

Oak Park Estates Neighborhood Association (OPENA)

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING on July 16, 2019

The general meeting and ice cream social took place on July 16th, 2019 at St. Augustine church.

President Tom Forsyth called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and introduced the new Committee Chairs on the leadership team:

- Brett Anderson, Block Captain Chair
- Jim Hauck, Communications Chair
- Ann Herbage, Education Chair
- James Fairchild, Social Events Chair

Tom listed items of interest to the residents:

- i) Workshop on neighborhood branding by the City of Dallas on Saturday on July 20th.
- ii) Upcoming City of Dallas budget meetings in August.
- iii) Pet adaption at Dallas Animal Shelter on Sunday July 21
- iv) Luncheon provided by St. Augustine Church on Sunday July 21 at 12:00 noon.

The next item on the agenda was committee reports given by the Committee Chairpersons:

- The minutes for the May meeting were read and adapted. Motion to adapt was made by Jim Hauck and seconded by Yolanda Smith.
- The Treasurer's report showed that we closed the PayPal account and currently have a total of about \$ 1800 in the bank.
- It was noted that on going projects required a commitment of \$2,592 in OPENA funds. With the expected contribution from Heritage Oak Cliff, a net amount of \$800.00 will be needed. Suggestions to raise the needed \$800.00 were encouraged.
- Alex stated that our membership was now 57, while Carla Ranger welcomed all the visiting groups and surrounding neighborhood associations.
- Jim Hauck outlined features of the improved website and encouraged members to provide any information they wanted posted.

The focus for the night was the Crime Watch. The OPENA Crime Watch Committee consists of Lucy Livingston, Joe Lucas, Jim Hauck and Brett Anderson. Jim and Brett provided an overview and introduced Dallas Police Department representatives who gave details on crime prevention.

It was noted that Oak Park/ Druid Hill was part of a larger community, so data was not Oak Park /Druid Hill specific.

However, for this area, there were three robberies in the last three months. All incidents were on businesses.

Members were encouraged to install cameras, ring or similar door bell, get to know your neighbors, use a buddy system and be aware of one's surroundings.

Training for the Volunteers in Patrol program will be provided by Officer Jamison Bone. Lucy Livingston will work to secure five or more persons and coordinate such training.

The officers explained that the 911 system should be used for issues in progress, while the 311 calls should relate to quality of life issues. The officers provided their contact information and stated that the website '**dallaspolice.net**' is a good place to get data related to activity in the city. The officer contact information along with other Crime Watch information can be found on our website at www.opena.org.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted

Richard Thomas, Secretary