

The Greater Oak Hills Civic Association

Minutes of a Special Meeting

“Safety Issues regarding Oak Hills Neighborhood & The Arboretum”

Summer of 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Hilltop Arboretum

Attending: Bubba and Wanda Anselmo, Tim Schowalter, Jimmy Clark, Marty Lensing, Margaret Goodwin, LSU Deputy Russell Roge, Terri Kring, Olga and Eddie Pettigrew, Peggy Davis, Caroline Alberstadt and Patricia Birkett.

Bubba opened the meeting by introducing Peggy Davis, Executive Director of LSU’s Hilltop Arboretum. Peggy presented Hilltop’s Arboretum’s plans to address security concerns at Hilltop and its surrounding area. Hilltop and residents of Oak Hills have witnessed an increase in unauthorized vehicles and individuals. An incident of two or three weeks ago prompted Olga and Eddie to make an emergency call to the EBRP Sheriff’s office regarding two black males that rang their door bell at 2:30 a.m. during the weekend asking for help and claiming someone had been “shot”. Olga stated that there is an increase in patrol by LSU’s police and the area sheriffs as well. Fred Feldmore, LSU’s facilities director, is aware of the situation and supports plans to increase signage and security measures. There is a gate designed by Dennis Mitchell and monies have been designated from Hilltop’s budget (estimate cost is \$5,000 – 6,000) towards the purchase and installation of the gate. A draft of the gate’s physical structure was passed around to the attendees.

Deputy Roge reassured those at the meeting that LSU’s police officers are patrolling the area on a regular to irregular basis and will respond from anyone that may have a situation that is questionable regarding Hilltop or its perimeters. He passed around phone number tabs to put on key chains with area enforcement emergency phone numbers. The irregular patrols are maintained to keep the “guess-work” apparent to those who are watching for opportunity to engage in illegal trespassing. He stated that a person caught on the premises of Hilltop between dusk and sunrise will receive a “ban” from the premises which means that their identification is noted and they receive a citation stating that the next time they are caught in the area, they will be charged with trespassing. Roge stated that anyone may call Major Rabalais with any questions if they can not reach him.

Marty Lensing presented concerns regarding the proposed location of the front security gate at Hilltop and further discussion followed. Following discussion regarding lighting options for Hilltop and security cameras was initiated as well as plain clothes police. Marty suggested a page on the website for posting of concerns or news that others may be interested in reading. Wanda stated that she would update the message boards at the entrances of the subdivision.

Olga stated that individuals visiting Hilltop after hours are usually not enjoying the area's amenities but are engaging in vagrant and possibly illegal use and passage of drugs. Some are engaged in a place to park to meet after hours. Deputy Roge supported her claims that illegal transport of drugs is activity at Hilltop. This is an ongoing issue at most "public" areas within the city.

Discussion of installing a hurricane or wood fence surrounding the Arboretum perimeter along with a gate on Pecan Grove Ct. entrance was discussed. The board agreed to wait and see how more security patrols worked for the time being.

Deputy Roge stated that security cameras could be used to "log" or archive someone's illegal use of the area.

Bubba thanked Peggy Davis and Deputy Roge for their action being taken and stated that the association would be communicating with them and thanked them for their support of our association.

Caroline proposed the following social events to be sponsored by the GOHCA:

The ladies tea/coffee.

A wine and cheese party.

The Santa Claus Christmas picture event.

Bubba made the motion to accept and Marty seconded.

Discussion took place regarding the intersection of N. Oak Hills Parkway and Siegen Lane. Bubba stated that he has knowledge regarding prospective buyers. It was decided that GOHCA supports A-1 residential lots at that intersection.

Jimmy stated that he needed some clarification on the block captain's duties. The information gathered by block captains will be used to publish the GOHCA directory.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Birkett