information on issues and events that affect the neighborhood. This is especially true now, since funding for our printed newsletters is reduced from previous years, and it is uncertain into the future.

Please send your email addresses to help BCNA keep the neighborhood informed and organized.

You will receive occasional announcements and our great new e-newsletter.

Submit your email address to:

BrookCreekNA@gmail.com

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/>

Neighborhood Contacts

Melissa Fahrenbruch, President
meljofah@gmail.com

Byron Wiley, Vice-President
bwiley@sbcglobal.net

Michael Almon, Secretary
paradigm@sunflower.com

Jenna Coker, Treasurer
fredandjenma@sunflower.com

Directors
Ron Bishop
Rena Figures
Melinda Henderson
Andrea Repinsky

Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Representative

Melinda Henderson

Emily Winters,
Neighborhood Coordinator
BrookCreekNA@gmail.com

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

<https://www.facebook.com/brookcreekneighborhood>

<https://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com/>

A Letter from the President

Hello Neighbors,

I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Melissa Fahrenbruch. I'm your new President of Brook Creek Neighborhood Association. I wanted to thank everyone for a great year! Thanks to Rena Figures, our past president, and the past and present officers and directors for all their hard work.

We have had some great wins and speakers for our neighborhood this past year, thanks to our officers, directors, and you. We played a key role in Verizon moving the location of their cell tower; we helped campaign for bus benches in our area; the 19th Street pass through to the industrial park is on hold for now. We held our annual park clean-up, fall picnic and winter party.

I can't wait to see you at events and meetings this year. Please spread the word to your family, friends, and neighbors to connect with us through our e-newsletter, Facebook, and LISTSERV.

If you have questions or concerns, or you just wanted to say hi, please feel free to reach out to me meljofah@gmail.com. Have a great year.

Best wishes,

Melissa Fahrenbruch



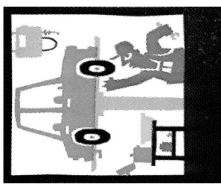
Neighbors gathered in December 2015 for annual officer elections and the Brook Creek holiday party.



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Classes at East Lawrence Recreation Center

Silver Steppers

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., \$36

Fun step combinations will torch calories and get your heart pumping with time for stretching and flexibility work.

Senior Strength Training

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m., \$58

Strength training helps increase muscle mass, strengthen bones and improve balance.

Planting for Pollinators

Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., \$5

Attracting many different kinds of pollinator insects will bring life and movement to your garden. Learn the various ways in which flowers are adapted to different insects. The class will discuss how to choose

the right plants for your garden, those that bring beauty and support area and migrating wildlife. Instructor: Susan Phillips, Master Gardener.

Container Gardens

Saturday, May 7, 9:00-10:00 a.m., \$5

Container gardens offer many benefits, including versatility, less disease and weeding, and accessibility - all in a small space. Join a master gardener just before the last frost and in time for Mother's Day. The class will discuss: containers, soil, sun / shade plants, watering and fertilizing. Instructor: Susan Phillips, Master Gardener.

Register online or at any recreation center. Contact the East Lawrence Recreation Center at 832-7950.

Garden Notes

Gardening season is back! Here are a few reminders and tips.

The Unwanted Guests

Mosquitos can breed in any water that is standing for a few days. You can prevent mosquitos by cleaning out your gutters and emptying or turning over all outdoor containers that can hold standing water.

A few invasive weedy plants are common in Brook Creek, taking over wildlife habitat and making a mess of yards and gardens. Some of the worst plants to look out for and remove are honeysuckle, trumpet vine, garlic mustard, burning bush (euonymus), Johnson grass, Sericea lespedeza, and Bradford pear trees.

