

**OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 7:00 pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Call to Order:** 7:10 pm. Call to order by Vickie Litton

**Attendees:** Vickie Litton, Yvette Bonavita, Cecile Labossiere, and Joshua Lamb. Several people were either traveling and/or ill.

**Minutes for July 1, 2024**

The Minutes were not submitted for approval as we did not have a quorum. The Minutes will be submitted again at the October 7, 2024 meeting for approval.

**Update from Joshua Lamb, Environmental Director the Neighborhood Vitality Grants**

Joshua asked that the following paragraph be added to the monthly ONA newsletters.

“Hello neighbors. We are finalizing estimates for the Neighborhood Vitality grants that covers the Ridge Oak and Laurel Oak entrances as well as the border between our neighborhood and the apartments off of Diamond Oaks. The hard scape that we are considering is flagstone and crushed granite. Please keep your recommendations coming! Also, please keep a lookout for any leaks or soaked areas that could indicate irrigation problems as this impacts our utility bills. Good Bee has been great in collaborating with us to get these chronic issues resolved. As always, we appreciate your help in keeping our neighborhood beautiful and a harmonious environment for all. “

Joshua also forwarded the email from the City of Garland with their feedback from the Office of Vitality Program that is detailed. **Following are the highlights of the City’s feedback:**

The medians in Ridge Oak Dr. and Laurel Oaks Dr. belong to City of Garland but are maintained by the neighborhood per the agreement signed in 1993 with the Parks Department. Should we wish to make any changes to the landscaping, we will need to submit a landscape plan of the proposed changes, which must include a drawing with a list of materials they plan to use, in addition to representative pictures of what it will look like.

Fences/Screening walls are not eligible through the Matching Grant. Replacing the border between the apartment complex and neighborhood would not be an eligible project.

Diamond Oaks Border Between Apartments and Stoneridge Drive Alley: GIS and Plat attached; plat is No. 5. Existing shrubs and fence are either within the Apartment’s property on the north side of the alley or within the Alley ROW. The property owner to the north of the alley is responsible for the maintenance of the fence and shrub north of the alley.

- Modifying existing improvements north of the alley is not allowed without the property owner to the north’s permission.
- Confirm whether existing fence is within ROW or on Apartment’s property. Preliminary information we received a few years ago shows the fence within the apartment’s property, but not by much.

**OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 7:00 pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**

- Any improvement cannot encroach into the Alley ROW; therefore, the improvements would have to be placed on the apartment's property with their permission

We can place benches in all the areas, but the benches have to be on a concrete pad.

Joshua discussed the highlights with the Board. Cecile did voice concern about putting benches on the medians on Ridge Oak Dr. and Laurel Oaks Dr. because of the heavy traffic on those streets and the speed that drivers enter the neighborhood. The final submission to the city is due September 23, 2024.

Yvette will send contact information for her landscaping vendor so that Joshua can contact them. The city requires three vendor bids and scope of work.

**Update from Event Director, Jackie Reynolds regarding the clothes and food drives will be discussed at the next meeting.**

**Update from Cecile Labossiere, Membership Director**

A recommendation has been received to leave the Membership signs on display in the neighborhood year-round. This matter was discussed with the following outcome:

- Joshua and Yvette recommended that the signs remain on display until after the annual General Membership meeting.
- Cecile will review the ONA Bylaws to check the guidelines for the sign(s) display.
- This matter will be discussed again at the October 7th meeting.

**Update on the National Night Out (NNO) event Tuesday, 10/1/2024**

- Duck Creek Golf Course parking lot is not available to us for the location of the 2024 event.
- Vickie contacted the City of Garland Parks and Recreation Department requesting the use of Holford Park for our NNO event. As of today, we have not received a response from the Department.
- Vickie contacted our NPO, Officer Murphy, to relay the issue of a location for the NNO. Officer Murphy confirmed that we could do a caravan through the neighborhood with Citizens on Patrol vehicles, police vehicles and fire department vehicles. We are to confirm with Officer Murphy once it is determined if Holford Park would be available to us.
- Vickie also advised that she has contacted the Garland Fire Department to request use of a fire truck and an ambulance.
- Joan Nichols will assist Vickie with the announcement through EventBrite about the NNO event.

**Update for Treasurer, Sarah Freeman**

Cecil spoke with Sarah, who confirmed that she was still able to manage the Treasurer's responsibilities.

Vickie has received emails from Simple 990 regarding Form 990 Series filing for the period ending 05/31/2024. Cecile asked Vickie to forward the email to her as she will be meeting with Sarah

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**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
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**Zoom Meeting**

Wednesday, 9/5/24 and that she would discuss the email with Sarah to determine what should be filed for our 501(c)(4) organization and advise Vickie.

**Update for General Membership Zoom Meeting, Thursday, 9/26/2024.**

Vickie reminded everyone to get their presentations for the meeting to Communications as soon as possible so that we will be prepared for the Zoom Meeting.

Vickie will invite our District Director and Officer Murphy to participate in the Zoom Meeting.

Since we did not have a quorum (need seven members), Vickie advised the members on the Zoom meeting that we would not discuss Old Business, and 2024-2025 Goals as originally noted on the Meeting agenda. We did not have any District Director in attendance due to travel and/or illness. Districts 1, 3, and 6 remain open as well as the Secretary, and Communications Director.

**Call by Vickie to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Joshua made a motion to adjourn and all seconded.**

**Next Board Meeting:**

Date: Monday, October 7, 2024, 7 pm