

Quarterly Neighborhood Performance Report - Quarter One (August-October) Due Nov. 10

Neighbor Brook Creek

Emily Winters, Coordinator

11/10/16

Phone Number/Em: 785-760-4742 brookcreekna@gmail.com

Each Neighborhood is required to have at least quarterly meetings. (minutes must be attached.)

Meeting Date #1 9/7/16

Minutes Attached? Y

Meeting Date #2 10/5/16

Minutes Attached? Y

Meeting Date #3 11/2/16

Minutes Attached? N (will send when completed)

How was the neighborhood notified of the meeting(s)? (check all that apply)

email X

newsletter X

other announcement? (please specify) E-news and facebook

Officer elections this quarter? (if so, attach list of new officers)

No

Each Neighborhood is encouraged to produce regular newsletters.

Date of Newsletter 9/2016 and 11/2016

Copy Attached? Y
(required)

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 - 1st Quarter Report 2016-2017

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

- September business meeting
 - notification by newsletter, email, Facebook
 - 13 in attendance
- October business meeting
 - notification by newsletter, email, Facebook
 - 18 in attendance
- November business meeting
 - notification by newsletter, email, Facebook
 - 12 in attendance
- Fall Picnic
 - 15-20 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 current
- 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 fall picnic where BCNA provided a main dish and drinks, sides were brought by the neighbors.
- We had Tom Markus at our September meeting that was well attended by Brook Creek and surrounding neighborhood residents.

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
1322 Maple Lane
Lawrence, Kansas 66044



Neighborhood Potluck
Picnic September 10!

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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
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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/>



The
**Brook Creek
Breeze**

The Newsletter of the
Brook Creek
Neighborhood Association

Fall 2016

Neighborhood Events

September

- 7 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 10 Potluck Picnic 4:00- 7:00 p.m.,
Brook Creek Park Gazebo

October

- 5 City Manager Tom Markus at
BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m,
East Lawrence Rec. Center

Brook Creek Neighborhood Potluck Picnic

Come meet your neighbors! They want to meet you!

The Brook Creek Neighborhood Fall Picnic will be Saturday, September 10 at the Brook Creek Park gazebo from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The picnic is a potluck, so bring a dish to share. Games, musicians, chairs, and blankets are great additions, too.

City Budget Requests from Brook Creek

Brook Creek Stormwater Improvements

Brook Creek flows through the center of our neighborhood, and is prone to flooding between 15th St. and 11th St. Last year the City replaced the collapsing culvert under Brook St. with two larger culverts, but flood water still backs up where Brook Creek flows under 13th St. in three undersized culverts.

The City Stormwater Engineer has wanted to replace the old culverts with larger culverts, but had not gotten the Commission to spend the \$250,000 to do it. BCNA sent a formal proposal in support of new culverts for Brook Creek at 13th St. as part of the public input process for the City budget. In this year of budget cuts, the new City Manager included this project in his draft budget, and the Commission has not deleted it.

Opposition to 19th Street as Major Collector

19th St. is a narrow street full of homes. East of Harper St., 19th St. is a low-traffic residential street serving two mobile home parks and two businesses. Around 2012, without the knowledge of BCNA, the City reclassified this section as a Major Collector. At the same time, they planned for 19th St. to connect with O'Connell Rd. through the Venture Business Park directly to 23rd St. These two actions have alarmed all five neighborhoods along the 19th St. corridor, because it will create more traffic.

The City has proposed spending \$1.35 million to rebuild East 19th St. into a Major Collector in 2017, so BCNA filed a formal statement asking the City to remove this funding from their budget. The City instead delayed the project until 2018—a reprieve, but not a solution. BCNA continues to work with the other 19th St. neighborhoods to prevent the City from connecting 19th St. to O'Connell Rd.

