

Oak Forest Homeowners Association Inc.
Town Hall Meeting Notes
Monday, February 12, 2024
Location: St. Stephen's Church

A. Lucy Fisher Cain called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with **51** people in attendance. **17** additional attendees joined the meeting after 7:00 pm.

Board members in attendance:

Lucy Fisher Cain, President
Stacy Venamon, 1st VP
Nancy Gonzalez, 2nd VP
Carrie Austin, Secretary
Phil Reiser, Treasurer

Frances Fuhr/Kim Folger, Neighborhood Patrol
Deena Alcorta, Public Relations
Danielle Maudlin/Mary Jane Simon, Beautification
Mary Wenzel, Parliamentarian

B. Introduction of Board Members and overview of neighborhood

C. Texas State Rep, Penny Morales Shaw, House District 148

1. Shared map of district after rezoning.
2. Explained legislative process in making our voices heard in Austin, allocation of funds from recent amendments, and updates on legislative initiatives on last ballot in November 2023.
3. Paid Parental Leave

D. Houston City Councilmember Abby Kamin, District C

1. City council redistricting did not impact Oak Forest
2. Celebrated Deed Restriction updates, paid parental leave and pregnancy wellness bank for City of Houston
3. Her office fielded and responded to over 50,000 emails and 311 calls in 2023
4. Construction will start in a week for a Hawk Signal placed between Frank Black MS and Oak Forest Elementary to support safe crosswalks to schools
5. AT&T withdrew application to install tower in Oak Forest
6. Recognized safety initiatives including HPD and SEAL, gun safety, safety at parks (fence and air quality at American Legion Park and other local parks).

E. Houston Police Dept North Station-DRT (differential response team), **Officer Christopher Cabrera, Sgt. P. Galvan**

1. Team addresses nuisance complaints
2. Shared contact info 832-394-3987
3. Discussed alert slips which are available on HPD website

F. SEAL, Erica Rocha and Officer

1. Overview: Shared annual report and SEAL Security services
2. 11th anniversary of SEAL program in Oak Forest
3. Description of types of calls SEAL support – Health and Welfare checks, trespass warnings, incident reports, vacation watch, etc.
 - a) 809 total calls in 2023 (decrease of 107 calls when compared to 2022)
 - b) Vacation watch 235

G. Committee Reports

1. Neighborhood Patrol Committee overview
 - a) Opportunities w/ SEAL – ideas to increase participation and the benefits of participation
 - b) 640 subscribers out of 5500 homes (+20 since 2023)
2. Oak Forest Post Office Rep – Quonshell Leblanc-Ford was invited, but was not present
3. Deed Restriction Committee – Stacy Venamon – Chairman of Deed Restriction Committee

- a) overview of committee & processes (permits; verify surveys; submit drawings for review)
- b) Invitation to attendees to join the Deed Restriction committee
- c) Not all sections have the same deed restrictions
- d) Topics addressed by committee: Parking of Recreation Vehicles, parking on street, lawns
- e) Introduced Alexandria Tolbert (Rep City of Houston)
- f) Introduced Mitchell Katine (Legal Council)
 - (1) Defined OFHA as a civil club due to lack of mandatory membership
 - (2) Emphasized partnership and advantage of using resources from the City of Houston
 - (3) Deed restrictions written in 1948 and have not changed since then. Typically challenging, but not impossible to change.
 - (4) Homeowners have same authority to enforce deed restrictions as organizations
- g) Rentals – Have no time limits. Currently applies to short term and long term. Deed restrictions can be amended to address short term rentals

4. Beautification Committee – Danielle Maudlin and Mary Jane Simon

- a) Fundraising – The Taste of Oak Forest (October 11th 2024 is kick off at Rainbow Lodge)
 - (1) Funds to contribute to Welcome signs
- b) Upcoming: Esplanades and other general clean-up projects
- c) Invitation to attendees to join quarterly clean-up projects and committee are available on the website

5. Community Relations Committee – Deena Alcorta

- a) Shared social media presence and contact information
- b) Community Events available through QR Code
- c) Strong support from community and business partnerships
- d) Upcoming – Mardi Gras Pub Crawl, Wine Tasting Event – Uncorked, Taste of Oak Forest and Tour de Oak Forest, Ugly Sweater Holiday Party
- e) Recurring – Running/Walking Club, Summer Family Movie Nights, National Night Out, New Residence Meet Up

6. Financial Committee – Phil Reiser

- a) Funding Programs
- b) Money Market Investments
- c) Increase in Patrol Program leads to more security coverage

H. Andrea Zepeda –

- 1. New Neighbor to Oak Forest
- 2. Running for Judge 125th Civil District
- 3. Shared early voting information and polling locations

I. Andrea Rafiei

- 1. Supporting American Legion Park for revitalization
- 2. Details available on Facebook page or Houston Parks website

J. Karen Ferris

- 1. Update on proposed Amazon warehouse in the neighborhood

K. Call to Action

- 1. Ways to connect with OFHA and joining the HOA and Patrol Program

L. Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm

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 Nancy Gonzales, 2nd Vice President

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 Mary Wenzel, Parliamentarian

Kim Folger/Frances Fuhr, Co-Directors of Neighborhood Patrol
 Danielle Maudlin/Mary Simon, Co-Directors of Beautification Comm.
 Deean Alcorta, Director of Public Relations
 Mark Thomas, Sergeant at Arms

Notes were recorded and submitted by: Carrie Austin, Secretary

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