

Oak Park Estates Neighborhood Association

Minutes of Board Meeting Held on February 15, 2020

The meeting was held at the Hampton -Illinois Branch Library. It was called to order at 1:30 pm CDT.

President Tom Forsyth thanked everyone for coming and introduced new residents who will serve on the OPENA board for the coming year. The list of new board members includes:

- Corey Miles, Crime Watch and Code Compliance
- Lynn Witherspoon, Education
- Kathy Birks, Membership
- Jack Dieckhoner, Beautification
- Bernadette Tjanks, Hospitality

Judy Pollock moved that we accept all new members of the leadership team as listed. Mary Harrison seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Tom gave some general comments, a recap of the January meeting and upcoming events. He noted that:

1. The redlining exhibit may be returning to Dallas and efforts will be made to have it on display at the Hampton -Illinois library
2. The beautification effort on February 8th was successful. We had assistance from the Wynnewood Heights Neighborhood Association and Willow Crest Church members
3. The next beautification effort will be on May 15th to coincide with the Dallas Citywide cleanup campaign
4. Oak cliff earth day celebration is set for Sunday April 19 from 12 to 5 pm CDT. OPENA may want to participate.
5. All residents have a standing invitation to attend the luncheon at St. Augustine's Church on the third Saturday of each month.
6. As a result of a \$500.00 donation to the church made by Salesforce, St. Augustine's Church has agreed to allow OPENA to hold our general meetings at the church for the next two years at no cost for the use of their Parish Hall.

The next general meeting on March 21st, will be titled "Where is the food ". Anga Sander of FEED Oak Cliff will be presenting on the perceived food desert in Oak Cliff. She will present healthy food choices that are available to Oak Cliff today and plans to attract better grocery stores to our area. FEED Oak Cliff will also be providing fresh vegetables to residents who attend the meeting.

At the May general meeting we will revert to Tuesday nights. The primary topic at that meeting will center around the Southern Gateway project including both construction along Interstate 35E/67 corridor and also the Deck Park near the Dallas Zoo.

Tom Forsyth reported on the progress on our 501-C3 application. He noted the progress was good. The IRS Form 1023 is currently under review. We will need to sign a limited power of attorney via Form 2848 so that Kirkland and Ellis can represent OPENA with the IRS. The filing of the application will cost \$600.00. After some explanation, the board approved the signing of the letter granting Kirkland & Ellis Power of Attorney to represent OPENA on all matters related to the application of the 501-c3. In addition, the board approved the signing of a Conflict of Interest policy in relation to board members. Mary Harrison offered a motion that we accept these forms as is and we proceed with the signing. Lucy Patterson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all board members in attendance.

Tom mentioned the need for OPENA to make several purchases including:

1. A pop-up canopy tent at about \$200.
2. A projector screen at about \$100.
3. 1,000 prints of the March program flyer for distribution to residents
4. Rental of a PO Box for one year
5. Registration for the Oak Cliff Earth Day at \$30.

After some discussion, the board approved a motion to spend up to \$500.00 for these items. Judy Pollock offered this motion which was seconded by Corey Miles.

Next the minutes for the general meeting January 14th, 2020 were read, accepted and approved.

The treasurer's report showed we had a total balance of about \$ 2663.61.

President Tom informed the board that the first fifteen toppers for Druid Hill were installed. He reminded the board that phase two of the project will be funded by a Vitality grant from the City of Dallas. The anticipated cost was \$ 1591.00. OPENA net cost for this phase will be zero.

Brett Anderson reported on the yard of the month program. He said that no nominations were made for recognition. Tom offered the home of Kim Seese and Brian Brown who live at 3737 Cripple Creek Drive for the March recognition. The board agreed to award the Yard of the Month for March/April time period to Kim Seese and Brian Brown. The board discussed that we need to be more proactive in finding homes to nominate for this award. It was suggested that board members may need to drive the neighborhood and identify homes for a more effective monthly recognition program.

Mary Harrison reported on the work of Heritage of Oak Cliff. She said that the 2020 grants were under review. Current plans are to give a series of educational and informative programs called OC live, offer a nature tour, a bus tour of the historic Oak Cliff and a spring mixer for neighborhood associations.

Kathy Birks, the membership chair, informed the board that so far there were nineteen renewals with another forty-two pending.

Corey Miles reported on crime situation in the immediate surroundings. Of note was the issues surrounding the 7-11 at Polk street and Kiest road. This outlet will be closing early to reduce crime activity. Also, the Save-a-Lot store in the same shopping center, may be closing down.

Corey also noted that a class for the Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) program was being formulated. This training will take place in the spring.

Lynn Witherspoon, Education Chair, made outreach to three institutions in the area. Currently, discussions are in place for an adult education program at the Illinois-Polk library. Contacts are being developed with Carpenter Elementary and Bishop Dunn high school to ascertain their needs and how we can be of service in that regard.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Richard Thomas, OPENA Secretary

Submitted on February 25, 2020