

Balcones Civic Association Executive Committee
16 Nov. 2005 Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee members in attendance: Tom Arbuckle, Gwynn Carpenter (new member), Elizabeth Gunter, Belinda Herrera, Jack Jennings, Susan Joiner, Rahel Kahlert, Joe Makeever, Mary Tannahill, Dixie Turnbow (new member)

Call to Order – 7:02 PM by Tom Arbuckle, President

Crime report – APD Sr. Officer Mike Dunn was not present, so Mary Tannahill gave a summary of the crime statistics presented at the Nov. 8 NW Area Commander's Forum. The crime statistics were for Jan. 1- Sept. 30, 2005, and were for the northwest area only.

Violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault)

Murder: 1 Rape = 15 (most involved known suspects; no serial rapist in area)

Robbery = 24 (down 50% compared to same period in 2004)

Aggravated assault = 54 (many of these are cases of domestic violence)

Total violent crimes = 94 (down 28% compared to same period in 2004)

Property crime (burglaries of residences & businesses; thefts, including burglaries of vehicles [BOV's]; auto thefts.

Burglary = 444 Thefts [including BOV's] = 2,573 auto theft = 176

Total property crime = 3,193 (up 21% compared to same period in 2004)

Notes: Many of the burglaries were committed by acquaintances (e.g., ex-girlfriends, ex-boyfriends, ex-roommates, etc.). Auto thefts spiked in Sept. because of the theft of 19 Honda vehicles by two youthful suspects, who have been apprehended.

The next NW area Commander's forum is scheduled for Feb. 7, 2006. Location is to be announced.

Administrative Items

1. Minutes from Oct. meeting – Tom Arbuckle. These minutes not yet issued.
2. Treasurer's Report – Jack Jennings.
Current balance in the account at First State Bank is \$3,002.62. Jack will get information on identity theft from First State Bank and pass it on to us.
3. President's Report – Tom A.
 - a) A special election will be held in February to choose a new State Representative for district 48 to replace Todd Baxter, who resigned recently. This district includes western Travis County, so we are in District 48.
 - b) We homeowners will receive our 2005 property tax bills this month.

Old Business

Speed control monitoring: Jack Jennings. Our bank balance is only about \$3,000 right now, and each newsletter costs over \$900 to print and distribute. Therefore, we only have enough money in the treasury to publish three newsletters, assuming that we do not receive any money in the next few months.

The cost for each 4-hr traffic patrol done for us by a sheriff's deputy is \$180. Mary Tannahill suggested that we wait until we get more money in the treasury before continuing the paid traffic patrols. There was general agreement with this suggestion. Joe Makeever suggested that we ask for specific contributions for traffic control in our future newsletters. Rahel Kahlert asked if we could put a membership form on our website. Mary T: We can, but people would still have to print it and mail it and their check to our post office box.

New Business

1. New edition of Microsoft "Publisher" for the BCA newsletter: Susan Joiner, new Newsletter Editor. MS "Publisher" software is used to write the BCA newsletter. The current edition of "Publisher" (from 2000) was transferred by Mary Tannahill (former newsletter editor) to a previous webmaster so that the newsletter could be placed on the BCA website. The Microsoft user's agreement prohibits transferring the BCA-owned software more than one time. Therefore, Susan would like to purchase a new version of the software in order to be able to write future editions of the BCA newsletter. Susan has priced the new Publisher software; it is less than \$200. Belinda Herrera moved that Susan be allowed to purchase a new version of Publisher. Jack Jennings seconded the motion. We voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
2. Election of Officers
Tom Arbuckle has volunteered to continue as President until we can find a replacement. Jack Jennings has volunteered to continue another year as Treasurer. No one has volunteered to take over as secretary. Mary T. made a motion that we elect Tom as President and Jack J. as Treasurer for the period from now until next October, 2006. Joe Makeever seconded the motion. We voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Thanks to both Tom and Jack for continuing in their commitment to the Balcones Civic Assn.
3. Additional representatives for the Executive Committee. Sector 4 only has two representatives, so we need to find two additional representatives for this sector. Tom will review the membership forms for the current paid members of Sector 4 to see if he knows any of these people. If so, perhaps he can persuade two of them to volunteer to be sector representatives.

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by Mary Tannahill, Acting Secretary