



The Brook Creek Breeze

The Newsletter of the
Brook Creek
Neighborhood Association

February — March 2015

Neighborhood Events

February

- 4 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
East Lawrence Rec. Center,
Board Nominations

March

- 4 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
East Lawrence Rec. Center,
Board Elections

April

- TBD BCNA Meeting

Brook Creek Board Now Recruiting Directors

Do you have fund-raising skills? Do you enjoy event planning? We are looking for folks in the neighborhood to help with these tasks and many more. At our February 4 meeting we will be taking nominations for new Director positions, which will be voted on at the following BCNA meeting. Possible tasks/positions include: Webmaster, Member Recruitment, Neighborhood History, Code Enforcement, Fund-raising, and Event Planner. Send in your voluntary nomination to the board and come to the February meeting!

At the December 2014 Brook Creek meeting, attendees voted to amend the bylaws to create five new Director positions. The Directors will join the four existing Officers to create an expanded Board with greater capacity for neighborhood improvement. You can be a neighborhood leader and contribute to Brook Creek!

Brook Creek Leads Response to Cell Tower Proposal

Verizon Wireless brought an application to the November 2014 Planning Commission, asking for a Special Use Permit to construct a 120 foot tall microwave cell tower next to the Burroughs Creek Trail. It would be on a commercial property on Bullene St., 135 feet away from the nearest Tenants To Homeowners home, with several other homes nearby.

Brook Creek Neighborhood, with the leadership of Brook Creek Secretary Michael Almon, launched a campaign to protect our residential neighborhood from blight, protect the property values of surrounding homes, and protect the land use provisions of the Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan. We engaged the help of the Barker Neighborhood and The Woods on 19th Street to express the concerns of surrounding residents, but the Planning Commission voted to grant the permit. Before the City Commission hears the proposal and makes the final decision, City Code provides 14 days to file a "legal protest petition" of surrounding property owners. The petition requires a super-majority vote by the City Commission. We managed to gather enough signatures. Dozens of people attended the City Commission meeting, many gave comments in writing or orally, and the Commission voted unanimously to deny the permit.

Verizon has filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court, claiming the City did not abide by its own laws, and that it also violated Federal law governing communications facilities. The three main issues the City based its denial on are: 1) this tower location violates our Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan, 2) it threatens to reduce surrounding property values, and 3) Verizon failed to provide proof that there is no nearby structure upon which they could place their antenna, such as the grain elevators three blocks south. The case should be heard in court within one month.

Curbside Recycling Dates

North of 15th Street

January 28
February 11
February 25
March 11
March 25

South of 15th Street

January 30
February 13
February 27
March 13
March 27

Yard waste collection begins
Monday, March 2.

Go to notify.lawrenceks.org to sign up for email or text notification of recycling, trash, and yard waste dates.

Neighborhood Contacts

Rena Figures, President

thegreensoaper@yahoo.com
766-7571

Byron Wiley, Vice-President

bwiley@sbcglobal.net

Michael Almon, Secretary

paradigm@sunflower.com

Jenna Coker, Treasurer

fredandjenna@sunflower.com
Send membership renewals to:
1406 Oak Hill Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66044-3638

Julie Banhart,

Neighborhood Coordinator

BrookCreekNA@gmail.com
841-4997

brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/
brookcreekneighborhood



A Letter from the President

Brook Creek Neighborhood welcomes 2015 with a new board, new bylaws, and expansive goals! Welcome to the new board: Rena Figures as President, Byron Wiley returns as Vice-President, Michael Almon returns as Secretary, and last but not least, Jenna Coker as Treasurer. Thank you so much to the former board members, Andrea Repinsky as President, and Susan Miller as Treasurer. We greatly appreciate the time you have put into BCNA.

In December, we voted in new bylaws to expand the board to include a team of Directors to help out with different BCNA tasks. This will help us achieve our goals, by having a larger team to help share the load. Directors may help with things such as fund-raising, event planning, newsletter editing, member recruitment, researching neighborhood history, etc. Please contact us, or join us at one of our meetings to find out how you can use your skills to help out your neighborhood!

We are also very interested in expanding our membership. If you're not already a member, please fill out the Membership form and send to our new Treasurer, Jenna Coker. At \$1 per year, it's a bargain! Don't forget to talk with your neighbors about joining too. We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

Rena Figures

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association President

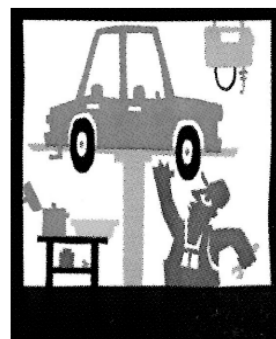


Friends and neighbors at the December 10, 2014 Holiday Party and Meeting

BLEVINS AUTOMOTIVE

1733 BULLENE AVE.
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LAWRENCE KS 66044
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Rena Figures

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DECADE

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Meet Your 2015 Officers

Rena Figures, President

Rena is a local entrepreneur who moved to the neighborhood in the summer of 2013. She lives with her 2 sons who bike and walk the neighborhood as much as possible. She looks forward to meeting more local folks and serving her community.

