

OPNA Fall 2015 General Meeting  
Monday, October 19, 2015 6:30pm  
Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts,  
3901 S Hulen St, Fort Worth, TX 76109

OPNA Board of Directors opened meeting to general membership of Overton Park Neighborhood Association at 6:30pm Mon, Oct 19, 2015.

Neighbors signed in. Membership dues of \$30 was checked in records and paid if not previously paid. About 50 people in attendance.

Tim Taylor, **President**, welcomed. Joanne Viola, **Secretary**, presented print copy of Spring 2015 Minutes available to read. Minutes approved by vote.

Joanne Viola, temporary **Treasurer**, gave report of balance sheet & spending in last six months. OPNA has assets of is approx. \$25,000. Have collected \$8,500 in membership dues this fiscal year (May 1-Apr 30). Have \$6,000 expenses (median maintenance & water \$2400, mailer for membership dues \$500, 4<sup>th</sup> July NA party \$750, insurance \$1300, Overton Night Out ice cream/other food \$1300).

#### **Social Events - Overton Night Out**

\* 3rd annual, Oct 11, about 100 people attended at 3800 block of Overton Park East. Toppers Pizza, Hot Dogs and Texas Ice Cream truck was served. Games and raffle, face painter, balloon artist. Local station firemen and their firetruck were there to tour and answer questions for 2 hours. Nice Sunday afternoon opportunity to visit with neighborhood residents.

#### **Parks & Trails - Tom Hutchinson**

- \* tennis courts by Hartwood & Overton Park West improved, \$20,000 funds raised by National Tennis Assoc,
- \* have interviewed landscape architects for Overton & Foster Park improvements
- \* fundraising next phase
- \* Nature's Essence sculpture - Arts Council contracted designer to integrate sculpture into the meadow, want to add courtyard and walkway, signage with title & explanation. Has been with the FW Arts Council for 2 yrs, we are continuing to followup
- \* need proactive action to preserve trees. City will remove limbs/fallen trees that are safety risk.
- \* formed Friends of Overton & Foster Park Association (FOFPA) - synergy of 4 neighborhoods surrounding the parks.
- \* Goals of FOFPA - Healthy, Nature, Good place to continue walking in & enjoy the beauty.

#### **Medians - Bob Dellamura**

- \* Hulen OPNA & OWNA received XTO funds 7 years ago to be used for a project in our neighborhood. Made choice to beautify Hulen median. Completed 5 years ago and signed Adopt-a-Park agreement with city. Renewed that 5 year agreement, which was approved at OPNA Spring 2015 General meeting.

\* Arborlawn - at OPNA Spring 2015 General meeting approved plan to beautify the Arborlawn median from Hulen, going west to Briarhaven (just before the new Riverhills development). Landscape plans have been submitted to city for approval, includes split-rail fence, crepe myrtles, yucca. To be hand watered for 24 months. Project budget \$3,000 for material plus installation.

### **Communications** - Sue Winter

Overton Life magazine is operational again! Introduced Buddy Puddy, editor of Overton Life. He requested that we let him know if we are not receiving the magazine. It re-started in August 2015. He listed the type of content and strongly encourages all OPNA residents to submit material. Content includes local events, birthday club get togethers, book club, etc, athletes of all types including hikers, walkers!, yard of the month, community news, recipes, pets, OPNA minutes, teacher feature, & more.

OPNA also encourages ALL to join the online closed social network, Nextdoor, to know what's happening in the neighborhood. Has also become a good resource for professional and trade recommendations, and finding lost pets.

### **Traffic** - Mitch Reitman

- \* Requesting from city, bikes lanes on Ranch View/Overton Park East & West. For Ranch View, give pedestrians and bikes a place on the road. For OPE, gets bikes off the park path
- \* Resident at meeting requested the addition of a right turn arrow from Arborlawn (head west) on to Hulen. Request will be submitted to city.

### **Membership** - Cathy Taylor

- \* pay tonight or pay online through Paypal on website: [www.overpark-na.org](http://www.overpark-na.org)

### **Block Captain** - Kirk Kilgore

OPNA can't grow unless we grow small. Happens at the block level. Kirk to contact current block captains and recruit additional.

### **Special Interest**

Passion for Cooking - next date is Nov 7, 3pm at home of Mitch & Melinda Reitman, "What to do with Thanksgiving Leftovers".

### **Mayor Betsy Price**

Applauds our neighborhood. Mayor Betsy says that an active neighborhood is SAFER and STRONGER, because we're looking out for one another.

Regarding our sidewalk, each council member received funds for sidewalks. Goal is to have more complete streets (which includes sidewalk, bike lane, roadway).

Rolling Town Hall - huge success. Toured the whole city, scheduled over several different 'rolling' town hall meetings. FW residents who participated got to see areas of FW in which they were not familiar.

FW is now less than 50% native Fort Worthians. 16th largest US city. Voted Best Downtown and Best for Millennials who are finding jobs in 90 days vs. 9 mos average in rest of country.

High Speed Rail - probable.

In 2020-21 Houston-Dallas. Rail route is as critical as the DFW location was when it was decided. Rapid transit is a critical amenity to offer in our city to stay competitive, particularly from DFW.

New police chief Joel Fitzgerald- first day today Oct 19. Mayor Betsy very pleased to see him doing new employee orientation along with the general group of new employees.

New library in far north

2 new fire stations - Walsh Ranch (far west) and Spinks Airport (far south)

Mayor Betsy attended TX Municipal League meeting in San Antonio. Hearing from other mayors, knows even more why Fort Worth has a lot of great attributes.

COPS (Citizens on Patrol) - works well, it's why crime is low in FW.

Wayfinding Signs for Downtown, the Cultural District, and the Stockyards - city has approved to 'Design and implement a signage system to direct vehicular and pedestrian traffic within the three visitor districts. The signage system will provide information about attractions and parking, plus a coordinated website with same & additional information'. Some signs are installed, more to come.

Stockyards - committed to maintaining its historical significance, Historical District designation in process.

Area was industrial, changed to MU2 - developing new design plan.

Steer Fort Worth - good program, young, up & coming leaders

Panther Island - getting good use

### **Zim Zimmerman**

Elections Nov 3

City charter needs to be updated, in process

Interstate 35 -yes ongoing construction, it will always be in need of improvement, when one section is complete, there's something new to be done in another.

### **Neighborhood Police Officer Charles Gonzales**

Packages being stolen, not catching many. If we see something, SAY something. Officer Gonzales congratulated us on doing a good job with that.

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm