

Oak Park Estates Neighborhood Association (OPENA)

Minutes of the General Meeting on March 20, 2021

The meeting started at 1:30 pm over the Zoom platform with President Tom Forsyth presiding. Tom first introduced the candidates seeking to represent District 4 in the upcoming City of Dallas elections. Each candidate was given one minute to introduce him/herself. No questions were taken. Maxi Johnson will focus on crime and economic development. Matthew Canto will focus on streets and infrastructure. Incumbent Councilwoman Carolyn King Arnold stated the need for continuity in the District 4 Council seat and Johnny Aguinaga is campaigning on a theme of low-income housing. Absent was Lelani Russell.

Tom then made some announcements including:

- The upcoming Candidates Forum is set for Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 pm. The moderator will be Anga Sanders.
- The next neighborhood cleanup will be the weekend of May 1st and 2nd.
- The OPENA Neighborhood Handbook and Directory is now available
- OnCor website can be used to report streetlights that are out
- The Master plan for sidewalks in Dallas is available online. Resident comments and input are welcomed
- Fifteen sign toppers for the Druid Hills Addition were installed in February 2021
- Registration for the vaccine is now open at South Oak Cliff high school
- Member Jacquelyn Peel is still under Doctor's care; our prayers are encouraged.

Next was a report from the Neighborhood patrol office. Officers Martinez and Hill combined to give the update. They stated that:

- (1) we should expect more officers on the street
- (2) the VIP class is set to restart on April 10th
- (3) recent activity on Legendary Dr. resulted from the theft of auto parts and catalytic converters. At this point only one arrest was made.

The topic for the night centered around Zoning for Single Family Neighborhoods. It was a continuation of the program on Gentrification that Paul Carden first gave to OPENA in May 2019. Tom introduced our guest speaker Paul Carden. Paul began by defining zoning and its usefulness. Zoning relates to the size of all buildings, but it is useful for neighborhood stabilization. Paul noted that while zoning tools control such things as setbacks, height and size, density and utilization are affected by demand. Tools like Historical and Stabilization Overlay are not for same size units. They are used to protect areas of distinctive and important elements of the city's historic, cultural, social, and economic landscapes.

As home owners add to existing property, they increase the density of the area. These accessory dwelling units can be rented, but the owner must live in one of the dwellings.

After Paul's program, the OPENA Officers gave their reports:

- Treasurer Beatrice Lovett reported that OPENA has \$3,450.37 in its bank account.

- Lynn Witherspoon also provided an overview of the new OPENA Neighborhood Handbook and Directory.
- Membership Chair Kathy Birks welcomed the following new members who have joined since the January meeting:
 - Idella L. Thomas
 - Lacey & Dane Dowden
 - Matthew Canto (General & Business)
 - Scott & Megan Benton
 - Gwen & Larry Crowe
 - Kelly Joe Williams
 - Cindi Weber

Kathy also reported that the total membership in OPENA is currently at 50 members for 2021.

A final reminder was given that the next OPENA Meeting will be on “All Things Code” on Tuesday May 18 at 6:30 pm!

Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Richard Thomas, Secretary

April 16, 2021