

**Greater Oak Hills Civic Association
Board Meeting – Tues. April 16, 2019 6:30 PM
Hilltop Arboretum Board Room**



Ellen Elias ___x___ Jerry Satawa ___x___ Lindsey Litchfield ___x___ Rodney Underwood ___x___
Kim Moore ___x___ Steve Toben ___x___ Madeline McAndrew ___x___ Marty Lensing ___x___
Karla Raby _____ Mackenzie Shaw _____

The presence in person of more than one-half (1/2) of Board members qualified to vote shall constitute a quorum necessary to conduct business. Each Board member shall be entitled to one vote.

Committee Chairs: Martha Austin ___x___, Chris Payton ___x___, Beau Wolfe _____x_____

Other attendees: Sam Pernici, Kathryn Foster (potential renter), Steven Mercier, and James Robinson.

1. Ellen Elias, President, called meeting to order. A quorum was present.
2. Introduction of new & existing board members, committee chairmen, volunteers, & guests.
3. Minutes of March 19, 2019 General Membership Meeting were approved per the emailed notice dated 4/9/19 by the Board members. The minutes were posted on the Association's website.
4. Reports of Officers and Committees
 - a. Treasurer – Report by Rodney Underwood
 - i. The Association's information has been updated with the Secretary of State to include our new president Ellen Elias.
 - ii. The Association's income taxes are complete for the year and we are up to date with everything we need to file for the state.
 - b. Membership Committee – Report by Martha Austin
 - i. Reported that we currently we have 309 paid members. There is a total of 742 residents in the Greater Oak Hills neighborhoods.
 - c. Communication Committee – (off-agenda) – Ellen Elias, President
 - i. A recommendation was made to implement a Communication Committee to handle newsletters and other communications for the Association. A motion to approve was made by Madeline McAndrew and seconded by Kim Moore and approved by the Board.
 - ii. Postcards or letter mailed to all non-paying residents, with proposed use of funds – The Board approved the mailing of a letter to non-paying members and note from the president.

- iii. It was proposed that the Association consider selling advertising in the Association's directory to assist in the cost of publishing the directory in order that the Association may provide copies to all residents of our subdivisions. The Board decided we would publish new directories this fall.
 - iv. It was proposed to bring back a Newsletter to be published on the Association's website and to share the link to the applications Facebook and Nextdoor. Ms. Elias will talk to Nancy and John Tooraen, GOHCA Facebook Monitors.
- d. Beautification Committee – Report by Beau Wolfe
- i. Beau Wolfe, Beautification Chairman, presented three bids he received for the maintenance of the Association's grounds. However, due to the fact that written specifications were not provided initially to all prospective bidder, the Board decided to cancel the current bids and re-bid the project to insure all bidders obtained the exact same information. The Board members requested we cover all current services; companies bidding to be licensed and insured; and include a hold-harmless clause. Mr. Wolfe will develop the written specifications by the next Board meeting and send to Ms. Elias, which in turn will be forwarded to the Board for review and approval prior to distribution to bidders. Once the bids have been received, the Board will review the recommended proposal and approve any contract. A written contract shall be developed between the Association and the successful bidder.
- e. Safety Committee – Deputy report (Mackenzie Shaw, Chairman)
- i. The Safety Committee Chair was unable to attend the meeting and it was recommended that the Board hold any discussion on the Deputy's patrol until Ms. Shaw was able to attend.
 - ii. Marty Lensing formed a motion for our safety director to get with deputy to emphasize with him priority on residential security throughout neighborhood over speeding; M. MacAndrew seconded, R. Underwood approved.
- f. Block Captain Committee – Report by Kim Moore
- i. Kim Moore, Block Captain Committee Chair, stated the Association currently has fifty-one block captains. It was recommended we will have another push for block captains for those areas in which still need representation.
 - ii. Ms. Elias requested a meeting with the block captains. Ms. Elias and Ms. Moore will set a date for the meeting(s).
- g. Welcoming Committee – Report by Ellen Elias
- i. Currently we do not have a Welcoming Committee Chairman

- ii. To assist the Chairperson, Block Captains will notify the welcoming committee in order that they may be able to pick up/give a small gift to new residents as they are moving in (perhaps directory, sticker, small plant, etc).
- h. Social Committee – Report of Ellen Elias
 - i. Currently we do not have a Social Committee Chairman
- i. Federation of Civic Association report – Report by Chris Peyton
 - i. Chris Payton, GOHCA’s Representative, attended a meeting on crime prevention district and greater federation with a presentation by Adam Knapp.
 - 1. Mr. Adam Knapp, Chief Executive Officer of the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce, discussed the proposed new Mississippi Bridge, which is being touted as part of the solution to the city’s daily traffic gridlocks. He also discussed the issue of blight and re-development efforts in North Baton Rouge (with over 1,600 properties in EBR alone)
 - 2. Crime prevention district – These districts are primarily for associations having trouble obtaining sufficient budgets and districts due guarantee an income stream. The process does take two to three years process, the neighborhood must vote, the you must have a legislator sponsor the bill. If successful an item must be placed on the ballot.

5. President’s Agenda

- a. One board position available (Vacancy due Ellen Elias’s election as President)
 - i. Steven Mercier was appointed to take over Ellen’s position on the Board.
- b. Funds for City Parish speed humps (as approved at the March membership meeting)
 - i. Per Rodney Underwood, Treasurer, the Association is still waiting on an official invoice from the City.
 - ii. Ellen Elias spoke with Fred Raiford and invited him to the Board meeting; however, he was unable to attend. Ms. Elias requested EBR to submit two separate invoices:
 - 1. \$5000 to the GOHCA; and
 - 2. \$2500 to the North Oak Hills Parkway Residents
 - a. Mr. Underwood has a list of residents who contributed to the Residents’ fund and the amount that they contributed.
 - 3. The Treasurer will write two checks for transparency purposes.
- c. Topics brought up from members at the March 19th meeting
 - i. Unable to completely discuss this issue as time expired, however will add to next month’s agenda.

- d. By-Laws – final clarification on “member” and proper grammar
 - i. Unable to discuss this issue as time expired and will be placed on next month’s agenda.
 - e. Postcards or letter mailed to all non-paying residents, with proposed use of funds
 - i. Discussed in “4c” above.
 - f. Expense for deputy to issue speeding citations?
 - i. Discussed in “4e” above.
 - g. Better/more communication about meetings (April mailout to non-paying members)
 - i. Discussed in “4c” above.
 - h. Update on publishing neighborhood directory and discussion of some funding through advertisements within our local area.
 - i. Discussed in “4c” above
6. Other topics of discussion (off-agenda): Report by Sam Pernici
- a. Mr. Pernici met on Monday morning with Professional Security Group out of Prairieville (in business for 9 years) to discuss security cameras.
7. Questions and Answers – open floor to visitors
- a. Time expired.
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.