Neighborhood Survey!
Fill out the survey on p. 5 or at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SHT6VQM>

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on neighborhood news
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Inside this Issue

- 2. Library Survey
- 3. BCNA Meeting Notes
- 4. Spring Park Clean-Up
Memories
- 5. Fill out the Neighborhood
Survey!
- 6. Free fresh food for seniors!
- 7. New Route Map for Bus
Route 1

Melissa Fahrenbruch
President, Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

★ Bus pass sales location

This route operates Monday – Saturday, except holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

19th Ter

Harper

Humane Society

103

113

104

105

Fairgrounds

21st Ter

59

60

58

to S, 15

B

F

O'Connell

23rd

Franklin

25th Ter

330

332

A

Lawrence Community Shelter



**LAWRENCE PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
(Community Needs Assessment Survey)

HELLO, BROOK CREEK!
PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY!

LPL is undergoing a Community Needs Assessment in an effort to bridge gaps in information, resources, and services available to our community. Please join this conversation by participating in one of these options:



Take our survey! Fill it out online at svy.mk/28IDtVU, or call the library at 785-843-3833 to request a paper copy delivered to your residence.



Go online! Visit bit.ly/28IzvrU for more information about how to get involved.



Join the conversation! Sign up to participate in a future focus group or interview.



Take 50% off your accumulated library late fees when you complete our survey!*

*Terms and conditions apply.

5. Where in the neighborhood do you live?

☐ North of 15th, west of Harper

☐ South of 15th, west of Harper

☐ North of 15th, east of Harper

☐ South of 15th, east of Harper

6. What is your age? (Age of head of household)

☐ 18 to 24

☐ 25 to 34

☐ 35 to 44

☐ 45 to 54

☐ 55 to 64

☐ 65 to 74

☐ 75 or older

7. How long have you lived in Brook Creek Neighborhood?

☐ Less than 1 year

☐ 1-2 years

☐ 3-5 years

☐ 5-10 years

☐ More than 10 years

8. How are you associated with Brook Creek Neighborhood?

☐ I own a home I live in located in the neighborhood

☐ I rent a home I live in located in the neighborhood

☐ I own rental property in the neighborhood

☐ I own a business in the neighborhood

☐ I own a home I live in and a rental property in the neighborhood

☐ Other _____

9. Do you have other suggestions for ways we could improve the neighborhood association to better serve the residents?

10. Is there anything else you want to share with the neighborhood association board?

Thank you for sharing your ideas!

Please send completed paper surveys to BCNA at 1322 Maple Lane, Lawrence KS 66044 or submit your answers to the online version at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SHT6VQM>

Brook Creek History Featured in New Exhibit

The “Hike through History on the Burroughs Creek Trail” exhibit features history stories from the area along the trail. Stories include the Haskell family, World War II German prisoners of war in Lawrence, and William S. Burroughs. The ten-panel display will be at the Lawrence Public Library through Sept. 10, and then can be found at other sites including the East Lawrence Recreation Center and the Watkins Museum of History.



Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Provides Funding for Fresh Food

The Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program provides a monetary benefit to low-income seniors to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs and honey from certified farmers at Farmers Markets in Kansas. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. Benefits come in the form of six \$5.00 checks equaling

\$30.00 in total. This is a first come, first served program. To be eligible, seniors must have an income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level and they must be 60 years of age or older. Call the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging for details at (785)235-1367 or visit <http://www.jhawkaaa.org/services/nutrition/>.

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes

April 2016

Mark Hecker of Lawrence Parks & Recreation joined the meeting to discuss park improvement ideas sent by BCNA. Parks & Rec. is focused on a Parks Master Plan. BCNA requested a plan specific to Brook Creek Park that would guide City management of the park. BCNA also requested restoration of the Brook Creek Park landscaping, vacating the south triangle of Public Works land on Burroughs Creek at 12th Street, an east-side dog park, invasive species removal, a trail connection between Burroughs Creek and Brook Creek, natural restoration of Brook Creek, installation of a planned 15th Street splash park, and a bocce ball court. The splash park and expanded parking at the East Lawrence Community Center were top priorities for Hecker. Hecker agreed with many BCNA park improvement ideas, and said that the parks budget is the main hindrance. BCNA submitted a letter of support for a capital improvement plan project for a new bridge and culverts at Brook Creek and 13th. BCNA sent messages to the City in opposition of the 19th St. connection to O’Connell Rd and Venture Business Park. Lane Eisenbart shared information on interpretive signs about history along the Burroughs Creek Trail. Attendees continued planning of the Earth Day clean-up of Brook Creek Park and the neighborhood yard sale. Logan Isaman of the Lawrence Public Library said that she’ll share a survey about library facilities.