Go Native

Native plants provide food and habitat for native wildlife, while non-native plants provide very few ecological benefits. Great native trees to choose for your yard include oaks, which are like wildlife supermarkets, plus pawpaw trees, buckeyes, and redbuds. Several plant sales provide beautiful native plants that are adapted to our climate and ecology. The sales support good organizations, and the plants support native butterflies and bees. Consider the fun you can have with children looking for Monarch butterfly

caterpillars on flowering milkweed plants. The Monarch Watch plant sale and open house is on May 7 at Foley Hall on KU west campus. The Grassland Heritage Foundation native plant sale is May 14 at the Lawrence Public Library lawn.



Bumblebee on butterfly milkweed

Go Edible

The Lawrence Community Orchard grows right next to Brook Creek Neighborhood. Brook Creek residents are among the volunteers that planted a variety of edible plants as a 'free food park' where anyone can pick ripe fruit. It provides examples of food production in public spaces, a place to learn about organic orcharding, and fun volunteer opportunities. The orchard can be found at the east end of Garfield Street, on Burroughs Creek. More information is at: lawrencefruittreeproject.wordpress.com

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes

December 2015

The December meeting was a brief business meeting followed by the annual holiday party. There was a discussion of the new social media tool Next Door that helps to connect neighbors. A letter was sent to the city Park and Recreation Department with neighborhood concerns and ideas. They will be following up with a meeting appearance in 2016. Attendees discussed a January board planning meeting and the annual spring park clean-up event. Some time was spent recapping the neighborhood accomplishments in 2015, including forcing Verizon to move their cell tower, making progress on getting better bus coverage for the neighborhood, and an improved presence on the internet and better communication. The election took place and the new directors are as follows:

Melissa Fahrenbruch for President

Byron Wiley for Vice President

Jenna Coker for Treasurer

Michael Almon for Secretary

Rena Figures for Director

Andrea Repinsky for Director

Ron Bishop for Director

Melinda Henderson for Director

will be a free standing building with landscaping and its own parking. Mr. Oliver stated he anticipates all delivery traffic and the majority of the patron traffic will be on Haskell Ave., and will stay off of 19th Street. The park and ride users will now park behind the convenience store in the northeast corner, but there shouldn't be any disruption to that service. Melinda Henderson gave an update on the Downtown grocery project. There is no official news, but Mayor Mike Amyx is supportive of the project and the developers are open to a grocery store.

There was a discussion about the newsletter budget from Coordinator Emily Winters. CDBG funds were again cut this year making it difficult to afford newsletters. The decision was made to fund one more spring newsletter using the remaining CDBG funds, ad revenue, and some additional money from savings. The bulk cost is in mailing and printing so the decision was made to have an 8 page newsletter again. To help make up for the loss in newsletters we will continue to gather more email addresses and continue our online presence.

Ms. Henderson gave an update on the improved bus route which will now travel both north and south along Harper and Haskell, making it much easier for residents to get downtown. She is still working on helping improve enforcement of the fireworks ban and will let the neighborhood know how it can help. Ms. Fahrenbruch discussed the Urban Agriculture Zoning Amendment that is on the planning commission agenda for late Feb.

February 2016

The guest speaker was Taylor Oliver, a developer for Dollar General. Dollar General is interested in this area because it is underserved. They will be building in the parking lot in the front southwest corner. It

BCNA meeting minutes are posted in full on the BCNA website: <https://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com/>



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Meet Your Brook Creek Neighborhood Association Officers and Board

President: Melissa Fahrenbruch, Maple Lane
Melissa is a recent addition to the Brook Creek neighborhood and to Lawrence, since November 2014. She moved from Colorado where she completed a bachelor's degree in Environmental Sustainability Studies. During her last summer in Colorado she worked as an intern with the Planning and Community Development Departments of the City of Greeley. She is an alumna of the Mortar Board Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and has held officer positions in other clubs, as well. She is a community supporter of the Latin American Graduates Organization (LAGO) at KU. In her spare time she enjoys working on her house with husband, attending Zumba classes at the Community Center, reading, and spending time with friends. Please let her know if you have any suggestions or concerns for the neighborhood, or just want to say hello.

