

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date	Activity Description	Number of Attendees
August 2008	<p>Meetings: BCNA does not have a general meeting in August</p> <p>There was a special board meeting on August 24, which was open to all residents.</p> <p>Communications: The Sept./Oct./Nov. newsletter was prepared and mailed to members in late August</p> <p>A special email was sent, on August 22, to the email members list about the board meeting on August 24.</p>	
September 2008	<p>Meetings: Pot Luck Picnic in the Park on September 9, 2008.</p> <p>General Meeting – September 16, 2008</p> <p>Communications: Email reminders were sent to the members of the email list for the picnic and general meeting.</p>	<p>35-40</p> <p>13</p>
October 2008	<p>Meetings: .October 11, 2008 – Annual fall park clean-up</p> <p>General meeting on October 14, 2008.</p> <p>Communications: An email reminder was sent to the members on the email list on October 5.2008.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>?</p>

MINUTES**September 16, 2008***(submitted by Secretary, Doug Miller)*

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Comstock at 7:08 p.m., with 13 members present. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

The city is giving away compost on September 25, 26, and 27 at the City's Wood Recovery & Composting Facility located at 1420 E. 11th St.

Julie Mitchell is looking for information about the "Remembering the Good Old Days" articles to be put into the newsletter. Anyone with stories can contact Julie Mitchell.

There is a text amendment of the zoning code being discussed about the homeless shelters. Currently, homeless shelters can be in any industrial zoned area. A homeless shelter is still being discussed at 13th and Oregon and without the text amendment, it would be allowed in the area without a Special Use Permit.

There was a general discussion about the neighborhood. A complaint was given about speeders on Haskell Ave. A demolition permit has been issued for 1207 E. 13th St. Memorial Park Cemetery is replacing the roads in the park. Questions about the status of the Pelathe Center were mentioned.

Members Bob and Mary Taylor will be in the Lawrence High School Homecoming Parade on September 19th.

There was a discussion about changing our meeting day from the 2nd Tuesday to the 2nd Thursday of the month. Treasurer Susan Miller will contact the ELC and see if we can change the meeting date starting next year.

Matt Williams reported that he has a nice neighbor because his neighbor offered him and his family the use of the basement during the storms.

CDGB funded projects were discussed and some suggestions included benches along the Edgewood Park sidewalk, repair of the sidewalk near the cemetery on the north side of 15th Street and more trails in Brook Creek Park for biking and walking.

New York School is now our neighborhood school and they are in need of Site Council Members. You do not need to have a child in school to be a site council member. Also, New York School collects "Big G" box tops, Checker's grocery receipts, used printer cartridges & cell phones, and Campbell Soup labels as fund raisers.

The Fall Brook Creek clean-up will take place on Saturday, October 11th beginning at 10:00 a.m. down at the park.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Our next meeting will be October 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the East Lawrence Center.

October 14, 2008

(submitted by Secretary Doug Miller)

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Comstock at 7:05 PM with 8 members present. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

The city commission is addressing the zoning text amendment for homeless shelters, with no special use permit required, at the City Commission Meeting tonight. BCNA Vice President Julie Mitchell will attend and address the city commission about our neighborhood association's concerns about the zoning text amendment.

The fire damaged house at 1207 E. 13th street was to have been torn down 3 weeks ago. The city will be contacted to see what they know about this situation and what their next course of action will be.

The fall Brook Creek Park clean up was attended by 7 people. Many thanks to those who worked and donated their time and energy.

It was reported that three trees are to be removed by the city at the south end of Brook Creek Park on the west side of the 1300 block of Brook St.

New York School is having a Halloween Party on October 30. Also, as fund raisers, New York School is collecting the following items:

- General Mills Box Tops
- used cell phones
- used printer ink cartridges
- Campbell's soup labels
- Checkers grocery receipts

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 7 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

COMMUNICATIONS

Sent to members email list on August 22, 2008

There will be a special meeting of the BCNA board members this Sunday, August 24, at 2:00 p.m. in the gazebo in the park. Any resident is welcome to attend.

The City staff produced a text amendment dealing with siting of homeless shelters that has raised the concerns of the eastside neighborhood associations and by the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods. The City Commission has deferred consideration of this text amendment until the first week in September, and wants suggestions from the neighborhoods about changes in this amendment no later than August 27.

This meeting will be to determine our neighborhood's suggestions for changes. Input from all residents is welcomed.