May 2016

Melissa Freiburger of the Sunrise Project joined the meeting. She said that the Sunrise Project is a non-profit organization developing a center at 15th & Learnard for food and agriculture-related education. Projects include after school cooking lessons, hands-on food growing, the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project, and youth volunteers at local agencies. They’re renovating the greenhouse and the former Sunrise plant store into classrooms and offices, in partnership with businesses including Central Soy Foods and Seeds From Italy. More information is at www.sunriseprojectks.org. Logan Isaman of Lawrence Public Library shared an update on the Library Needs Assessment, a survey to identify gaps in information and services. (See ad, page 2) Attendees discussed the new Urban Agriculture zoning code. BCNA submitted opposition to east 19th St. connection to O’Connell Rd and support for 13th & Brook St. bridge work. Construction of Dollar General at 19th St. was approved. Because the newsletter printer delivered the spring newsletter late, a discount was negotiated for the fall newsletter.

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



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Hours: M-F 7:30am-6:00pm; Sat. 8:00am-5:00pm; Sun. 10:00am-5:00pm



Spring Clean-Up of Brook Creek Park

In April, Brook Creek residents and KU students, through the KU Big Event volunteer day, removed trash from Brook Creek Park and Burroughs Creek from 12th to 15th Streets before enjoying lunch together at the gazebo.



Brook Creek Neighborhood Survey

Brook Creek is a better neighborhood when you participate. Please share your ideas in the neighborhood survey, either by completing and mailing the survey below or at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SHT6VQM>

1. Which of the following services or activities do you utilize?	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always
Social Events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Brook Creek Park Clean-Up	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emailed E-News	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper Newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Business Meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Email List Serv	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facebook Page	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facebook Group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nextdoor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. If you do not currently attend BCNA business meetings, what is the reason?
(BCNA meetings are normally the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the East Lawrence Recreation Center)
- ☐ Not of interest to me
 - ☐ I'm too busy
 - ☐ I do not feel welcome at these meetings
 - ☐ I do not know about these meetings
 - ☐ I do not receive enough notice in advance of the meetings
 - ☐ Other: _____
3. Is there something about the business meetings that would make you more interested or able to attend? (Different day or time, different guests, more notice, etc.)
- _____
4. Would you be interested in any of the following if the neighborhood offered them?
- ☐ Playgroups or kids get-togethers
 - ☐ Social potlucks
 - ☐ More opportunities to get involved in policy decisions or discussions involving the neighborhood
 - ☐ Neighborhood workdays (Example: trash pick-ups or beautification projects)
 - ☐ Fundraiser or event (Example: chili contest)
 - ☐ Applause Award (Nominating neighbors who have made house or yard improvements)
 - ☐ Neighborhood contest (Example: holiday house/yard decorating)
 - ☐ Neighborhood-wide yard sale
 - ☐ Neighborhood walks or bike rides
 - ☐ Other _____

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
1322 Maple Lane
Lawrence, Kansas 66044



Resident
609 E 11th St
Lawrence, KS 66044-3029



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November 2016

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November

- 2 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 7 Brook Creek fundraiser at Papa Keno’s Pizzeria
- 8 General Election! Vote!
- 11 Veterans’ Day

December

- 7 Holiday Party and Elections at BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m, East Lawrence Rec. Center

Road Plans Threaten Safety along 19th St.

