

Edgemere Park Neighborhood Annual Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2023

The meeting was held at Shakespeare in the Park Theatre in the Paseo, with thanks to Henri Bailey for making the arrangements. Susie White called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

Ryan Adams presented the Treasurer's report for end of year 2022 and the 2023 budget. Year end balances are approximately \$30k in the checking account, \$25k in the money market account and \$100k in the endowment fund. The 2023 budget is based upon approximately \$27k in revenue. Primary expenses include maintenance, utilities, printing and postage and smaller line items. The 2023 budget is based on that of 2022, with a transfer of maintenance and utilities expenses to website development (based on 2022 actual expenses). Susie expressed optimism that the printing and postage expenses would be reduced with digital distribution. The budget as previously approved by the board was presented to the membership.

Doug Eason presented the nominees for officers and trustees (see appendix). He expressed gratitude to Susie White for her leadership for the past two years. The slate of officers was approved (motion by Doug Eason; second by Robert Dennis; voice vote). Several vacancies are still present for block trustees and volunteers were requested. The slate of block trustees was approved (motion by Nancy Cain; second by James Linhardt; voice vote).

Ann Parrish has volunteered to head up the security corporation and presented an update on the status thereof. Currently we have no security patrols but the goal is to reinstate patrols in a sustainable manner, and to have payments made through the website. The dues will remain separate from the neighborhood association dues. She emphasized the importance of the park as the center of the neighborhood. There is a committee actively working on these goals, which has also discussed arrangements with a security company for random patrols four times per day, seven days per week, with emphasis on the park and the perimeter. There is a plan to approach Trinity School and regular users of the park for additional financial support. The estimate by household is approximately \$30/month or \$350/year. There has been an increase in incident reports and anecdotal reports of suspicious activities in the park. Restarting the patrol is contingent on the website start date, for funding. More information will be forthcoming.

Matt Goad reported on the development of the website and logo, the result of several months of work by the committee. Links/sections will include dues payment, mailing list, historical information, photo gallery, city services, events, social/community connections, etc. The newsletter will be distributed via Mailchimp. The "go live" date is estimated to be March or April; content is virtually complete although there are still a few details to be worked out. Matt emphasized that a social media presence is important as well. Collection of email addresses is ongoing and there is a plan to introduce and promote the website through multiple formats, including the newsletter, dues statements and a brochure. The url will be edgemereparkokc.com.

Ward 2 City Councilman James Cooper was introduced by Susie. He emphasized that he has office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays and left contact information. He reported on multiple topics, including:

- Interrelationships between various public policy issues and life outcomes;
- The boundaries and diversity of Ward 2;

- Infrastructure needs and improvements, including an \$800 million bond issue approved in 2017 (Better Streets, Safer City) and an anticipated bond issue in 2026 (every ten years). Street resurfacing needs that remain are \$1.5-\$2 billion. Currently scheduled projects are found by googling “pavement condition index and okc”. Priority candidates for consideration in future bond issues are those streets in the poorest quality (50 or less on the rating scale). Immediate issues such as potholes can be reported to the city action center;
- MAPS 4 funding, including \$96 million for pedestrian and bike accessibility (google “walk OKC” and see Chapter 3, page 68) and sidewalks and streetscaping for Walker from NW 23rd to NW 30th, Paseo and Uptown NW 23rd;
- Park upgrades (\$69 million in MAPS 4), including the current survey and upcoming meeting on January 28 (Clara Luper center at 9:00 am) for public input. He encouraged the neighborhood to work together, and also plan for a possible 2026 municipal bond;
- Zoning changes, including the process for changing current zoning classifications. Residents within 300 feet of properties for which zoning changes are proposed are notified. The planning commission (Janice Powers, Ward 2 commissioner) is the best place for public input. There is significant support for private property rights on the current city council, so Councilman Cooper encourages residents of the historic neighborhoods in particular to provide input on proposed changes;
- Revision of the historic preservation code, with an eye toward best practices around the country. Public input on neighborhood priorities is again requested (Jeff Butler, planning director), although there is not yet a specific proposal. One possibility is more accessory dwelling units (ADUs). OKC currently has over 19,000 residents in need of one and two bedroom housing, with only approximately 3,600 units available;
- Churches recently demolished on the perimeter of the neighborhood. Councilman Cooper indicated his opposition to the demolition of First Christian Church. One possibility is senior housing at 36th and Walker. He is unaware of plans for the site at 30th and Hudson, although the City Council may not be involved if there is no rezoning;
- Crime and community policing. Task force recommendations are before the Council now (google “OKC law enforcement task force”), including annual crisis intervention training for law enforcement officers, access to mental health care for first responders, alternative responses for mental health calls and street outreach teams for homelessness (63% reduction in homelessness in Houston) to be operated by the Mental Health Association. There are also efforts underway to address gang violence and other street crime by interrupting the cycles, based on successful programs in Milwaukee and Newark.