Byron Wiley, Vice-President

Byron served as the 2014 Vice-President of BCNA. He is involved in several organizations including the Lawrence Barn Dance Association and the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project, and he is President and a Director of the Nordic Fiddles and Feet, a national group that puts on a music and dance camp in New Hampshire. He is passionate about plants, especially food-producing plants. He is also a musician, playing and directing a local Scandinavian music ensemble.

Michael Almon, Secretary

Michael has lived in Lawrence since 1977. He worked for two years as a planning aide at the City planning office. He has started and run three businesses, one of which was Simple Goods General Store at 735 Mass. Since moving to the Brook Creek Neighborhood, he has participated in many initiatives to stabilize our single-family neighborhood. He was a cofounder, and sits on the board, of Sustainability Action Network.

Jenna Coker, Treasurer

Jenna has lived at 1406 Oak Hill for 25 years in the Savage house, where one of the first Brook Creek meetings was held. She has have served Brook Creek in the past as our CDBG representative. Jenna has also been a long-time volunteer for Headquarters. She retired as emeritus staff in 2010 after 25 years of service to KU.

Her last 15 years at KU were all in accounting and budget management taking care of 63 accounts with different rules and regulations to follow. Jenna is an avid gardener with the help of her husband, Fred Sack.

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Excerpt of BCNA Bylaws Edited to Create Director Positions

The Bylaw changes were voted in on Dec. 10, 2014. The changes created five new Director positions, described the Director duties, and they clarified the roles of other officers. The BCNA bylaws can be read in their entirety on our website: brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com.

ARTICLE 4: Officers and Directors

Section 1

The Board of BCNA shall consist of the four Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), and five Directors.

Section 2: Term of Office

The officers of BCNA shall be elected for terms of one (1) year. Directors are elected for terms of two years, with no more than three (3) Directors eligible for election in any year, unless vacancies occur.

Section 3: Resignation

A written resignation to the BCNA officers shall be required of an Officer or Director wishing to resign from office. The books of the office must be in order and/or audited before the resignation of the Secretary or Treasurer can be accepted.

Section 4: Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in any office except that of President, an interim appointment shall be made by the remaining Officers, to be ratified by the membership at the next general membership meeting. The successor officer shall hold the office for the remainder of the term. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the Presidency.

ARTICLE 5: Duties of Officers and Directors

Section 1: President

In addition to the duties already listed in these By-Laws, the President shall preside at meetings as well as holding the usual power and authority vested in the office of the President of an unincorporated association, and shall execute the plans and policies of BCNA. The President shall have the responsibility of supervision and management of BCNA staff and volunteers. The President is responsible for supervising the content of BCNA communications.

Section 2: Vice-President

The power and authority of the Vice-President shall be to preside at meetings in the absence of the President; perform such other duties as shall be assigned by the BCNA officers (AO); become President in case of the vacancy of the office of President.

Section 3: Secretary

The Secretary shall attend all sessions of the BCNA officers and all BCNA meetings. He/she shall record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book and/or digital files to be kept for that purpose; keep an accurate list of committees; prepare ballots for elections; contact media outlets with news of all meetings; and perform other duties as may be prescribed by BCNA Officers or President under whose supervision he/she shall perform his/her duties.

Section 4: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have general custody of the funds of BCNA and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to BCNA, and shall deposit all money in the name and to the credit of BCNA in such manner and in such depository as shall be designated by BCNA Officers. He/she shall cause the funds of BCNA to be disbursed in such manner as shall be designated by BCNA Officers and see that proper receipts cover all disbursements. He/she shall report at regular meetings of the membership, collect all dues and assessments, issue membership cards, and furnish the BCNA officers with an accurate list of members entitled to vote.

Section 5: Board Members

Members of the Board supervise the management of BCNA. The Officers and Directors may assign projects, designate committees, and make preliminary decisions on BCNA business, provided that all final decisions on Association business be made by the voting members, with the exception of the hiring and establishment of duties of staff and volunteers, which is under the control of the BCNA Board only.

BCNA Meeting Notes for Dec. 10, 2014

Present: Andrea Repinsky (President), Byron Wiley (Vice President), Susan Miller (Treasurer), Michael Almon (Secretary), Julie Banhart (Coordinator), thirteen other Association members, and three guests.

1. Introductions: Andrea asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

2. Agenda: The agenda had been sent by Julie to the neighborhood e-mail list, and Andrea passed around copies. Susan Miller requested that items #5 and #7 be deleted, claiming they violated our Bylaws. Item #5 was whether we wanted to include on our ballot the draft Bylaws amendments in their entirety (as opposed to voting amendment-by-amendment). Item #7 was a vote of the Officers to accept the slate of nominees. It was noted that Susan is entitled to her opinion, but the membership makes the determination. Moved by Rena Figures, seconded by Emily Winters, to retain #5 on the agenda, and discuss opposing opinions at that time. Motion passed 13-4. Regarding item #7, we decided the Officers should acknowledge the validity of nominees, including any nominated from the floor; we deleted the word "slate", and retained item #7.