19th Street is a low-traffic residential street but several trends indicate it’s in danger of becoming a busy arterial street. In the last newsletter, we reported that BCNA asked the City not to connect 19th St. to O’Connell Rd. because that would open the floodgate of Kansas City cut-through commuter traffic. That project is still planned for 2018. Do you remember the KU dormitory McCollum Hall demolition ? Unfortunately, that was a harbinger of a \$350 million KU expansion along west 19th St. They have said “We want to make 19th Street feel like it’s more of a front door to campus.” Even without a transit hub, KU’s 4-level parking garage will have 2,640 spaces at 19th and Naismith St. at this planned south gateway. Lawrence transportation plans call for 19th St. to be an arterial to accommodate all the new traffic. A coalition of the five neighborhoods along 19th St. are working together to keep the traffic on 23rd. St., and enter campus via Naismith.

Traffic Safety Solutions Sought

Brook Creek has suffered cut-through and speeding traffic for decades. Because we’re on the east edge of town, Kansas City commuters and game day traffic regularly use 15th and 19th Streets and our residential streets to avoid congestion on 23rd. St, often speeding. The first BCNA request for the City to stop this problem was in 1997 by then President Mark Taylor. We were ahead of our time by suggesting speed humps, partial turn restrictions, and slower speed limits. Instead, we got yield signs and stop signs, and a lowered speed limit of 20 MPH north of 15th Street. Engineers now say that yield signs and stop signs don’t calm traffic, and a 20 MPH limit without physical controls is also not effective. Speeders blow through our stop signs, and they ignore the speed limit. The issue surfaced again with cut-through speeders on Maple Lane, Oak Hill Ave., and East Glenn Dr. The City Commission agreed to traffic calming on Maple Ln. and Oak Hill, but not on East Glenn, and told the Traffic Engineer to meet with the neighborhood to develop solutions to problems on all three streets.

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TIME TO VOTE!

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To see a sample ballot, visit:
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Are you ready to serve Brook Creek? You can join the BCNA board nominations on Nov. 2 and vote on Dec. 5!

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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
fredandjenna@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:
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Lawrence, KS 66044-3638

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



BCNA Meeting Notes

September 2016

Henry Fortunato gave an update on the Hike Through History project. The exhibit will be to be on display at the East Lawrence Community Center, and then additional locations. Fortunato wants permanent panels installed along the Burroughs Creek Trail. He is open to any ideas for panel content from neighborhood residents. As Fortunato requested, BCNA sent a letter of support for the panels to the City of Lawrence. A survey will be sent to residents to ask about a possible day or time change for meetings. Attendees discussed a possible change in month for our annual election, but kept the current month of December. Attendees discussed possible Veterans' Day activities. The neighborhood will also follow-up with Parks and Rec to see if there has been an increase in pesticide usage.

October 2016

City Manager Tom Markus shared a presentation on current City projects and activities, plus information on the City budget. He answered questions and listened to concerns and ideas expressed by Brook Creek and visiting Barker residents. The Veterans' Day activity was postponed until next year in order to allow more planning and alignment with other activities to honor veterans. BCNA adopted guiding principles for management of the woods as a natural area in Brook Creek Park. Volunteers joined a committee to collect November BCNA board and officer nominations for December elections.

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

Help BCNA Plan Next Year's Meetings

The BCNA board thanks everyone who took the time to reply to the neighborhood survey last month. We really appreciate all feedback and ideas! We will take all the responses into consideration as we continually improve and update the neighborhood association to best serve residents. We have a quick follow-up sur-

vey about a possible meeting day change. If you are interested in seeing the meeting day change or would like for it to stay on Wednesdays, please take a moment to let us know your preference.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6WPRK98>