Julie

Sent to members email list on September 16, 2008

Please don't forget that there is a Brook Creek Neighborhood Association general / business meeting tonight, 7:00 p.m. at the East Lawrence Recreation Center. Hope to see you all there.

Julie

Sent to email members list on October 5, 2008

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association will be holding our annual Fall Park Clean-up on Saturday, October 11, 2008. We will start about 10:00 a.m. The weather forecast looks good, and this is a great time to clear out things in the park and the creek before winter -- which makes our spring clean-up easier. The clean-ups are always fun, so please try to come join us. We're usually through around 2:00 or 3:00 in the afternoon. Come spend the entire time or any part of it you can manage. If you have questions, you can call me at 841-4997.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our October meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the East Lawrence Recreation Center.

Julie

NEWSLETTER (follows)



BROOK CREEK BREEZE

September / October / November 2008

CHANGES TO THE NEWSLETTER

Because we are under-funded for the current fiscal year, which began in August 2008, we have made changes to the newsletter. It will now come out 3 times a year (September, December, and April) and each issue will cover three months. The cost savings will enable us to stay within our budget.

The September issue will cover September, October, and November. The December issue will cover December, February, and March (we do not meet in January). The April issue will cover April, May, and July (we do not meet in June or August).

So, please get your calendars out and mark the dates of the meetings for the 3 months of this newsletter:

SEPTEMBER 9:	Annual Pot-Luck Picnic in the Park (see invitation inside)
SEPTEMBER 16:	Meeting for Business, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Recreation Center
OCTOBER 14:	Meeting for Business, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Recreation Center
NOVEMBER 11:	Meeting for Business, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Recreation Center

Remembering “The Good Old Days”

Brook Creek is a neighborhood rich in people who have made it their home for many years, sometimes decades. Those people carry memories of our neighborhood, and its changes over the years, which, we hope, they are willing to share with the rest of us. Julie Mitchell (BCNA’s Vice President) and Julie Banhart (BCNA’s Coordinator) are starting a project that, we hope, will create an oral history of our neighborhood and residents. The first installment can be found immediately following this invitation.

Do you have fond memories of growing up in the neighborhood? Or watching your children grow up here? Or of times when neighbors united to help each other or the neighborhood as a whole? We invite any and all of you who are willing to participate in this to call either of us, and we will set a time to come talk with you. Your contribution can be long or short, happy or serious – whatever you would like to share. At least one piece will be run in each newsletter.

Our phone numbers are: Julie Mitchell: 865-3688; Julie Banhart: 841-4997. We look forward to hearing from many of you.

Leo and Teresa Schwartz's Stories
(as told to Julie Mitchell)

The Brook Creek Neighborhood has many long time residents who have fascinating stories to tell about Brook Creek and Lawrence. I recently had the privilege of visiting with Leo and Teresa Schwartz of Laura Avenue. Leo and Teresa have been married for 53 years (congratulations!), living in the Brook Creek Neighborhood for the last 52 years. Leo and Teresa have four children: a son in New York City, twin daughters in Topeka, and a son in rural Douglas County.

Leo grew up on a farm near Bashor, joined the service in 1948, and moved to Lawrence when he got out. He worked at Kansas Color Press until they closed, and then worked for the city. Leo is an amazing gardener. I have heard him refer to the soil in our neighborhood as black gumbo, and if you have ever tried raising vegetables in your yard, you will understand why. In addition to the black gumbo problem, Leo has the challenge of gardening where the circus was once located. Yes, that is correct. When the circus would come to Lawrence, it would set up at 12th and Laura Avenue. Gravel was put down when the grounds became too muddy. Much of that gravel is still in Leo's yard. This year, Leo is growing tomatoes, peppers, garlic, snake gourds, and cucumbers. In the past, he had gardens as large as 250 tomato plants and numerous other vegetables. Leo currently has around 20 tomato plants, still a very large garden and a lot of work.

Teresa grew up in the Santa Fe railroad housing here in Lawrence and retired from the Presbyterian Manor. Her parents moved here from Mexico. She attended New York Elementary School and Lawrence High School. Employers were reluctant to hire Mexican teenagers, so each fall her family traveled to California so that her brothers could pick fruits and vegetables. One of her brothers was once offered a nighttime cleaning job at the Granada Theater only to find out after the first night that all he would receive was two movie tickets.

Teresa's family was living in the Santa Fe railroad housing during the flood of 1951. When the river began to rise, the railroad offered to send in trucks to evacuate people and their belongings. Thinking that the river could not possibly rise that far, the local railroad supervisor made the decision to stay. The water was knee high and moving very quickly when the families finally evacuated. Most important to her father was to save the chickens, which they did. Water rose to the rooftop, and any belongs still in the house were full of mud. They lost everything. Teresa's family then moved to 8th and Rhode Island. The Red Cross gave the family an antique stove without a working oven, one bed and one chair. Clothing salvaged from the flood quickly fell apart after being washed.

Leo and Teresa moved to the Brook Creek Neighborhood in 1956. They bought a one- bedroom house at 12th and Laura Avenue. Leo also owned additional land for vegetable gardening near 13th and Brook. As the family grew, they added rooms to the house. Their home is now a spacious three bedroom house. The Brook Creek Neighborhood was full of kids at that time. There were 27 children living in a two block radius, including families such as the Strongs, Broyles, Luthers, Gulleys, Reeds, and Meyers. Families had monthly potlucks at each other's homes. They celebrated birthdays and often joined each other for coffee.

The streets were dirt, and there was no alley between Brook Street and Laura Avenue. The city grater would come through every three to four days to smooth out the streets. Before Maple Lane was a paved road, it was lined with maple trees. It was sometimes referred to as Stump Alley. The bank deed for Leo and Teresa's house dates the original portion of the house as being built in 1917.

Families could buy groceries and get gas without leaving the neighborhood. England’s Grocery Store was at 13th and Maple and later became an ice cream parlor. The neighborhood also had filling stations. Remnants of these businesses can still be seen. The garages at 13th Street just East of the creek, and at 13th between Laura and Almira, are still in use, just not as filling stations. England’s Grocery Store is now Aaron and Eleanor Brown’s fascinating three story home.

Leo and Teresa have seen a lot of changes over the years. The neighborhood association is no longer named the Far East Lawrence Organization, and it meets at the East Lawrence Recreation Center instead of at East Heights Elementary School. There may no longer be 27 children within a two block radius of their house, but new families are discovering the neighborhood. New houses are being built where older homes once stood. One thing has not changed over the years. The Brook Creek Neighborhood is still a wonderful place to live and raise a family.



*Come to our annual
Pot-Luck Picnic in the Park*

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008
Brook Creek Park Gazebo*

Come anytime after 6:00 p.m.

Food will be set out and ready to eat by 6:30 p.m.

BCNA will provide the fried chicken and soft drinks. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with your neighbors.

Come see old friends, meet new neighbors, and enjoy good food and good company.

Rain location:

East Lawrence Rec. Center’s meeting room



Welcome to the Neighborhood

- 948 Anna Tappan Way - Matthias & Kelsey Van De Liefvoort
- 930 Olivers Court - Jeremiah W. German
- 1418 Oak Hill - Janet & Christopher Holmer
- 1446 Summit - Brian & Michelle A. Jensen
- 1520 E. 13th - Marlise J. Koehn
- 1531 Hanscom Road - Sterling D. Eubank & Penny Dixon
- 1523 Maple - Michael, Jr. & Carolyn Reese
- 914 Olivers Court - Dennis E. Hadl & Tracy L. Bruce
- 915 Olivers Court - Melanie Allison & James W. Blackburn
- 1332 E. 18th - Aaron & Charity Harris
- 1701 Bullene - Janet Live
- 1602 E. Glenn Drive - Alia E. Sachedina
- 1510 Harper - Nathaniel L., Jr. & Janet S. Brown
- 938 Ward - Bradley Schwab
- 1200 Prospect - Frederic J. Gutknecht, IV
- 1230 Laura - Tenants to Homeowners, Inc.
- 910 Olivers Court - Timothy Hornik & Catherine Smith
- 1828 Miller Dr. - Matthew J. Herbert & Rachael E. Sudlow
- 911 Olivers Court - Kara M. Eidson
- 1617 Irving Court - Jimmy R. Shelton
- 1211 E. 13th - Jennifer L. O'Driscoll
- 1539 Lindenwood Lane - Angela R. & Douglas D. Navarro
- 1606 Irving Court - Alan J. Donovan

MINUTES . . .

April 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Julie Mitchell at 7:05 PM with 15 people in attendance. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

There was a discussion about the historic Haskell House (1300 Haskell) being for sale. The neighborhood association opposes any change in the zoning from single family. It was reported that a letter had been sent to the realtor, informing him of the opposition to any zoning change. It was voted on and approved that the neighborhood association would also oppose any additional curb cuts or significant change to the historic house and property.

There was a discussion about the demolition permit for 1616 E.15th Street.

The Lawrence Community Shelter (LCS) has requested the city's support in asking for a \$600,000 Federal Grant for purchasing property. LCS has expressed interest in the property at 850 E. 13th (13th & Oregon), which, even though it's not in Brook Creek Neighborhood, is at our neighborhood's western border. Brook Creek Neighborhood has previously stated reasons for opposing LCS moving to the area.

The Brook Creek Park Clean-up is scheduled for April 26th at 10 AM. We want to send thanks to Wheatfields Bakery and Wal*Mart. Julie Mitchell reported that Wheatfields has agreed to donate bread and Wal*Mart is donating \$35.00, so that lunch can be provided for the volunteers who show up to clean the creek and park. Their contributions are greatly appreciated. The cold/rain day is May 3rd at 10 AM.

It was mentioned that the Hitchcocks' new siding looked nice on their house. A concern was raised about the fire-damaged house at E. 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

May 13, 2008

The BCNA meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 7:10 PM by President Craig Comstock with 12 members present. The treasurer's report was read and approved. It was reported that Julie Banhart is searching for a new printing service for the newsletters, in an effort to reduce our costs.

Julie Mitchell informed the meeting that the owners of the burned house on 13th street were working with their insurance company to do something with the house. The lot may not be in compliance with current zoning regulations. She also stated that Brook Creek is a pesticide-free park and that weeds are growing up.

Michael Almon said that the City Commission has a draft ordinance for the Planning Commission which would change the zoning ordinance to allow homeless shelters in industrial zones with a special use permit. The hearing on the change will be at the June meeting.

Further on the homeless shelter front, it was reported that the Inter-Faith Hospitality Network of Churches is providing housing and assisting homeless people looking for jobs.

A zoning change, to GPI (General Public Institute) has been recommended for East Heights School. The GPI would reflect the actual use of the property, but it would also allow other uses. It was agreed by the meeting that some other uses may not be in the best interest of the neighborhood, and that this development would be closely monitored..

The fact that the historic Haskell house at 1300 Haskell is for sale was discussed at our April meeting. As a follow-up, reports have been received that a church is interested in the property. Craig Comstock will check on the church's interest and the zoning issues for allowing a church on the property.

A committee consisting of Michael Almon, Julie Mitchell, Craig Comstock, and James Grauerholz was formed to initiate the down zoning of the industrial zones in the area of the Burroughs Creek Plan.

Craig Comstock reported that an Art Center is now one of the businesses in the mall at 19th & Haskell.

Sometime in the past month, someone dumped tires at the Brook Creek Park. Please call the police if you see illegal dumping in our neighborhood or city.

It was reported that Public Works had not repaired a pothole in the 1400 block of Prairie Ave. Craig Comstock will check with the Public Works about the repair.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting is July 8th at 7:00 p.m.

July 8, 2008

The BCNA meeting was called to order on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 7:05 PM by President Craig Comstock with 10 members present.

The East Lawrence, Barker, and Brook Creek Neighborhoods are co-coordinating efforts to rezone the Burroughs Creek area.

Our CDGB budget was discussed, particularly the fact that our funding for the coming fiscal year (beginning August 1, 2008), will be reduced. This is a problem faced by most grantees, since there are increasing requests for help from an allocation that remains steady or decreases. As part of that discussion, Julie Banhart reported that she has found a likely new printer. Moving to 3 newsletters per year and doubling the space in each newsletter would achieve our goal of saving money since our CDBG budget has been reduced. It would also allow us to cover some news in more detail and expand the variety of things we put in the newsletter.

The house at 1207 E. 13th has applied for a demolition permit.

The Fall Clean-up will be on October 11th beginning at 10 AM until 3 PM or later. Lunch will be provided at the Brook Creek Park. A rain day is scheduled for October 18th.

Our annual potluck will be on September 9th in the Brook Creek Park at 6:00 p.m. If it rains, we will meet at the East Lawrence Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Homeless Facilities Amendment to City Code

by Michael Almon

On April 29, at the request of the Lawrence Community Shelter, the City Commission initiated a one paragraph text amendment to permit homeless shelters in all industrial zones. And at the urging of our eastside neighborhoods, the City Commission initiated that use to be permitted only by a Special Use Permit. All parties agreed that this approach would satisfy everyone's needs. From there, the text amendment went to the Planning Commission on July 21. Government at its best.

