



Greater Oak Hills Civic Association (GOCHA)

January 10, 2017 Special General Meeting

The GOHCA met on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice President Brian Hanchey. Brian introduced special guest Chandler Loupe, District 3 Metro Councilman, to discuss the rezoning application for the properties formerly listed as 12831 and 12841 N. Oak Hills Parkway from residential to commercial, currently listed as 9696 Siegen Lane (at the southeastern entrance to Oak Hills Park off of Siegen Lane).

Councilman Loupe notified everyone there would be a Planning Commission Meeting on January 17th and this application was on the agenda. He informed the group that the Planning Commission only makes recommendations to the Metro Council and does not approve the application. The Metro Council is the approval authority.

Brian Hanchey described the property and the history of the property ownership and some of the issues to the Councilman such as:

- a. Property was residential for over forty years;
- b. Overwhelming neighborhood opposition to rezoning;
- c. Unnecessary and unwanted traffic resulting in a safety issue especially for our children and older adults;
- d. How rezoning will diminish the appearance to the primary entranceway to our neighborhood;
- e. Currently there is over 1 million available office space therefore additional retail/office space is not needed and the "neighborhood" does not desire any "office" space;
- f. There will be a negative impact on home values; and
- g. Increased health and safety issues as commercial property would bring on more crime and possible environmental concerns.

Brian Hanchey told Councilman Loupe that the Board voted against the rezoning application and is going door-to-door with a petition for all willing residents to sign and voice their opposition.

It was pointed out that the current application for commercial property could be for up to (4) 2,500 sq. ft buildings for a total of 10,000 sq. ft. total office space (if re-divided into 2 lots; 5,000 sq. ft. if only 1 lot) and up to approximately 45-50 parking spaces with an entrance from Siegen Lane.

Councilman Loupe stated Donnie Jarreau Developments, LLC was the interested party in purchasing the property for what is called "Neighborhood Office*" utilization and he would be amenable to working with the community.

Councilman Loupe answered numerous questions from residents.

The Councilman stated he would let the Planning Commission know that as he represents our community he will vote as requested by our Association.

Due to the fact that the Association was just notified of the January 17th Planning Commission Meeting on this application, Councilman Loupe suggested he recommend the application be moved to the next Planning meeting on February 20th to give us time to obtain more information needed to present our case. **He stated it was very important that everyone attend this meeting to voice our opposition.** He also stated that we present information in the following format:

- a. Health;
- b. Safety; and
- c. Welfare.

Brian thanked Councilman Loupe for his time and support.

Planning Commission Meeting on February 20th, 5:00 pm, will be held at 222 St. Louis Street, Room 222, in the Government Building.

Residents were informed if the Planning Commission states the application meets all requirements, the application will be sent to the Metro Council for approval. The Association will notify all residents of the date of the Metro Council Meeting in which this application will appear on the agenda for approval. Residents will be encouraged to call members of the Metro Council to voice their opposition/support to this application. Councilman Loupe also stated it is critical if the application is presented to the Metro Council **that everyone attend this meeting to voice our opposition.**

Brian let the residents know that **Jairo Leon** has offered to help him coordinate this effort. His number is [225-266-7608](tel:225-266-7608) and email is jairoleonarch@cox.net Brian or Jairo will call a meeting to coordinate our efforts, therefore Brian encouraged all those who would like to provide assistance or information please contact either of them.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Madeline McAndrew
Secretary, Greater Oak Hills Association

***Neighborhood Office could be an Animal Hospital, Branch Bank, Office Building (doctor office, lawyer office, dentist, massage therapist, etc.)**