

## Laurel Park Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes, May 19, 2025

Held at Tamiami Tap

Attending: Matt Arcari, Steve Fantauzzo, Stim Schantz, Marc Epstein, Ron Kashden, Annette Liggett, Juliette Reynolds, Ron Watts. Absent: Helen Habbert

The meeting started at 5:10 pm.

Items discussed:

1. The minutes of the April 21st were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report:

A. Current checking account balance at the end of March was \$15,535.86.

B. Treasurer Stim Schwartz reminded the Board that most expenses paid during the past month were related to the Music in the Park, with all but approximately \$100 to be reimbursed by the city grant for the event.

3. Membership:

A. Annette Liggett and Ron Watts will be leaving the Board this summer. Both are willing to help with any transition or special project needs that might come up but were not planning to stand for reelection next February. That will require filling the two spots on the Board in addition to selecting Board members to serve in the roles of Membership Chair and Secretary. Ron Watts made the motion to offer Board positions to Jason Taylor and Laura Charron starting with the September meeting. Juliette Reynolds seconded the motion, and it was approved 8-0. Matt Arcari will speak with Jason and Laura to confirm their interest in serving the neighborhood in these roles.

B. Annette gave a breakdown of donation levels from memberships so far this year as follows: 29 gave \$100 or more; 21 gave between \$50-\$99; 25 gave between \$25-\$49; 18 gave no donation. (Numbers could represent either individuals or couples depending on the household). She believes most new memberships with no donation came from the Music in the Park event.

4. CCNA Report: Ron Kashden reported that the group has formed committees on storm water and air quality to look at those two issues in the city.

5. Fence Around County Complex: In follow-up to the April meeting, both Steve and Matt reached out to Benderson asking for help in getting the fence fixed. Steve heard back that it

was the tenant's (the County) responsibility. Regardless, Marc said the fence appeared to have been repaired (and that was confirmed after the meeting).

## 5. Committee Reports:

A. Bayou Committee-nothing new to report

B. Communications-

1. The Newcomers welcome event is set for Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8:30 pm at Stim Schantz's home. The current estimate is for 30 to 40 attendees. Graham Capital has offered to cover the \$500 in expenses for the LPNA.

2. Newsletters-we'll continue with the goal of producing two printed newsletters (~Oct and ~Feb). Ron Watts will lead the effort with Stim handling advertiser contacts again.

3. Next Email-the Board discussed including the topics of the city tree giveaway program; the Oak Street repaving; and the fixed fence at the County complex along with any other items that Ron Kashden feels make sense in the next community email.

6. By-Law Discussion-Juliette Reynolds helped lead the discussion on what updates to the current LPNA by-laws should be considered. In general, the areas of Article 3 (Membership and Voting Rights) and Article 4 (Nomination Process) are the areas to focus on. After discussion, there was a consensus toward establishing a guideline that voting rights are limited to membership that pay at least a minimum donation level, but at the same time leaving all general meetings and events open to all. There was discussion about updating/clarifying the membership sign-up process to allow existing members to 'renew' each year. Matt suggested that this topic be continued at the next meeting when new Board members can join the discussion before any changes are recommended.

7. Board meeting schedule-there will be no meetings during the summer months. The next meeting scheduled will be September 15<sup>th</sup>. If a topic comes up in the summer that requires discussion, Matt will call a special meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.