But in the meanwhile, a group called Family Promise approached City staff to devise a way for this faith-based homeless program to allow them to shelter homeless families in churches. Currently, their nationally-modeled methods could function within our code only as a “day care use,” too restrictive for their program.

In response to Family Promise, City staff took it upon themselves to create no fewer than four new homeless service uses: Homeless Shelters in churches and other agencies, Homeless Day Centers in any neighborhood, Homeless Work Places, and Social Service Agencies performing homeless services. Some of these uses would be permitted *by right* in all residential and commercial zoning districts. The single-paragraph text amendment that the City Commission initiated became eight pages, which is what City staff presented at the Planning Commission hearing.

Without judging the possible merit of Family Promise and whether or not it should be permitted by code, the few Lawrence neighborhoods that knew of this find the staff process in violation of our Development Code. Text amendments can be initiated only by the City or County Commissions, the Planning Commission, and the Historic Resources Commission. It is appropriate for City staff to do wordcraft editing. It can also be beneficial for staff to *suggest* creative ways to improve our Code. But an eight page text amendment creating *substantive changes* to the Code is not within their purview.

For staff to handle this process legally, they would need to present a totally new text amendment for the Commission to receive and initiate within the legal submittal time frame before conducting a public hearing. Instead, staff piggy-backed their creation on what the Commission had initiated on April 29, explained to the Planning Commission that its complexity prevented them from separating their wording from the original.

And during the three month period drafting a Homeless Facilities text amendment, City staff chose to solicit input from three public entities and a “private citizen,” but not any neighborhood or the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods. We learned of this when published only five days before the Planning Commission hearing. Since the Planning Commission hearing, staff has again expanded this document to thirty four pages.

Staff's rationale to neither inform nor include neighborhoods or LAN in the process is that there were two public meetings between staff and the Community Commission on Homelessness that we could have attended. By this, is staff implying that it is the onus of the public to continually monitor all public agencies and advisory boards just in case something may be discussed of concern to us? Is this reasonable? Is this fair? Are neighborhoods not stakeholders equal to homeless agencies and worthy of notification? Is this any substitute for due process? Government at its worst.

So this text amendment was scheduled on the City Commission agenda for August 12th, with City staff recommending it be passed. But because of complaints by our eastside neighborhoods, and by the Lawrence

Association of Neighborhoods, and by outraged neighbors in Barker Neighborhood where a Homeless Day Center was planned, the City Commission deferred it for a month. They want City staff to work with the neighborhoods to rewrite the text amendment.

So be watching for when this will come before the City Commission again in early September. We need a City Code that has provisions for assisting the homeless, but it needs to be done in a way that neighborhoods have a say in the matter, and that our neighborhood needs are met as well.



You're Invited

to

The Fall Brook Creek Clean-Up

Saturday, October 11, 2008

10:00 a.m. – as long as you like

Come help us clean up the creek and the nature trails. Fall is a good time to clean out the creek before winter storms add more debris (makes our spring clean-up easier).

If you like to use the nature trails, come help us clean up debris and trash from the trails and the woods so they can be comfortably used, even in the late fall and winter.

We have a good time each fall during the clean-up, so come join us. We'll get started about 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Everyone's help is appreciated, whether you can stay and help for a long time or a short one.

If the day is too cold or rainy, we'll try again on October 18. If you have questions – call Julie Banhart at 841-4997.

Come One – Come all

Individuals, Families, and Children

Are all welcome.



Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
1944 Miller Drive
Lawrence, KS 66046

PRSR STD U.S. Postage PAID Lawrence, KS Permit #542
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Join Your Neighborhood Association

Dues are \$1.00 per person, per year. This gives you voting rights at BCNA meetings. Clip, fill out, and mail to: Susan Miller, Treasurer; 1235 Prairie; Lawrence, KS 66044

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address _____

- I am enclosing my \$1.00 annual dues
 - I am enclosing _____ extra to help the neighborhood association.
-

GOOD NEIGHBORING

Matt Williams reported good neighboring by neighbors of his who issued an invitation to Matt and his family to take shelter in their (the neighbors') basement during the storms.