

OPNA Spring 2016 General Meeting
Monday, April 18, 2016 6:30pm
Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts,
3901 S Hulen St, Fort Worth, TX 76109

OPNA President Tim Taylor opened meeting to general membership of Overton Park Neighborhood Association at 6:30pm Mon, April 18, 2016.

Neighbors signed in. 60+ in attendance. Membership dues was collected for the new fiscal year May 1, 2016-April 30, 2107. OPNA offers 4 levels of membership:

Lifetime \$500
Presidential \$100
Patron \$50
Annual \$30

Print copy of Fall 2015 minutes were available to read, plus minutes are posted on the OPNA website www.overtonpark-na.org. A motion was made to approve the Fall 2015 general meeting minutes, seconded, all voted in favor.

Beth Knight, City of Fort Worth Senior Planner, presented information about residential re-zoning in our neighborhood. This is what she said:

What is zoning? It's a tool in place since 1940 or whenever a neighborhood was annexed, to designate the use of land.

OPNA is primarily zoned A-5, single family with 5,000 sqft minimum lot size, and certain structure size & setbacks. We have some duplex and multi (town- or cluster- homes), plus allowance for school, church, park.

Originally there was only one residential zone designation: A. Now, there is

A-5 5,000 sqft min lot size
A-10 10,000 sqft min lot size
A-21 half acre min
A-43 1 acre min

Majority of existing lots in OPNA are bigger than 5,000 sqft.
that the lots can be sub-divided.

In FW, neighborhoods can ask for their area to be changed to a different zone designation, if the lots meet the larger lot criteria.

Reason to do it: to protect the character and look of the neighborhood.

Questions:

Do property taxes change with re-zoning? NO. Taxes are based on how it is used. It is still single family designation.

Duplexes would stay same designation.

There can be a 10% maximum of non-conforming properties in an area. For example, if an area is primarily A-10, there can be no more than 10% that are A-5 or other.

Minimum area that can be proposed for re-zoning is one block face: meaning houses on both sides of one street in a block. In other words, the even and odd house #s on one block.

One Property Owner must sign and in the name that is on TAD. If husband and wife own together, one spouse may sign.

Only downside is that it can change the side and rear setbacks slightly. If one tore down a house and re-built, one may need a variance. But that is a small potential downside that is overshadowed by the benefit of keeping the neighborhood in line with existing character.

The question was asked to the 60+ people in attendance if we want to pursue this re-zoning proposal. The response was overwhelming Yes.

Mayor Betsy Price, who was in attendance, spoke in support for the proposed re-zoning, re-emphasizing the value of protecting the character of the neighborhood.

How do we do it?

- We must collect signatures on petition forms. Need 50% of lots and land area.
- Submit to FW Planning, allow 3-7 days for signature review.
- Proposals are sent to Zoning Commission once/month.
- Next month, sent to City Council for review and approval.

Petition forms were distributed at this meeting. Also available was a list of all properties with their Current Zoning and Proposed Zoning. Owners in favor signed either the A-10 proposal or A-21 proposal, as appropriate.

It was determined that we will move forward with this campaign to educate and collect signatures from all of Overton Park NA. Block captains will be instrumental in helping to collect signatures. All information and petition form will be available on Nextdoor. There will be a designated home address where a form may be submitted. Look out for more information to follow.

End of Zoning presentation

Parks & Trail update from Tom Hutchinson

Various projects ongoing

-daffodils in Overton Park off Overton Park E, south of Ranch View, installed by Boy Scouts Eagle project, facilitated by FOFPA

-Nature's Essence park art sculpture, integration to park design approved by Art Council!, design will be available for our review/comment

Median Adoption Agreements update from Bob Dellamura

-Renewed 5 year agreement to Adopt Hulen median, but we returned mowing responsibility to the city.

-ADDED Adoption of Arborlawn median between Hulen and Briarhaven. Have 5 year agreement. Beautification Project was submitted and approved by City. Will install in Fall 2016. See plans on OPNA website.

Mayor Betsy Price spoke. As a resident of OPNA, Mayor Price invited to attend, and invited to speak and/or answer residents' questions. The Mayor provided an informative update on city and community concerns.

May 7 is Election Day. Charter & Proposition Election

There are 11 items. Top 3 may be most controversial.

1. Change terms of city council from 2 years to 3 years. Currently all 2 yrs and up for election at same time. Too short, inhibits progress, need more time to meet in council, plus it's expensive to run elections. Terms still proposed to expire all at same time, not staggered, as that's what residents preferred when asked in forums. Recommend vote in favor of 3 years.
2. Increase size from 8 district council members plus mayor at large to 10 districts plus mayor. There are positives/negatives. More voices at the table, with each possibly having less impact, but allows representatives to have & focus on fewer constituents. Would become effective in 2021, after 2020 census, which requires re-districting anyway.
3. Increase salaries for council members and mayor. Currently it's \$25,000 for council, \$29,000 for mayor. Proposing \$45,000 for council, \$60,000 for mayor. FW has by far the lowest salaries for council/mayor compared to similar size cities in all Texas & surrounding states. Most who serve in these positions do not do it for the money, but increasing the salary would allow some to serve who could not do it without more funds.

