



BROOK CREEK BREEZE

April - May 2013

Wednesday, April 10, 2013 7:30 p.m. East Lawrence Recreation Center	Wednesday May 8, 2013 7:30 p.m. East Lawrence Recreation Center	No scheduled meetings during June, July, and August. See the next newsletter for September – November meetings
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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST TO THE BROOK CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD

- April 4, 5, & 6:** City Compost Sale, 1420 E. 11th Street. 8:00 – 3:00 or until gone. \$10 bucket load/2 cubic yards-CASH ONLY
- April 10, 2013:** BCNA Business Meeting. We'll lay final plans for the spring park clean-up.
- April 11, 12, 13** City Woodchip sale, 1420 E. 11th Street; 8:00 – 3:00 or until gone. \$10 bucket load/2 cubic yards-CASH ONLY.
- April 13, 2013:** Spring Park Clean-up (see below for further information)
- April 20, 2013** Earth Day celebration, South Park, 11:30 a.m.
- April 27, 2013** Prescription Drug Take Back Day—bring old, unneeded prescription drugs to the Dg. Co. Courthouse, 10:00-2:00 for safe disposal.
- May 6, 2013** BCNA Business Meeting.
- June, July, August, 2013:** We will have no scheduled meetings over the summer months. If something of direct importance to the neighborhood arises, a special meeting will be scheduled, to meet in the gazebo in Brook Creek Park, and will be announced by email, telephone, and the BCNA website.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Martin, long-time resident of the Brook Creek neighborhood and supporter of the BCNA passed away on March 10, 2013. She will be greatly missed.

MINUTES

December 12, 2012

Andrea Repinsky opened the meeting @ 7:00 p.m. with 17 members attending plus guests who were principally interested in the main agenda item, which was the new trail system being implemented in Brook Creek Park. Susan Miller gave the treasurer's report. There were no addendums or objections.

Garrett Jones, president of the KU Running Club, gave an overview of his passion for running, especially in natural spaces such as Brook Creek Park. Garrett went on to explain the need to level the five foot wide trail that has already been cut through the natural landscape.

Mitch Young, District Supervisor of Lawrence Parks and Recreation, gave an overview of the process Garret Jones' running club went through to apply for permission to create the trail, and his subsequent approval and cooperation in creating the trail. Mitch further apprised attendees that Lawrence Parks and Recreation does not normally contact neighborhood associations in regard to modifications, such as the recent replacement of cement in the more exposed portion of the park inclusive of the gazebo and picnic tables.

A letter was read from Michael Almon, who could not attend, by Beth Anne Heckler outlining a meeting concerned neighbors of the park had with Mitch Young on November the 19th. The meeting brought to light an historical agreement whereby the park was to remain a wilderness park and to have no human modifications. Mitch Young commented that he could find no record of this formal agreement.

Though no formal agreement existing in writing may be found, members of the BCNA recall with clarity the purchase of the additional 43 acres of wooded area in 1996. Apparently there was much talk at this time by both city and county commissioners in regards to the leaving of this land as pristine wilderness.

Several attendees gave impassioned accounts of their personal experience as frequent visitors to this undeveloped area, and mentioned that it was a primary reason for the purchase of a home in the area. Fears were raised that the cutting of a trail, especially one this wide, would lead to the unlawful incursion of motorized and all terrain vehicles, and that the cutting of trails violated the natural beauty.

Garrett Jones admitted to being taken aback by attendees' impassioned pleas to leave this area untouched, and assured members of BCNA that there would be no more cutting of trails. Truly, Garrett expressed his astonishment that he had no idea of the historical significance of the park, and he thanked neighborhood residents of their illuminations.

Mitch Young spoke about the efforts being carried out at Clinton State Park to control aggressive and invasive species such as honeysuckle, and admonished attendees that efforts of this nature might benefit the park.

There was some discussion of placement of the trail head and the placement of signage. Objections were raised as to even this much human involvement in the park, and we were reassured that such devices would be kept to a minimum; however, Mitch did wonder whether some mention of the historical significance of the park might be in keeping with local residents' interests. This idea was not widely embraced.

It was resolved that a letter be drafted directed to the City Commissioners and the Lawrence Planning Department outlining BCNA member's objection to the development of trails, and that the approval of this letter should be discussed at our February meeting. Andrea Repinsky agreed to author the letter, and requested that, in the meantime, further discussion be carried out by email. A sheet of paper requesting email addresses was circulated, so that members not already on the email list could be added.

In another agenda item, Dickie Heckler gave the Lawrence Area Neighborhood's (LAN) report. It is a concern of LAN that the development along Rhode Island Street will ultimately expand into East Lawrence, and disrupt the single family nature of the neighborhood. Honoring the historical nature of the East Lawrence Neighborhood would ultimately benefit any possible expansion into the Brook Creek Neighborhood.