Councilman Cooper further encouraged our association to think beyond the boundaries of our neighborhood for needs in other areas of Ward 2 and the larger community.

He was asked about a recent vote against an increase in police officer compensation. He indicated that his opposition is based on a desire for enactment of a comprehensive program on the root causes of crime and violence, including the aforementioned task force recommendations.

Susie reminded the group of the MAPS 4 open house on Saturday, January 28, at 9:00 am at the Clara Luper Center. Our next event will be the spring fling park cleanup in March or April. Doug reminded the group that all candidates for the upcoming Ward 2 election were invited to present at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

APPENDIX: EPPI 2023 Officers and Trustees

** NEW OR RENEWING

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

** Lindsay Pever 225 NW 33rd Street 405-206-9575 lindseypever@gmail.com 2023-2024

PRESIDENT-ELECT

** Coleman Nash 400 NW 35th Street 405-550-6200 coleman.nash@gmail.com 2023-2024

PAST PRESIDENT

Susie White 3200 N Harvey Parkway 405-669-0950 osagesusie@yahoo.com 2023-2024

SECRETARY

** Caroline Dennis 208 NW Eubanks Street 405-570-5055 garris@sbcglobal.net 2023-2024

TREASURER

** Ryan Adams 3650 N Harvey Parkway 405-488-5992 radamsou@gmail.com 2023-2024

BLOCK TRUSTEES

200 BLOCK 30TH STREET

** Linda Clement 209 NW 30th Street 405-812-3541 linda.clement@steris.com 2023-2024

200 BLOCK 31ST STREET

Petra Cox 220 NW 31st Street 405-412-2220 pcox220@gmail.com 2022-2023

200 BLOCK 32ND STREET

** Doug Stratton 216 NW 32nd Street 404-372-8555 atlanta993@gmail.com 2023-2024

200 BLOCK 33RD STREET

Braton Danielson 215 NW 33rd Street 405-323-7851 braton.danielson@oilstates.com 2022-2023

200 BLOCK 34TH STREET

** James Linhardt 248 NW 34th Street 405-596-6598/405-795-7751 jamesjosephlinhardt@gmail.com 2023-2024

200 BLOCK 35TH STREET

Matt Goad 201 NW 35th Street 405-820-4623 matt@goadabode.com 2022-2023

200 BLOCK EDGEMERE COURT

VACANT 2023-2024

200 BLOCK EUBANKS STREET

Christa Ball 234 NW Eubanks Street 405-255-4117 chogan80.ball@gmail.com 2022-2023

200 BLOCK 36TH STREET

** Wendy Shreffler 208 NW 36th Street 405-706-2924 wshreffler@gmail.com 2023-2024

400 BLOCK 32ND STREET

Henri Bailey 3309 N Hudson 405-525-1514 henri3309@gmail.com 2022-2023

400 BLOCK 33RD STREET

VACANT 2023-2024

400 BLOCK 34TH STREET

Dennis Nauman 433 NW 34th Street 405-528-0238 dennis.nauman@smithandpickel.com 2022-2023

400 BLOCK 35TH STREET

VACANT 2023-2024

400 BLOCK EUBANKS STREET

VACANT 2022-2023

400 BLOCK HILL STREET

VACANT 2023-2024

3100-3200 BLOCK HARVEY PARKWAY

Phoebe Mitchell 3120 N Harvey Parkway 405-550-0584 pbmitchell@phillipsmurrah.com 2022-2023

3300-3600 BLOCKS HARVEY PARKWAY

Ryan Cole 3408 N Harvey Parkway 405-818-2163 rncole09@yahoo.com 2023-2024

NORTH WALKER AVENUE

VACANT 2022-2023

NORTH HUDSON AVENUE

** Kelley Smith 312 NW 18th Street 405-213-8127 kellysmith24@gmail.com 2023-2024

AT LARGE TRUSTEES

Rita Benischek 3608 N Harvey Parkway 405-525-0571 rlbenischek@aol.com 2022-2023

** Jann Hook 3101 N Harvey Parkway 405-834-1138 jphook@swbell.net 2023-2024

Marilyn Edens 3304 N Harvey Parkway 405-640-3628 mmedens4@gmail.com 2022-2023

** Dusty Darr 214 NW 33rd Street 405-788-9387 dusty.darr@oneok.com 2023-2024

** Doug Eason 3400 N Harvey Parkway 405-590-4314 deason@ffncorp.com 2022-2023

ADVISORY TRUSTEES (APPOINTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES)

Eric Groves 426 NW 35th Street 405-525-6712 818-6081 ejg777@aol.com

Sandra Harrison 3600 N Harvey Parkway 405-205-2277 oxnard1969@gmail.com

Marnie Taylor 3212 N Harvey Pkwy 405-525-6106 831-2131 mbtokc@hotmail.com