

OAK PARK ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board meeting for April 18, 2020

With respect for the ongoing health situation in the country, this meeting was held using Zoom, a virtual platform.

The meeting was called at 1:30 pm, with thirteen members logged in. It was opened with a prayer by Cynthia White.

President Tom Forsyth outlined the agenda for the meeting. He stated that the combined area of Oak Park Estates and Druid Hills was too large for one block captain chairperson. As such, he suggested that there should be three block captain chairpersons. The motion was presented by Bernice Tjarks and seconded by Mary Harrison. The motion passed.

Tom presented the following individuals to serve as Committee Chairs for OPENA:

- Jacquelyn Peel as Block Captain Chair for Oak Park Estates North
- Patsy Brown as Block Captain Chair for Oak Park Estates Southeast
- Raquel Fuentes as Block Captain Chair for O.P.E. Southwest & Druid Hills
- Brett Anderson to serve as Communications Chair.

The Board approved these nominations.

The next issue centered on the upcoming May general meeting. Again, in view of the current health situation, the meeting will be held virtually on May 19. Faye Williams will be planning the event. Speakers for the May meeting will be Katie O'Brian of the Southwest Gateway project and Ashton Strong of TxDOT. Again, we will use the Zoom platform. Faye has agreed to use her personal account which can accommodate 300 persons.

The citywide cleanup campaign is scheduled for May 16, 2020. After some discussion, Jacqueline Peel offered a motion that we cancel our participation in this event. Beatrice Lovell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom informed the board that the law firm Kirkland set a telephone meeting for Monday April 20th to discuss our filing status. While OPENA has requested a 501 c-3 filing, the lawyers were suggesting a 501 c-4. This new 501 c-4 category was foreign to most members. The issue will be addressed at this meeting.

Tom informed the members that Councilperson Arnold will convene a meeting on Tuesday April 21st at 7:00pm. He then reviewed the role of board member as outlined in the bylaws.

Cynthia White reported on the activity at Redbird Airport. She emphasized that as a member of the steering committee, we had great influence on the Airport Community Planning and the planned development at the airport.

Corey Miles reported on the Crime Watch Committee. He stated that the effort to offer self-defense courses was well received by the police department.

Tom stated that Jack Dieckhoner had put his house up for sale and was planning to move out of Dallas. As such, we are looking for a new chairperson for the Beautification Committee.

Mary Harrison reported on the work of Heritage Oak Cliff. She noted that HOC gave a Grants Webinar on April 4, 2020. All grant applications should be submitted by May 15th, and grants will be awarded on June 8th. She stated that the majority of HOC's money came from home tours. Covid-19 will cause the cancellation of the home tours. As such, there will be little money next year for neighborhood improvement.

Tom added that in a Covid-19 environment, the second phase of toppers for Druid Hills will have to be re-evaluated. The monies promised by the city of Dallas will no longer be there. OPENA should apply to HOC for another grant to cover this cost. Additionally, the VIP program will need signs and a light for roof of their cars.

The committee agreed that any future funds given to Carpenter Elementary School should be designated for emergency supplies.

The meeting ended at 3:30pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Richard Thomas,
Secretary of Oak Park Estates Neighborhood Association (OPENA)
Serving both Oak Park Estates and Druid Hills – Better Together!

