

## Edgemere Park Preservation Inc. Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2025

Members: *Coleman Nash, Sam Peregrin, Nikki Kuhn, Sheila Gibbs, Marilyn Edens, Petra Cox, Linda Clement, Henri Bailey, Caroline Dennis, Jann Hook, Corey Phillips, Monica Sexton, Councilperson James Cooper*

The meeting was held at Shakespeare in the Park. Coleman Nash called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Coleman introduced Councilperson James Cooper, to whom we had sent a list of questions in advance. James briefly explained the structure of municipal government and the role of the City Council, as well as the boundaries of Ward 2 and statistics on OKC population growth. Boyd Fulton is Councilperson Cooper's full-time support staff and many of these questions will be followed up by him. He also suggested including the Ward 2 email ([ward2@okc.gov](mailto:ward2@okc.gov)) on any correspondence with the Parks Department or any other city department.

Questions included:

- Maintenance of the creek in Edgemere Park, especially overgrowth in the creekbed;
- Bagworm infestation in evergreens on the west side of the park;
- Speed cushions (like in Putnam Heights), especially near the playground. We have a speed abatement program (the ironically named ASAP; Mary Coyne, contact) and our traffic commissioner, Rob Littlefield, would also be a good contact on this issue and it might be helpful to have him at a future meeting. Speed cushions are a 50/50 budget split (approx. \$2500 per cushion total) between the city and the neighborhood. According to the approved SPUD for the apartments, the developer committed to working with OKC Public Works Department to install speed cushions at no cost to the neighborhoods;
- Historical preservation review and approval project inconsistencies, especially with respect to the 30<sup>th</sup> Street apartment project. James had previously asked for an assessment of the project, which was done, and Boyd can provide it. There was still disagreement post-assessment as to whether the HP process was properly applied. Lindsey Pever may have a copy of this as well and Coleman will follow up to get a copy and provide to the board.
  - James has advocated for a one-page summary and a video describing the zoning and HP process, which has not yet been produced. One of his peeves is that redevelopment of property within the same zoning class does not go before either the planning commission or the city council.
  - OKC may be moving toward a form-based zoning process and James' advice is to be vigilant about the process and individual zoning changes. On the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) ordinance, which currently does not apply in officially-designated HP neighborhoods, but other older neighborhoods are threatened by commercial developers who are purchasing, flipping or tearing down many

- properties in OKC. James advocates for the creation of urban conservation districts (such as Gatewood) in which demolition would be subject to further review, and for design review with neighborhood standards. James and Councilperson Hamon will host a meeting in the fall on affordable housing;
- MAPS 4 funding. It is late to make changes to the master plan but James suggests asking questions ahead of time and inviting a MAPS rep and someone from the Parks Department to attend a future meeting.

Sam Peregrin asked about future traffic issues with respect to the Lexford Park development. James said that left turn lanes are in the works at Walker, although there is behind-the-scenes drama with the owner of the nearby office buildings involving condemnation of some of his property.

James then brought up the infrastructure bond proposal, which will be further discussed at a public meeting after Labor Day. He distributed materials on specific projects, and only specified projects would be able to be funded (i.e., funds would not be transferable). At this time, projects would include:

- Sidewalks all along 36<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Streets;
- Sidewalks and streetscaping along Walker Ave;
- Various street resurfacing;
- Drainage projects;
- Bridge improvements, including on 35<sup>th</sup> Street.

The bond issue will not raise property taxes and will be in the amount of approximately \$2.6 billion. Voter approval of bond projects has historically been low so we are still catching up on deferred projects.

Finally, he explained the new procedure for responses to mental health emergency calls, of which he is very proud. The Mobile Integrated Health program has trained dispatchers and first responders on appropriate nonviolent responses to these situations. James' situation as a minority elected to represent a majority-white district is unique and positioned him to be able to advocate for community policing and nontraditional responses, and he thanked the neighborhood and the rest of his district for these opportunities.

The minutes from the April 29 meeting were approved (motion by Henri Bailey; second by Sam Peregrin; voice vote). The minutes from the May 29 meeting were approved, with one correction relating to the date of the construction of the sound barrier along the Broadway Extension (motion by Jann Hook; second by Petra Cox; voice vote).

The Treasurer's reports for April and May were discussed and approved (April: motion by Jann Hook; second by Linda Clement; voice vote) (May: motion by Jann Hook; second by Marilyn Edens; voice vote).

Monica Sexton was recognized to explain the logistics of the July 4 party. Susie White and Coleman will handle hot dogs. Monica purchased new bunting and obtained other items from the storage unit. Setup will be at 9, with the parade at 10:30, to be led by Grandmaster Matt Goad. No cake walk will be held. Monica requested social media login info, and Henri suggested having additional board members authorized to post to our social media sites. Lindsey has ordered the beer, and sides and desserts will be provided by attendees. Linda Clement suggested having more chips, plates and napkins, and will be providing snow cones. Monica reported that some of the past parties have resulted in complaints to the city, and the city said that permits are required if certain circumstances are present and the fee is \$150. The permit guarantees use of the gazebo and (hopefully) results in mowing. The consensus was to proceed with the July 4 party without the permit and revisit the issue for the Oktoberfest party. We will also need the key to the electric outlet. Coleman will reach out to the usual suspects in search of the key and additional event signs.

Petra Cox was thanked for the color version of the Eppilog after much effort resulting a beautiful final product, which will be mailed out in the near future.

Coleman will follow up on the MAPS 4 issue with a special board meeting and then we will have a meeting with a MAPS 4 rep and someone from the Parks Department.

Dates for Oktoberfest and park cleanup were discussed (sometime in September; depending on football schedules).

Jann is preparing a second round of dues statements and will have that ready sometime next week; she will also check with Ann Parrish to see about adding security corporation dues statements as well.

The July 31 meeting will be skipped in favor of the MAPS 4 special meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.