

Balcones Civic Association
Minutes from BCA Executive Committee Meeting June 15, 2005

Attendees

Exec. Committee Members: Tom Arbuckle, Rick Bradstreet, Watson Howell, Jack Jennings, Linda Keeling, Joe Makeever, Stanley Moos, John Rhodes, Mary Tannahill; proxy statements in effect for Tony Aterno and Monroe Zoch (by Tom Arbuckle).

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions— Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM by President, Tom Arbuckle. Each member of the Exec. Committee then introduced himself/herself.

Crime Report – APD Sr. Officer Mike Dunn

Officer Dunn was not present, so no update on area criminal activity.

Administrative Items

Minutes from May meeting: No minutes available for approval.

Treasurer's Report – **Jack Jennings**. Our current balance is \$3,675.08. Additional expenses for traffic patrols will be incurred this summer.

President's Report – **Tom Arbuckle**

1. City council run-off election for Place 4 will take place June 11. The two candidates are Margot Clarke and Jennifer Kim. Ms. Kim is the owner of a small business.
2. Residential property tax cuts. The Texas legislature adjourned without reaching a resolution on this issue. Governor Perry will likely call a special session to resolve the issues of public school funding and property tax cuts.

Old Business

Speed patrol update – Ann Trentin is handling the contact with the Sheriff's deputy who is carrying out the paid speed patrols in our area. Tom A. reported that Ann received 5 "yes" responses and 0 "no" responses from her memo of May 25 asking for opinions on the continuation of paid traffic patrols in the months of June, July, and August. Ann proposed 5/25 that Deputy White carry out one 4-hr traffic patrol per month for each of these months.

Deputy White issued 33 tickets for speeding and other offenses during his 4-hr patrol in May. Many people who were stopped for speeding on Adirondack Trail or Wildridge Dr. ended up also receiving tickets for suspended drivers licenses, no insurance, not wearing his/her seat belt, etc. Rick Bradstreet wondered if this is an excessive amount of tickets in such a short amount of time, so he called one of his former contacts in the Austin Police Dept. to ask what their average number of tickets is in a four-hour time span. (Rick is retired from APD.) It turns out that APD officers issue tickets for safety items or speeding, but generally give warnings for other offenses that one particular driver might be guilty of. There was much discussion among members of the Exec. Committee about whether we

Speed patrol update, continued

should ask Deputy White to tone down the number of tickets he issues in any given patrol session. Several people stated that they felt Deputy White is well within his rights to issue tickets for whatever offenses that he finds a particular driver guilty of during a speeding stop. The general consensus was that we should not tell Deputy White how to conduct his speed patrols, since he seems to be doing such a good job for us. Also, speed patrols are what many of our residents have wanted and have sent us extra money to fund.

New Business

Changing banks – Jack Jennings. Our current bank, First American Bank, is being bought by Citibank, a huge multinational bank. Jack would prefer doing business with a Texas-based bank. Jack has talked to officials at First State Bank, located at the corner of Mesa Dr. and Spicewood Springs Rd. This bank is headquartered in Taylor, Texas, just north-east of Austin. Jack proposed that we change our account from First American Bank to First State Bank. The motion was seconded by Stanley Moos. Motion passed 10 votes “yes” to 1 vote “no.” The “yes” votes included 8 votes from attendees and proxy votes from Tom Arbuckle for Tony Aterno and Monroe Zoch. Jack Jennings needs a copy of the minutes from this meeting showing the results of the vote to change banks.

Rezoning of property at 4615 Spicewood Springs Rd. – Mary Tannahill. The BCA has received a notice from the City’s Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Dept. regarding the receipt of an application for rezoning of the property at 4615 Spicewood Springs Rd. from SF-3, Family Residence district, to LO, Limited Office district. “Limited Office district is intended for offices predominately serving neighborhood or community needs...” Mary T. drove to the property June 14 and reported that this is a small lot which contains an old one-story rock house and small rock storage building. There is a driveway just to west of the property that leads into the Stillhouse Canyon condominiums. There are office buildings to the west of the property and a new office complex, Stillhouse II, located at 4601 SS Rd., to the east of the property. Mary proposed that we not oppose the rezoning request. Motion was seconded by Watson Howell. Results of the vote: 11 votes in favor of, 0 votes opposed to, the motion. Two of the 11 votes in favor were proxy votes by Tom Arbuckle for Tony Aterno and Monroe Zoch.

Austin Neighborhoods Council – We have received a request from ANC to pay \$35 in dues for the fiscal year of 2005. Tom Arbuckle used to go to some of the ANC meetings. Tom reported that the views of the majority of ANC members did not jive with the views of the BCA on major issues affecting the neighborhoods of Austin. Tom recommended that we not pay dues for fiscal year 2005. This motion was seconded by Mary Tannahill. Motion carried, 10 votes in favor, 1 vote opposed. Two of the 10 votes in favor were proxy votes by Tom Arbuckle for Tony Aterno and Monroe Zoch.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM by Tom Arbuckle.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Tannahill, acting Secretary