Policies Drafted for Management of Brook Creek Park Woods

Efforts to preserve the woods within Brook Creek Park at the north edge of Brook Creek Neighborhood began 20 years ago. In 1996, Douglas County wanted to level this nature area and use it as the site of the new jail. Then BCNA President, Mark Taylor, led the fight to stop the jail, and the County instead chose a site in southeast Lawrence. The City bought the nature area, and Fred DeVactor, Lawrence Parks & Recreation Director, decided "to keep the woods natural, which is what the neighbors wanted." However, this was not a written policy, and after DeVactor retired in 2007, the agreement became overlooked. Over the

years, the nature area has suffered encroachment by the City Public Works operations, pollution from illegal dumping, unannounced brush hog trail cutting by Parks & Recreation, illegal bike ramp construction, rifle game hunting, and transient camping. On at least four occasions, BCNA has reaffirmed our intent to preserve the nature area. In April of this year, BCNA residents met with Parks & Recreation staff to discuss a formal policy to preserve the nature area. We have adopted a list of policy conditions, and will soon take them to the Parks Board and then to the City Commission for consideration.

Eat Pizza. Help the Neighborhood.

As a neighborhood association, we feel that paper newsletters are a wonderful way to reach everyone in the neighborhood and get the word out about upcoming events. It is expensive to send these out and the city grant funds that help us afford them are

being cut more and more every year. Please take time to come out and enjoy a meal at Papa Keno's Pizzeria on November 7th and tell them you are with BCNA. They will donate 20% to our neighborhood association!



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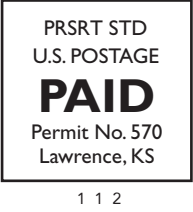


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Resident
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Rena Figures
Melinda Henderson
Andrea Repinsky

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

Help BCNA Plan Next Year's Meetings

The BCNA board thanks everyone who took the time to reply to the neighborhood survey last month. We really appreciate all feedback and ideas! We will take all the responses into consideration as we continually improve and update the neighborhood association to best serve residents. We have a quick follow-up sur-

vey about a possible meeting day change. If you are interested in seeing the meeting day change or would like for it to stay on Wednesdays, please take a moment to let us know your preference.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6WPRK98>

Policies Drafted for Management of Brook Creek Park Woods

Efforts to preserve the woods within Brook Creek Park at the north edge of Brook Creek Neighborhood began 20 years ago. In 1996, Douglas County wanted to level this nature area and use it as the site of the new jail. Then BCNA President, Mark Taylor, led the fight to stop the jail, and the County instead chose a site in southeast Lawrence. The City bought the nature area, and Fred DeVictor, Lawrence Parks & Recreation Director, decided "to keep the woods natural, which is what the neighbors wanted." However, this was not a written policy, and after DeVictor retired in 2007, the agreement became overlooked. Over the

years, the nature area has suffered encroachment by the City Public Works operations, pollution from illegal dumping, unannounced brush hog trail cutting by Parks & Recreation, illegal bike ramp construction, rifle game hunting, and transient camping. On at least four occasions, BCNA has reaffirmed our intent to preserve the nature area. In April of this year, BCNA residents met with Parks & Recreation staff to discuss a formal policy to preserve the nature area. We have adopted a list of policy conditions, and will soon take them to the Parks Board and then to the City Commission for consideration.

Eat Pizza. Help the Neighborhood.

As a neighborhood association, we feel that paper newsletters are a wonderful way to reach everyone in the neighborhood and get the word out about upcoming events. It is expensive to send these out and the city grant funds that help us afford them are

being cut more and more every year. Please take time to come out and enjoy a meal at Papa Keno's Pizzeria on November 7th and tell them you are with BCNA. They will donate 20% to our neighborhood association!



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Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes, 7 September 2016
(by Michael Almon, Secretary)

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

Guest speaker: Henry Fortunato, A Hike Through History Project

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 May 2016 minutes which had also been posted on the website.

Action taken: Moved by Byron and seconded by Jenna to approve the minutes.
Passed with Andrea abstaining.

Treasurer's report: Jenna presented the report covering 1 June through 31 August 2016: \$46 in petty cash; \$1816.25 in checking account. \$1862.25 total revenues.

Action taken: Moved to approve by Emily, seconded by Byron. Passed unanimously.

Next meeting:

Lawrence City Manager, Tom Markus, will be our guest at the 5 October meeting.

