

## The Year 2019

2019 will be remembered as a year of opportunity and success for The Citizens for Brentwood Green Space (CBGS). We are pleased to provide this report on the activities of the corporation and accomplishments in 2019 as well as presenting the goals and objectives that we are planning to pursue over the next year.

### **Mission**

The Citizens for Brentwood Green Space, Inc. is a volunteer citizens group organized as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation. Our mission is to preserve open space in the form of parks, trails, historic sites, and flood plains while being sensitive to the rights of landowners and developers. CBGS desires to assure that ongoing development of land resources is accomplished in a way that is beneficial to landowners, to existing citizens of the city and to future generations of Brentwood residents.

### **Major Activities and Accomplishments in 2019**

#### **1. Our People**

People are an important and essential asset to the development and growth in any organization. This is particularly true of volunteer organizations that rely on the passion and dedication of people that share an interest in the mission and are willing to promote that with others in their communities.

CBGS has a strong, dedicated board that is willing to work hard and help us achieve our goals. Their enthusiasm and experience have positioned our organization for future success. Officers that served during 2019 included: President - Gil Hutchinson, Vice President - Joe Harkins, Treasurer – Kelli Nelson, and Secretary – David Kumatz.

Board members continue to be involved in giving back to their community through participation in a wide variety of community organizations. A number of our Board are engaged in local civic organizations such as Leadership Brentwood for example.

The following board members also served on these City boards during 2019:

- Dave Kumatz, Tree Board
- Chris Cummins, Environmental Advisory Board

#### **2. Community Engagement**

CBGS is a frequent speaker around the community with local organizations and at public hearings and City Commission meetings. Our web and social media sites are accessible to the community and provide valuable content and updates. We have a strong and valued relationship with the local media and are often sought to provide quotes or topics on items of interest to the local community.

## Accomplishments in 2019 include:

- Participated at the City of Brentwood's annual Arbor Day Celebration April 6th.
- Hosted our 5th annual "A Walk in the Park" fundraising event at Marcella Vivrette Smith Park. This free family-oriented event is open to the public and helps raise money for future amenities and upkeep at Smith Park, the largest park in the city limits of Brentwood. The event featured:
  - Family activities such as train rides, face painting, balloon art and other kid's activities.
  - Optional hiking the trails (moderate and strenuous).
  - Food Trucks for purchasing snacks and refreshments, including Blue Monkey Shaved Ice, Bradley's Creamery, Hot Chicken by Red's 615 Kitchen and Barbecue from Roadhouse Grille and the Tennessee Peanut Company. Jackalope Beer was available for purchase.
  - A Luxury automobile display by Andrews Transportation Group.
  - Vintage Baseball Game.
  - "DJ KSO" was spinning the beats as well!
  - "Musicians and Songwriters in Our Backyard". Hosted by local residents Scott Nelson and Mike Wyatt, A Walk in The Park featured songwriters, John Schweers, Don King, and Larry Boone with a total of 11 number one hits from Mercy Me, Lonestar Ronnie Milsap and others. The Route 66 Band, Calico, Pattie Constantino (Phil Vassar) Scott Ducai (Lynyrd Skynyrd) Mike Wyatt (Jerry Reed, The Osmond's) and David K Martin. All well-known studio musicians and performers from our talented county!
  - H. G. Hill Realty Company was the title sponsor for A Walk in the Park for the fifth consecutive year. Other sponsors for 2019 included Andrews Transportation Group, CapStar Bank, CityPark Brentwood (a Boyle Development), Enterprise Holdings, First Citizens National Bank, Grove Park Construction, Highwoods Properties, The Mick Foundation, and UnitedHealthcare. Local media partners included Brentwood Home Page, Williamson Herald, YOUR Williamson Magazine, and WAKM-AM radio. The event also featured promotional sponsors Jackalope Brewing and Puffy Muffin Dessert Bakery and Restaurant.

### 3. Fund Raising

CBGS formally announced in late 2011 our goal to raise \$300,000 towards the acquisition of the remaining 80 acres at Ravenswood Farm. This announcement marked the first time our organization shifted from being a community advocacy group to one that also is willing to make a financial stake in our community for the future.

As a result of the Walk in the Park event, and other donations, CBGS presented an \$80,000 check to the City of Brentwood at the October 28, 2019 Brentwood City Commission meeting. With this payment, the CBGS has reached its goal of \$300,000 with \$302,000 paid for the project to date.

This donation also included approximately \$66,000 of funds from a bequest from the estate of long-time board member Peggy Howell to CBGS. As a result, at their November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

meeting, the Brentwood City Commission unanimously approved a resolution renaming the Tower Park Dog Park "Miss Peggy's Bark Park" in her memory sometime in February 2020.

#### **4. Our Goals in 2020**

Open Space Preservation remains one of the top 3 issues identified by our residents in the most recent 2020 Plan update. 97% Agreed or Strongly Agreed that future actions are important. CBGS continues to push to add green space in our community. Private donations provide amenities at Smith Park and help keep the focus on preserving our rapidly diminishing green space.

At the dawn of 2020, we are focused on the future and have well defined goals in place. We are committed to making "Brentwood Green Space" a name that carries meaning with it. We want people to know we are a link to nature, whether through getting citizens to work together towards a common goal of helping the City with land acquisitions and improvements at Smith Park or by providing a focus for the preservation of green space throughout our community for generations to come.

Gil Hutchinson

President