

LPNA Board Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2016, 6:30 pm
1876 Oak Street

Board Members present: Jude Levy, Dan Bridinger, Kelly Franklin, Marwan Khammash, Betsy Sublette, Alice Sundstrom

Board Members not present: Don Baillie, Jim Lingley

Also present: Jack Notestein, Juliette Reynolds

- **Call to order.** Acting President Jude Levy called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.
- **Election of new officers and board member.** The board acknowledged Don Baillie's resignation as President and Vice President Meg Spinella's resignation from the board.

Alice Sundstrom agreed to serve as President. Dan Bridinger agreed to serve as Vice President. Kelly Franklin agreed to serve as Secretary. Juliette Reynolds agreed to serve on the board to fill the vacancy created by Meg Spinella's resignation.

- Kelly Franklin moved for the nomination of Alice and Dan to the offices of President and Vice President, and the addition of Juliette Reynolds to the Board. *The motion was seconded by Betsy Sublette, and approved unanimously.*
- Jude moved for the nomination of Kelly Franklin as Secretary. *The motion was seconded by Betsy Sublette, and approved unanimously.*
- **Treasurer's Report** submitted in writing and *approved by acclamation* showed a current balance of \$7974.782.
- **Minutes.** The minutes from the March 14 and March 21 LPNA Board Meetings were approved by acclamation.
- Dan gave an update on **CCNA** initiatives,
 - At the recent meeting of the CCNA, representatives were asked to identify their top concerns. The group Dan was in honed in on **traffic, homelessness, and parks.**

- Work is slated to begin in August, 2016 on microtunneling for the new lift station on Mound and 41. This will entail tunneling under Hudson Bayou and below South Osprey. **Portions of South Osprey will be closed to through traffic from August 2016 until June, 2017.**
- **Membership.** Jude reported that LPNA has 9 new members (4 from Tunes and 5 from the Newsletter). She has been handling membership, and LPNA will need someone else to spearhead this going forward. Kelly suggested that Don be approached on this as he had expressed strong interest in this arena. Kelly also reported that interest in the WEX has helped spur involvement, and that the LPNA email list now includes approximately 200 residents.
- Kate gave updates on various **zoning / development** initiatives:
 - **Women’s Exchange (WEX)** proposed expansion.
 - The City’s attorney, Robert Fornier, has suggested to the City Commission that the LPNA’s interpretation of loading zone requirement be used (meaning the existing loading zone in WEX parking lot could be maintained as a grandfathered in non-conforming loading zone, and the expansion of WEX in a larger retail footprint on their Rawls lot would not require a new loading zone). Mr. Fornier has also suggested the City consider changing the designation of either South Orange, or Oak, or both to a secondary street. This change of designation would afford WEX and other businesses and developments facing Orange more flexibility in egress and entrances.
 - The City is currently in talks with WEX to see if these adjustments can provide a solution for WEX’s growth that would not necessitate a loading zone on Rawls (which the City Commission has voted against). The Commission’s decision supporting LPNA’s appeal of the building permit, and denying the loading zone on Rawls, will be formalized in a resolution at the June City Commission meeting.
 - **Laurel Park Overlay.** Kate explained the history leading to adoption of the Laurel Park Overlay, and handed out a map showing the area within 100 feet of Laurel Park’s boundaries which triggers the [Overlay process](#). The process calls for two community workshops with developers in the affected area (one before site plan or building permit requests are submitted and one 30-45 days after submission of an application for

administrative site approval or a building permit). The overlay also provides a process for appeal of administrative decisions (first to the Planning Board, and second to the City Commission).

- **Urban Design Studio.** Chapter 1 of the proposed form-based code has been released in draft form. This chapter covers process, but does not include specific zoning guidelines. A delegation from LPNA (Kate, Jude, Kelly) will be meeting with Karin Murphy from the Urban Design Studio to try and get details on how the proposed process differs from the current process with respect to administrative approval. It does appear from the draft document that the Laurel Park Overlay has been preserved.
- **1938 Laurel.** Jude reported that the [rezone of this property](#) from Office / Business Profession to Downtown Edge, is almost complete, and David Weekly Homes will finally be able to proceed with its plans to build townhomes on that vacant site.
- **Landscaping.** Jack Notestein, who worked with Juliette on the Osprey medians some years ago, as well as a team of residents and City representatives on the design of the pocket park, has agreed to spearhead a landscaping initiative for the Oak Median. This issue surfaces when the City had to remove some diseased palm trees. The City will need to replace those trees. A desire was expressed by residents for better underplantings, which would necessitate adding irrigation to that median. If irrigation is not an option, then wildflowers or other native plants could be explored.

Juliette and Jack are also interested in “branding” for the neighborhood by way of signage and plantings (perhaps wildflowers in the park, the medians, and where owners want to participate, in the right of ways). This broader vision is something that might be pursued over a period of years. The more immediate focus is on finding out what the City’s plans are for tree replacement, and pursuing a County grant for improvement of the Oak median (the County awards up to \$10,000 to neighborhood associations for this type of improvement).

- Jack and Don will be participating in the County’s grant-writing seminar in June.
- Jack will reach out to the City to try and get specifics on their tree mitigation plans.

- **Traffic Calming.** The City ran tests on Oak and Laurel Streets, and the average speed was not sufficiently in excess of the speed limits to warrant new traffic calming measures at this time.
- **Newsletter.** Jude reported that the spring 2016 issue was well received. LPNA Board will need to identify an editor for future editions.
- **Re-bricking.** Alice shared a draft letter to the City regarding rebricking Hawkins Court. She will send the letter on the LPNA's behalf this week. The City would need to clear the site and provide the bricks, and neighbors would be asked to pitch in and help lay the bricks (as was done with south Rawls some years ago).
- **Safety.** The county building and its parking lot seem to have become a homeless gathering place, and Jodi John prepared a report summarizing a number of concerning behaviors. Jodi was able to get the County to lock the gate between the parking lot and Dolphin, which has helped, and Dan reached out to the city police regarding the issues (they have alerted the HOT team).
- **All Faiths Foodbank.** Dan is organizing another LPNA volunteer morning at All Faiths on May 18th or 25th. He will contact neighbors who have expressed interested in volunteering via email to firm up the date.
- **Meeting Schedule.** Due to an impending conflict on Mondays, Kelly asked the Board if regular monthly meetings could be moved to Thursdays. The consensus of those present was "yes" if the meetings could be relatively brief and early. A new regular meeting schedule of 6:00-7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month (except July and August) was agreed to. The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 16 at 6:00 p.m. Meetings will be held at 1876 Oak Street.
- **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kelly Franklin