Guest speaker: Henry Fortunato, along with Lane Eisenbart, was back to talk briefly about the current status of the Hike Through History Project. The indoor panels are now being moved from the Lawrence Library. They will be to be on display for the next three months at the East Lawrence Community Center, followed by the Lawrence Memorial Hospital, and the Kansas Union, and then go to the Watkins Museum. Henry wants permanent panels installed along the Burroughs Creek Trail, and is researching more details. He asked us to send him ideas to include. To get Parks & Recreation funding for them, he requested that we write a letter of support, addressed to him.

Action taken: Moved by Michael, seconded by Ron, to write a letter of support. Passed unanimously.

Proposal to meet on a different day of the week:

Melissa explained a proposal to hold our meetings on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in hopes that more people could attend. Some people attend church service on Wednesday evenings. Meeting on the 2nd or 4th Tuesday would avoid a conflict with the City Commission meetings. This would take effect after the first of the year. We considered sending out a Doodle poll to the membership with the choices of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings.

Action taken: We decided to send out the Doodle poll.

Proposal to hold elections in November:

This was discussed at our Executive meeting, but we needed to clarify the implication in our Bylaws. Michael explained that we would have to announce this amendment at our November meeting, to be voted on in our December election this year. If it passes, it would take effect in Fall of 2017. The Nominating Committee would be selected at the September 2017 meeting, and make their nominations at the October meeting, to be voted upon at the November meeting.

An alternative was proposed, that we hold our elections in May so the new Board and Officers would begin at the same time as our September-August fiscal year. We questioned if either of these proposals benefited our operations, other than simply harmonizing our elections with the National elections. We thought not, and thought that the December holiday party was more of a draw, as long as we keep the business meeting and election brief.

Action taken: We decided to stay with the December elections.

Member List for voting eligibility:

The Treasurer is required to keep a list of current dues paying members. Jenna keeps a hand written list of anyone who pays their dues. Last year she and Emily compiled the list for accuracy that was used at our December election. They can do that again this December.

Coordinator Report:

Picnic, this Saturday, 4-7pm: Emily will buy meat and veggie burgers, buns, mustard, ketchup, and water. Fred will bring game stuff. Byron will probably make music with a friend, but they have to leave at 6pm for another event. Melissa will bring a grill.

Newsletter, Oct-Nov issue: This will be published prior to the November meeting, so members will know of the nominating opportunity. Emily and Andrea are working on getting more adverts. Dani Dressler at CDBG is checking on cheaper bulk printing rates to cover all neighborhood newsletters. Postage would still cost the same.

Papa Keno's fundraiser: They have a promotional event to donate 15% of purchases on a given date to BCNA if we team up with them. All we have to do is get as many people as possible to buy pizza that day. Emily will check dates and days of the week that are still available. We would like a Sunday, because Darrell Lea plays guitar that evening.

Neighborhood survey results: There were 30 responses, most north of 15th St. There were some answers that groused about feeling not welcome and that the organization misrepresented them, but that seems to be a throwback from some folks in an earlier era, though there's no way to tell in an anonymous poll. People liked the service activities like the creeks clean-ups. The most popular item was that folks want to hold the neighborhood yard sale again. We need to start planning in February.

Veterans Day event:

We will hold this on Sunday, 13 November, from 2-5pm, so as not to conflict with the many Veterans events on the actual day of 11 November. We deliberated about what to do, including: collect canned food, "adopt a Vet for the holidays", cemetery clean up, or deliver thank you cards to PTSD Vets. Cemetery records are available on-line from the City. Names

of living Vets are hard to come by. The gestures of thank you cards or “adopt a Vet” could be resented and considered an intrusion by them too. We thought a service event would be most appropriate.

Action taken: We decided to do a Burroughs Creek Trail clean up from 23rd St. to 11th St., and end at the Gazebo. We will do early publicity to make it relevant, and attract participants.