3. Minutes of prior meetings: Michael had the draft minutes from 10 September, 15 October, and 12 November ready for approval. They had been sent by Julie to the neighborhood e-mail list only a few days ago, so Sharon Vaughn moved to table them until folks could review them. Emily pointed out that they had been on the web site for some time and a synopsis has been in our print newsletter also, so folks had time to read them. Moved by Emily, seconded by Melinda Henderson, to approve the minutes. Motion passed 14-3 (1 abstain).

4. Treasurer's report: Susan asked if our financial reports appear on our web site, and Emily said they always have. Susan thought we shouldn't reveal them, though others thought we should maintain transparency. It was moved by Melinda, seconded by Michael, to discuss it in February, and meanwhile remove them from the web site. Motion passed 14-3 (1 ab-

stain). Our monthly BCNA financial report is only monies raised by us, not the CDBG allocations from the City. Julie reported that our CDBG 2016 application was submitted this morning.

5. Bylaws amendments: People read the proposed Bylaws amendments as they needed, while others renewed their memberships so they could vote. Andrea described the current structure of BCNA governance, and the proposal to change from a mere four Officers to a Board of up to nine Directors (including four Officers). As discussed throughout the past several months, a Board can bring new energy into the organization, be a mentoring process to prepare the next Officers, take some of the burden off of the four Officers, and provide for a provisional decision making process to deal with urgent issues that arise between regular meetings, the interval sometimes being more than two months. She also reviewed the word crafting process that has taken place for two months, and was announced last September at our meeting, as well as in our newsletter. She said we could vote tonight to accept the amendments, or continue with the Editing Committee and vote in February. Doug Miller asked if the proposal is for the draft Bylaws with copies now on the table. Andrea said "yes". Sharon said she received the proposal at 3:00pm today, and hasn't had time to read them. (today's e-mail from our Coordinator was simply the final communication after many that had been distributed before, and all amendments are highlighted in red ink). Susan said this just shows that we are not following our Bylaws for this proposal. We haven't given our member adequate notice, which the Bylaws say must be "sent to all members at least 7 days prior the the date of the meeting". Sharon and others had not received the amended bylaws 7 days in advance. Michael clarified that our Bylaws require that "notice" of such amendments be sent, which is not saying that the actual amendments themselves be sent that far in advance. Notice of this amending process was first made at our September meeting, and notice made several times hence. And anyway, the amendments have been readily available for anyone to know about them, most recently at our (Continued)

(Dec. 10 meeting notes, continued) December 3 Editing Committee meeting in this room. Doug Miller asked "How do we know if all members had received the notice of the amendments?" Emily said we don't have to prove that. The Bylaws don't say all members must receive notice, only that we send notice to all members. James Grauerholz asked the meeting "Who isn't here who cares enough about this to be here?" Moved by Sharon to ask the meeting "How many have read the amendments?" A show of hands indicated 12 had read them, 6 had not. Moved by Michael, seconded by Melinda, to hold the vote on tonight's ballot to adopt the amendments in total, not line by line. Motion passed 12-5 (1 abstain).

6. Assembly of Officer nominations:

Andrea wrote on an easel pad the names of nominees from the Nominating Committee.

President: Rena Figures

Vice-President: Byron Wiley

Treasurer: Susan Miller

Secretary: Doug Miller, and Michael Almon

Andrea received nominations from the floor. Nominated by Emily was Jenna Coker for Treasurer. Jenna accepted the nomination. There were no more nominations.

The current officers voted to acknowledge the validity of these candidates as members.

7. Presentation by the candidates:

Andrea asked each candidate to give a brief bio and reason for wanting to serve, and all six candidates did. Sharon asked Michael if he will be able to provide timely minutes, because he missed four meetings last year. Michael said he would, and that he had missed the four meetings due to conflicts with other meetings, some as City task forces, some being out of town. But he had successfully designated someone else to take minutes in his stead. He produced copies of all the minutes, including the ones approved tonight. Emily also said that all minutes are on our web site.

8. Election – Officers and Bylaws amendments:

A paper ballot was distributed to each qualified voting member, which included each Officer title with a line to write in a name, and the Bylaws question "Shall we adopt Bylaws amendments as proposed?"

The results were:

President— Rena Figures: 12, abstain: 7

Vice-President—Byron Wiley: 12, abstain: 6, 1 write in for Lynn

Treasurer—Jenna Coker: 12, Susan Miller: 6, abstain: 1

Secretary—Michael Almon: 12, Doug Miller: 6, abstain: 1
Bylaws amended as proposed— yes:12, no: 6, abstain: 1

9. General meeting schedule:

The next general meeting will be in February.

Meeting adjourned.

**2015 BCNA Membership
Dues can be paid now!**

Bring your \$1 membership dues to the February meeting or mail to 1406 Oak Hill Ave.

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Recent Property Transfers

1604 Matthew Terrace - Angela Y. Eichler

1322 Maple Lane - Matthew L. & Melissa J.

Fahrenbruch

1231 Prairie Ave. - Joseph W. Dee & Ambika Selvan

2118 E 17th St. - Jill M. King & Kelli S. King

1340 Haskell Ave. - Aaron & Kendra Marable

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

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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
- I would like to receive a weekly e-newsletter

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/>