Vice-President: Byron Wiley, Almira Ave.
Byron is serving his third term as vice president of BCNA. He is active in several community organizations including the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project, Sunrise Project, the local contra dance group (Lawrence Barn Dance Association), and he plays in a Scandinavian folk dance group. He is passionate about plants and food-producing plants. Part of his time is also spent working on handyman and carpentry related projects.

Secretary: Michael Almon
Michael has lived in Lawrence since 1977. He worked for two years as a planning aide at the city planning office. He has started and run three businesses, one of which was Simple Goods General Store at 735 Mass. Since moving to Brook Creek Neighborhood, he has participated in many initiatives to stabilize our single-family neighborhood. He was a co-founder, and is Director of Sustainability Action Network, a not-for-profit that advocates for bicycle transportation, local food growing, and energy conservation.

Treasurer: Jenna Coker, Oak Hill
Jenna has lived on Oak Hill for 24 years (in the Savage House, where one of the first Brook Creek meetings were held.) She has served Brook Creek in the past as our CDBG representative. Jenna has also

been a long-time volunteer for Headquarters counseling center. She retired as emeritus staff in 2010 after 25 years of service to KU. Her last 15 years at KU were all in accounting and budget management taking care of 63 accounts with different rules and regulations to follow. Jenna is an avid gardener with the help of her husband, Fred Sack.

Coordinator: Emily Winters, Haskell Ave.
Emily said: "My husband and I both grew up in Lawrence and knew we wanted to raise our family here. We have lived in the neighborhood for almost 9 years. I have been involved in the neighborhood association for 3 years and have been trying to improve communication. I hope to be able to make even more progress in my new role as coordinator."

Directors:

Andrea Repinsky, Almira Ave.
Andrea returns as Director for the second year of a 2-year term. She previously served as BCNA President and Vice-President. Andrea has lived in Brook Creek for most of the past 15 years. She works as an urban planner and also volunteers as President of Grassland Heritage Foundation, where she welcomes others to join in to native prairie preservation and education.

Ron Bishop, East Glenn Dr.
Ron joins the BCNA board as a new member, though he's a long-time resident of the neighborhood. Ron said: "I first moved from Barker to East Glenn Dr. in 1955, when almost everything east of Haskell Ave, around 19th St, was pasture or woods. 15th St North was developed to 11th St. I am a U. S. Navy veteran, aviation electronics field, with a BSJ in Journalism from KU. I am also president of the Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club in Kansas City, formed in 1956, and president of the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 912 in Ottawa. I moved back to my parents house, which my dad built himself, in 1999, after working in Missouri, Kansas, Wyoming, Arkansas, and Oklahoma on newspapers, to help take care of them and work on the newspaper in Ottawa, Kansas. I am semi-retired now, keeping busy with beekeeping and working part time at (continued)

Davenport Orchard and Vineyard. This is my first term on the BCNA board. I hope to make the neighborhood a good neighborhood to live in."

Rena Figures, Harper St.

Rena moved to the neighborhood 2013 and has a private practice as a midwife and massage therapist.

apist. She served as President of BCNA during 2015 and now continues to serve the neighborhood as a BCNA director. She lives with her two sons who bike and walk the neighborhood as much as possible. She looks forward to meeting more folks and serving the community.

Get to Know the Brook Creek Neighborhood

Did you know that Brook Creek Neighborhood goes west of Haskell Ave.? Brook Creek's boundaries are the Burroughs Creek Trail on the west, 11th Street on the north, 19th Street on the south, and the City limits on the east. Brook Creek contains the Oak Hill and Memorial Park Cemeteries, Brook Creek Park, the Burroughs Creek Trail and Linear Park, and the East Lawrence Recreation Center at Edgewood Park.

Brook Creek also contains the historic Haskell Row houses and the Kibbee House, all on Haskell Ave. East Heights Elementary is no longer operational, but it has been housing other schools during renovation. Children in the neighborhood attend both New York and Kennedy elementary schools. Great local volunteer opportunities are at Just Food and the Lawrence Humane Society.