Herbicide use in the parks:

This is an ongoing issue, with implications for several of our goals. In 2005, there was a community effort to make City parks pesticide free, and the City designated a few parks as 100% pesticide free. According to City policy, Brook Creek Park is 99.7% pesticide free. We are concerned that the herbicides they use in the selected areas are dangerous, and that much of previous landscaping has been removed because they can't manage it without pesticides.

Another concern is the widespread occurrences of noxious weeds in the Brook Creek Nature Area (woods) and the Burroughs Creek Park drainage area. The Nature Area has lots of Amur Honeysuckle, Euonymous vine, Poison Ivy, Mustard Garlic, and more, and the Burroughs Creek Park has been overtaken by Johnson Grass, Curly Dock, Poison Ivy, and more.

Mechanical methods seem of limited effect, and herbicides may need to be resorted to.

Action taken: Emily will investigate with Parks & Rec. what they do and with what chemicals. (research for this item lead to - Lawrence Integrated Pest Management)

County Commission candidate Jesse Brinson:

Jesse Brinson was at the meeting to learn about our group and to inform us about his candidacy for County Commission as an independent. He lives in our neighborhood with his wife Torrie and two children. He coaches at Central Middle School and South Middle School.

Three lots at 1201 Laura bought:

The three lots at 1201 Laura were for sale for months, and recently purchased by R.D. Johnson. We don't know if it is the person or the company, but the North Lawrence President warned Melinda about R.D. Johnson's developments there. The lots are zoned RS-7, so he has to build single family houses, or rezone, in which case we would challenge that. Melinda will research the range of possibilities here.

Meeting adjourned

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes, DRAFT, 5 October 2016
(by Michael Almon, Secretary)

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

Guest speaker: Tom Markus, Lawrence City Manager

Agenda: Melissa distributed an agenda. We added the Nature Area Management Plan, and approved the amended agenda.

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

Guest speaker: Tom Markus gave a power point presentation of his first 100 days report to the City Commission. He said his obligation is to make recommendations to the City Commission that help them make decisions, and after they decide something, to support and implement their decisions, whether he thinks they're correct or not.

Starting this month, the Commission is developing a Strategic Plan for about six broad and ultimate goals for the City. It will be complete in March 2017, and of a broader scope than the yearly Commission Budget goals. Mr. Markus has guided the Commission to adopt a structurally balanced budget, with a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan of projects that can be phased yearly depending on available capital.

As for City revenue sources, they collect property taxes and sales taxes, but he said a sales tax is not favored by some because it's regressive – impacting lower income folks more than upper income folks. Of all the property taxes collected, the School District gets 41%, the County gets 34%, and the City gets 24%. The City also gets some incidental income from user fees from things like Eagle Bend Golf Course, and facility rentals. Lawrence is growing on average 1.5% annually, which he thinks is a healthy rate to generate revenues.

Some key issues for the City are pedestrian-bicycle priorities outlined by the Pedestrian-Bicycle Task Force. He noted that cities that invest in these amenities are more attractive to professionals, investment, and tourists. The Parks & Recreation Department is developing a Master Plan that will be on the Commission agenda sometime in November. Of any number of challenges at present, the Emerald Ash Borer infestation that kills ash trees is a major expense. Lawrence has 3200 ash trees (on public land – more overall), and the removal and replacement is underway.

Mr. Markus took questions, and listened to comments. Topics were:

1) We like our narrow streets with ditches because they carry about 5 times more stormwater than enclosed pipes, similar to areas in Barker, East Lawrence, and North Lawrence.

- 2) We want 20mph speed limits on more of our streets like it is north of 15th St. And we need police enforcement of speeders and of people who blow through the stop sign at 13th and Brook. We gave him a copy of recently adopted city-wide 20mph residential speed limits in Seattle WA.
- 3) The proposed arterial status of 19th St. is not favored by a coalition of neighborhoods along 19th St. Specifically, we don't want O'Connell Rd. connected to 19th St. Traffic generated by the \$350 million K.U. Central District will be bad enough without routing commuter traffic and game day traffic on 19th St.
- 4) The clutter of empty trash carts at curbside detracts from our neighborhood, but the Director of Waste Reduction and Recycling is not interested in doing anything about it. Markus said BCNA should make it an initiative before the City Commission.
- 5) Regarding a mayor elected at-large rather than appointed by the City Commission as is now done, Markus said that there will be a community conversation at some point. It's a referendum type issue, and the Commission will decide whether to consider it or not. He thought the appointed mayor may be better because that person then has a year to advance their own agenda, whereas an at-large mayor would have to be responsive to all the citizen preferences equally.
- 6) One neighbor asked if the bottom of Brook Creek could be lined with rock to reduce puddling and make for more even flow, safer for children and for reducing mosquitos.
- 7) The conundrum of herbicide use in our parks was mentioned. We don't want the poisons in our environment, but we don't want invasive plants left out of control, like Johnson grass, Amur Honeysuckle, and Euonymus vine. Parks & Rec should use benign management practices.
- 8) We briefed him on our proposed Nature Area Management Plan, and gave him a draft copy (it was discussed as an agenda item later in the meeting).

Minutes of prior meetings: Michael presented the September 2016 minutes which had also been posted on the website. Small amendment in the Fortunato report.

Action taken: Moved by Andrea and seconded by Dickie Heckler to approve the minutes. Passed with Melinda abstaining.

Treasurer's report: Jenna presented the report covering 1-30 September 2016: \$49 in petty cash; \$1831.11 in checking account. \$1880.11 total revenues.

Action taken: Moved to approve by Emily, seconded by Dickie Heckler. Passed unanimously.

Next meeting:

Code Enforcement Director, Brian Jimenez, will be our guest at the 2 November meeting.

Skate park proposal for east side:

Melinda has been corresponding with a group of youth who want a skate park on the east side. West Lawrence has several. They weren't able to come, so we put them on the 2 Nov. agenda.

Coordinator Report:

Papa Keno's fundraiser: This promotional event that will donate 15% of purchases on a given date to BCNA will be on Monday, 7 November, 11am-9pm. We should get as many people as possible to buy pizza that day.

Anticipated action: Emily will promote it through our weekly e-newsletter and list-serve, and will work with GroupRaise to make the web page for folks to sign-up.

Veterans Day event:

After weeks of discussion, Emily feels she's not ready to organize this. No one else wanted to take over the responsibility.

Action taken: We decided to cancel it this year, and maybe do something next year.

BCNA election nominating committee:

According to our Bylaws, we chose a nominating committee to field a slate of candidates for four (4) Officers and up to three (3) Directors.

Action taken: selected were Byron, Emily, Andrea (alternate Melissa).

Anticipated action: the committee will contact potential candidates for four (4) Officers, each having 1-year terms.

Anticipated action: the committee will contact potential candidates for up to three (3) Directors, each having 2-year terms.

Nature Area Management Plan:

The ad-hoc committee given the responsibility to refine our goals into a policy proposal for ecological management of the Brook Creek Park Nature Area met on 13 September 2016. Committee members were Melissa Fahrenbruc, Andrea Repinsky, Ron Bishop, Byron Wiley, Dickie Heckler, Beth Anne Mansur, and Michael Almon. Copies of the draft proposal were presented, and everyone reviewed them. There was some discussion whether to have Parks & Recreation adopt it as operational guidelines, or have the City Commission adopt it as a binding resolution. We have had checkered results with P & R not following through with what they say they will do. We thought there would be more assurance if the Commission adopted it with clear management provisions like there is for the Conservation Easement #3951 in East Lawrence north of the Amtrak station. It could first go to the Parks Advisory Board before going to the City Commission.

Action taken: moved by Jenna and seconded by Dickie to propose the Nature Area Management Plan to the City Commission as an official resolution. Passed 8-3, with one abstention.

Three lots at 1201 Laura:

Melinda reported that the three lots at 1201 Laura were supposedly purchased by R.D. Johnson, but have not yet been transferred officially by the Register of Deeds.

Meeting adjourned