Remaining Props 4-11 are straight forward minor details that are needed to clarify language in our city charter.

4. If a council member dies while in office, allows Council to appoint a replacement if less than a year of term remains.
5. not sure
6. A candidate must live in the district for '180 days', instead of six months as it is currently written (it's same amount of time, but clarifying because number of days in a month varies).
7. Gives Council ability to remove a judge if there is appropriate cause (ie: if convicted of serious crime).
8. -11 Allow for electronic notification of required notices, and smaller newspaper notice.

Other community concerns:

Overton Park East construction: storm drains and water pipes still being replaced, roads WILL be resurfaced when project is complete. Had to work around TCU schedule. Frustrating to have it this way, but it will be complete eventually.

-fencing looking shabby, along the road where there's construction, call Zim or Betsy to let them know and they will call project manager to get it fixed. *(OPNA Board also has project manager contact. We contacted this week and will report project status on Nextdoor when we hear back).*

Lights on Hulen -timing still needs work. Have been fixed, then gets our of sync again. Please report it to TPW or Parks or Betsy/Zim.

Sidewalks where there is new home construction. Ordinance needs to be adjusted. Currently says all new construction requires sidewalks to be installed. But doesn't always makes sense if there are no existing sidewalks on either side. City is addressing the ordinance.

Trail Safety - so many use our extensive trails. All need to stay single file to the right. If passing, say "passing" and do it on left. If someone is not following the rules, let them know. If necessary, let Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) know. We have bike police patrol.

Proud that FW is one of safest big cities in the nation. Thank you to our police officers, including Charles Gonzales and Laura Charlesworth.

Check out new website data.fortworthtexas.gov. It's full of information, incredible tool!

Blue Zones

-way to get connected, get out and exercise, meet people.

-great asset to our city.

Employers ask, when considering opening office in Fort Worth:

-taxes

-education of workforce

-health of workforce... why? leads to better work output and lower insurance costs!)

Blue Zone project helps us achieve better ratings and attract desirable businesses.

Young workforce rated cities in variety of ways.

-FW rated as 'Cool'! A cool place to live and work.

End of Mayor report

Traffic & Safety report from OPNA Board member Mitch Reitman

-Mitch has talked with the city about installing a bike & pedestrian trail on Ranch View between Hulen and Overton Park West, that OPNA would pay to install. City said to submit the paperwork for a proposal. Mitch worked with Bob Dellamura, completed and submitted it.

Waiting to hear back from city.

-Hulen St to Ranch View, proposed to city to remove left turn signal from Hulen to Ranch View, as stop light on Ranch View is 8 minutes long.

OPNA Board Election

Bob Dellamura, Nominating Committee Chair, proposed the slate of new officers, see below, for positions in which existing officers had served max of two terms. Asked for additional nominations from the membership. No additional candidates came forward or were nominated. After review of slate, motion was made to elect nominated officers, 2nd, all voted in favor.

New Officers:

President - Joanne Viola

Vice President - Troy Tuomey

Secretary - Bob Dellamura

Treasurer - Mitch Reitman

Membership - Kirk Kilgore

Past President - Tim Taylor

Director at Large - Dan Buchanan

In Term Officers

Parks & Trails Director - Tom Hutchinson

Traffic & Safety Director - Mitch Reitman

Open Positions
Communications Director
Social Director

Change of OPNA address in the By-Laws proposed, 2nd, voted in favor. Changed to (home of new president):

3913 Overton Park Drive East
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Questions from resident

OPNA Insurance of \$1000 - why? It is required by the city for liability, particularly for OPNA funded activities like 4th of July parade, Overton Night Out, and our Adopt-a-Median Agreements.

OPNA Accomplishment Highlights by President Tim Taylor

Merger between Overton Park NA and Overton West NA
Median Adoption Agreements
Flags displayed on American holidays and TCU Game Days
Strongest Nextdoor (773 members as of today)
Overton Life magazine
Special Interest Groups

NEW upcoming event. Just posted on Nextdoor, explained by planning chair Natalie de La Giraudiere.

MAY 3rd WINE SOCIAL at Put A Cork In It. Look out for regular wine socials to come. All expected to be cost of under \$15. Come out and meet your neighbors.

NPO Charles Gonzales spoke.

-recognized that Mayor Betsy said we have safest neighborhoods in the nation for city of our size!

1. May 5 @ 6pm, Southcliff Baptist Church, Meet New Police Chief Fitzgerald & other police who will talk about Community Policing.
2. Lights out one Berry are being fixed

Block Captain Chair Kirk Kilgore announced that we have 37 block captains who will assist with re-zoning. Needing more block captains for Overton West area. Please reach out to OPNA Board if you can assist.

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm