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**OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**Monthly Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**: 6:10 PM. Called to order by President Vickie Litton, at North Garland Library meeting room.

**Attendees**: Vickie Litton, Joetta Harris (arrived after start of meeting), Cecile LaBossiere, Joshua Lamb, Katie Fleming, Star Toups, Charles Leonard, Lee Litton, Oliver Harter, Yvette Bonavita (arrived after start of meeting)

**Minutes for February 4, 2025 --** Approved prior to meeting via email (C. Leonard; O. Harter; V. Litton and L. Litton)

**BOARD UPDATES AND DISCUSSION**

**Update from Nominating Committee:**

* The committee candidates are Jillian Henderson, Joan Nichols, and David Parrish (volunteered only if we could not find a third person). As of this date, they have the following candidates for the 2025-2026 fiscal year:

President Yvette Bonavita

Vice President Megan Vernon

Treasurer Sarah Freeman, Incumbent

Secretary Vickie Litton

District 1 OPEN (WIP) – Emma volunteered to assist the Director.

District 3 Jackie Reynolds

District 5 OPEN (WIP)

District 6 OPEAN (WIP)

District 7 Joetta Harris, Incumbent

Approved by ONA President

Events Jillian Henderson

Social Media Kate Fleming (part of Communications team)

**Communications (Facebook update)**

Katie Fleming gave an outline of her goals for Oakridge Facebook and what she has to date (see attached). Katie also reviewed the calendar that she prepared reflecting different events that should have Facebook posts. We need volunteers to be ADMINS for Facebook who can assist in checking people who want to participate in the Oakridge Facebook. Megan Vernon volunteered to be an ADMIN. To qualify to participate on the ONA Facebook a name and address must be entered. Cecile will send the Oakridge name and address report to Katie. When a request is received to be in the Facebook group, it can be checked to confirm that the person is a resident of Oakridge. We can flag residents that are renters versus owners. We can make use of a QR code that we could have at all events. Discussion ensued on how to get the word out to Oakridge about the new Facebook page. We need to do a test first in April or May then launch on June 1, 2025.

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**Financial Summary**

Sarah Freeman is not in attendance, but she sent her Financial Summary to post on the ONA website and in the May newsletter.

**Membership**

Cecile LaBossiere advised that she will be posting the signs this week at all entrances for our membership drive. There will be an article in the May newsletter as well. She reminded us that the ONA fiscal calendar is June 1st to May 31st. She is asked about our web page and who maintains it as she is having issues with people joining via the web and wants to revamp the process. Vickie advised that Jack Catalano maintains the website and that it is not interactive. Vickie will send Cecile Jack’s contact information. Cecile wants to change verbiage from member to maybe “supporter” to get people to donate money and not necessarily being a “member.” The flag color this year will be blue. Cecile is attempting to create a campaign to get renters involved in the ONA and send donations. Oakridge has approximately 140 rental properties out of the 1,160 homes. Cecile mentioned that Oakridge is a remarkably diverse community and that we should attempt to form contacts with other groups such as the Vietnamese Center that can assist us in engaging residents and encouraging participation in the ONA. Cecile will discuss it at the Daytimers Meeting as they may be able to help with contacts.

**Communications**

Star Toups carved out deadlines for submitting articles and/or presentations for the ONA newsletter and General Membership Meeting presentations. All newsletter articles should be submitted on the second to the last Friday of each month so that we can get the newsletter posted in a timely manner.

Regarding the February, May, and September newsletters these are printed and sent out to Oakridge.

The deadline would be second to last Friday of each month. (i.e., April 18 and May 22) for the printed newsletter Star uses the “free” version of CANVA to produce the newsletter which takes much longer to format and edit versus the CANVA version that has an annual cost associated with it.

The articles need to be in Word or Google Doc format, which is much easier for Star to convert for the newsletter. For presentation slides, the format may differ.

Star encouraged Oakridge residents to talk to vendors that they use (i.e., dentists, doctors, yard service, etc.) asking them if they would like their business cards or signs to be posted at ONA events and noted on our Facebook page – advertising $300/year. Star also asked residents to send her any birthdays, graduations, births, anniversaries, etc. – with dates so that she can include the dates in the monthly newsletter and the dates can be posted on the ONA Facebook. .

We also discussed the lack of service from Sir Speedy and that their pricing has increased. The newsletters are not being sent in a timely; therefore, residents do not receive notifications of upcoming events which affects attendance. Star will investigate and advise.

**Crime Prevention & Safety**

Vickie advised that we only one incident on the March Crime Report that was confirmed by Officer Murphy and asked everyone to keep up the excellent work.

**Events**

Jackie Reynolds was not present as she left March 25th for a trip to Japan and will be gone for two and a half weeks. Vickie stepped in with the organization of the Spring Fling Picinic since Jackie is traveling. Jackie was sent

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an Excel spreadsheet that reflects a “To Do List” for the May 4th event so that she returns she will be able to follow up on any outstanding matters and discuss needs with Vickie.

**Environmental**

Joshua Lamb and committee members will create the time sheets for volunteers to complete. ONA Facebook will continually post when and where work is to be done with sign up opportunities. He would like the next steps to be continually updated as well as sign posted. The Vitality Grant Proposal is at the City attorney’s office waiting for signature. The project was moved from spring 2025 to fall 2025. This change in dates will fit in nicely with the modernization of our Oakridge communications. The brick walls are not part of the grant. We will be power washing the brick entrances and will repair the brick in the beds themselves. Lee asked that we check with Joshua to see if there is water available at the entrances for the power washing. Please put this item on the May general membership agenda asking for associations/groups to volunteer to help with labor which can be used by students seeking scholarships as volunteer hours.

The perimeter wall is a different project. Cecile believes that this time next year we will have an outline as to how to proceed with repairing the perimeter wall.

**Director District 7**

Joetta Harris asked about the possible candidate Mike Devaney. The Nominating Committee is working on District 1, 5, and 6 candidates for district director. We advised Joetta to reach out to Joan Nichols to see the status of candidates for the district director open position.

**Director District 4**

Olliver Harter has no updates.

**Director District 2**

Charles Leonard has no updates.

**Events**

The Spring picnic is scheduled (party trailer has been reserved) for Sunday, May 4th. The cul-de-sac at Rocky Trail and Loan Oak Trail is available if Vickie is not able to get the approval of residents on Golden Oaks to use their street for the event. The Golden Oaks location is larger than the other area and would be able to accommodate the fire trucks and police vehicles, etc. to be present at the event. Vickie will go door-to-door to ask the residents living on Golden Oaks Drive for permission to use the area for the picnic. Vickie applied for the city grant requesting $300 for the Spring Fling Picnic for food and drinks. She advised that we had to give the City proof of purchases with copies of receipts.

**Discussion**

 Star asked about the condition of the sidewalk by their property and the “hole” from rain. Vickie recommended that Star send her concern to eAssist and have everyone flood eAssist on this matter.

Vickie mentioned bridge maintenance over Duck Creek and will file a request with eAssist.

Duck Creek Golf Club -- Jillian advised that she has heard that the Golf Club owners were planning to erect a metal building on the property.

Vickie asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lee Litton motioned, and Jillian Henderson seconded and all approved.

Adjournment: 7:12 pm

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**Next Meetings:**

May 6 (BOD) and May 22 for General Membership. Vickie is following up with the City for the Holford Recreation Center meeting room instead of the library.