

SOUTHERN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2013  
HOME OF CRYSTAL EISEN

Members Present:

Kim Bowers	Kerry Martin
Kristi Camera	Evelyne Mitchell
Crystal Eisen	Sam Oswald (late)
Sandi Huxley (late)	Vicki Rodriguez
Jim Jones	Bridget Skinner
Judy Jones	Rob Thomson

**Guest Presentation:**

Reggie Colimon, City of Orlando, Office of Communications and Neighborhood Relations  
407 246 2070

- Mr. Colimon covers districts 2, 4 and 6 for the City (we are 4) and he works closely with Commissioner Sheehan. His goal is to “inform, connect, and involve.”
- Mayor Dyer commissioned a study of City improvements in the past few years and has implemented 136 of the 166 recommendations to date.
- Julie Tindall covers the Mayor’s Matching Grant program (Max. \$5,000).
- The City has a Speakers Bureau on various topics that would be of interest to HOAs.
- Reggie is willing to help solicit opinions of Southern Oaks residents using short surveys sent via Survey Monkey.

**Decorative Street Lighting Initiative**

The topic was subject to much discussion by the Board and guests.

- Key neighborhood personnel: Thomas Tart, former OUC general counsel and Jim Jones, former OUC executive.
- Street lighting falls under the City’s Transportation department.
- Bridget Skinner spoke on Delaney Park’s efforts to change the lighting on a limited portion of the neighborhood.
  - The assessment by the City through real estate tax bills annually was \$130/residence for 10 years.
  - Her recollection was that it needed a 60% petition to come up in City discussions and 50% approval by affected residents to pass.
  - 12 lights cost \$42,000 in 2010 (\$3,500 each)
- The City would fund part of the project, per Mr. Colimon, but it could be a number of years before it officially made it into the budget. Commissioner funds may also be available.

- Would OUC be interested in saving costs of conversions to LED lighting and passing along some of the savings to SOHA?
- Southern Oaks currently has approximately 50 street lights, but decorative lighting could require more lights. Estimated costs could be 150 lights times \$4,000 per light, or \$600,000.
- At some point a resident survey will need to take place. Directors and volunteers will need to canvas the neighborhood. Reasons for the conversion could include the following:
  - A safer neighborhood with lighting beneath the tree canopy and more lights
  - Unique neighborhood community feel
  - The “dark skies” initiative to reduce light pollution

### **Communications – Kerry Martin and Evelyne Mitchell**

#### Ongoing Communications (Kerry)

- Kerry will continue to handle the neighborhood emails, directing people to the SOHA website which will continually be updated by Evelyne.
- There are expected to be two printed and two electronic newsletters in 2014.
  - A budget will be needed for printing to be submitted to the SOHA Board.

#### Website and Directory (Evelyne)

- Evelyne will investigate a new (easier to remember) website address for SOHA which will be directed to the existing information already presented on the website
- Betsy Jacobs has turned over her manual directory updates to Evelyne and Evelyne will put the homeowners’ information into a spreadsheet or other directory printable format.
  - It was proposed that a directory be printed every other year going forward
    - A budget will need to be developed for printing and production and be submitted to the SOHA Board

### **Neighborhood Watch – Rye Merriam**

- This topic was tabled until the next meeting

### **Treasurer Report – Sam Oswald / Kristi Camera**

- The Treasurer’s report was presented by Kristi Camera in Sam’s absence and a review / discussion ensued
- Later in the meeting Sam spoke of the desire to keep dues at the same level but to begin to assess and build better reserves.

## Volunteer Committees

- Family Services Committee was tabled until the next meeting
  
- Social Committee (Vicki Rodriguez et al)
  - Rob Thomson reported on the success, cost and donations made from the Halloween kickoff party on October 31
  - A brainstorming session included the following potential social events for the neighborhood (those in bold are targeted for 2014):
    - **Easter Egg Hunt on Sweetbriar**
    - Fishing Contest
    - **Food Truck Night**
    - Outdoor Movie Night
    - Fire Truck visit
    - Christmas Caroling with Hayride
    - **A women's wine club get together is tentatively scheduled for February (Crystal Eisen)**
      - A corresponding men's get together on the same night was proposed

## Landscaping / Sprinkler Bids

Kristi Camera and Sam Oswald updated the Board on the current providers and areas that need to be attended do as the responsibility of SOHA. They are soliciting bids on services and will present their findings at the next meeting. We currently use four different providers (flowers, trimming, pest control, and irrigation). Initial recommendations include keeping the irrigation and flowers (Colorblock) providers but potentially changing pest control and landscaping.

## Other Business

- SOHA Garage Sale will be February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. OPD will be hired and we will pursue a charity van pickup at the end of the second day
- Tree trimming can be requested for right of way tree branches from the City of Orlando.
- Rob Thomson will ask Wendy Thomson and Estella Yonfa to consider decorating the two Southern Oaks entrances with reusable holiday decorations.
- Sandi Huxley provided the Board members with binders filled with general SOHA information.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Thomson II, SOHA Secretary