The plan for the spring cleanup of Brook Creek Park was discussed, and members wisely suggested this effort could be coordinated with an April 13th event whereby Kansas University students volunteer their time to spruce up local neighborhoods.

There was no formal update to the progress made by the East Lawrence Recycle Center, but it is reported via a brief interview with one of the employees that a move was being planned for December.

There was an election of officers, and basically all officers were reelected without objection for another year. The meeting was adjourned @ 8:00 p.m. and was followed by the BCNA Holidays party.

February 6, 2013

Andrea Repinsky opened the meeting promptly at 7 p.m. with 7 members present. Susan Miller gave the treasurer's report. There were no changes or receipts.

A question was raised as to how much money is raised by membership dues. Susan reported that some years are better than others. We discussed the possibility of forming a committee to explore ways to increase membership and participation. It was suggested that we get something going via emails before the issue was tabled for a time when more participation could be facilitated.

There was a discussion regarding goals and issues for the year ahead. It was suggested that we propose to incorporate the old recycling property into Brook Creek Park, and to take suggestions for what could be done with the existing infrastructure. It was pointed out that, with the addition of the old Recycling Center property that this might facilitate the widening of Brook Creek as has already been done upstream.

Andrea read the letter she drafted for the City Staff and Commissioners. The letter recommended a written park development plan and the inclusion of the Brook Creek neighborhood in future plans.

We were reminded of the next meeting, which will be March 6, 2013. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

March 6, 2013

Julie Mitchell began the meeting just after 7:00 p.m. and Susan Miller gave the treasurer's report. There were no new bills to post or discrepancies noted. [Seven people were in attendance.](#)

Our guest speaker, Chuck Epp, gave an overview of the 92.5 million dollar school bond proposal to be voted for on April 2, and encouraged our support. It was stressed that the bond would not raise taxes because several now current bonds are due to be retired. What the bond proposal would do is to furnish much needed improvements to [Central and East](#) Lawrence schools and thus help to maintain the vibrancy of our neighborhoods.

A question and answer session followed, and Chuck Epp further enlightened us as to the improvements this bond would provide. The energy improvements called for would amount to a significant savings in future energy expenditures. Proposed plans for a vocational and technical training program to be housed near Holcomb Park would be made possible. It was pointed out that such training will benefit the local economy and provide much needed jobs for students not planning to further their education with a college degree.

We were apprised that the recently added early childhood programs have necessitated an increase in classroom accommodations. Additionally, there is an increasing emphasis on technical and computer training for all students, and the bond would provide equipment and classroom space for these programs. Also, it was pointed out that the much discussed consolidation efforts,

which would impact the vibrancy of some of our neighborhoods, are off the table for now, and that the bond proposal would further ensure the legitimacy of our existing schools.

It was pointed out that a no vote on the bond proposal would decrease local taxes, but that due to existing property values in East Lawrence the savings would probably be in the vicinity of only \$50 to \$100 per year.

Chuck further assured the attendees that architects hired to draft needed improvements were instructed to be conservative, and to not include all the bells and whistles that may have been mandated.

In another agenda item we decided on a date for the Spring Park Cleanup set for April 13th where we hope to coordinate our efforts with those of the Big Event incorporating the volunteer efforts of vibrant KU students. It was proposed and accepted that we stage another egg hunt for our neighborhood children and adults if so inclined. Our rain day was set for April 20th.

Contact Information

If you need to contact us with any questions or comments, please email us at BrookCreekNA@gmail.com. If you do not have access to email, you can call Julie Banhart at 841-4997. Also, check us out at LawrenceMarketplace.com.

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

1503 Wedgewood Dr. - Wesley Pickens	1306 Oak Hill Ave. - Steven J. Swinney & Kelsey J. Yankey
1531 Hanscom Rd. - Melissa Stewart & Kevin Watson & Lesley Watson	1508 E. 19th St. - Mitch & Jamie Gale
1515 Hanscom Rd. - Jason R. & Joanna K. Bonee	1713 Miller Dr. - Bradley D. Coppenbarger
1608 Harper St. - Daniel L. & Jennie L. Washburn	1612 Harper - Jon R. & Peggy M. Wiese



Come to

The Spring Brook Creek Clean-Up

Saturday, April 13, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(Rain date: April 20, 2013)

Come help us clean up the creek and the nature trails. If wallowing around in mud is your idea of fun, join like-minded others and get down in the creek to remove wintertime debris.

If you like to use the nature trails, come help us clean up debris and trash from the trails and the woods. We never know, from year to year, what we will find in the woods – but there are usually some interesting things (one year, we found a yard-sized tractor).

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

Come One – Come all

Individuals, Families, and Children

Are all welcome.



Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
1944 Miller Drive
Lawrence, KS 66046

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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.