

Lazybrook Civic Club Meeting

March 22, 2022

Location – Lazybrook Baptist Church

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by President, Kurt Swafford

Minutes posted online after last meeting. Kurt moved to approve. Approved without objection.

Shelly White has volunteered to be the Chair of Membership

Beautification Cte will now be chaired by Vennie Wolf and Renee Taylor.

Beth Goodner has resigned Treasurer. We will work to find a replacement.

Many new attendees tonight!

- Kayla on Millwood
- Shane on Nauts Ct
- Gail on Lazybrook
- Josh on Seamist Ct
- Shelly Lazybrook at Millcreek
- Matt Lazybrook and Millwood
- The Freedmans on Brookmere at Brooktree

Special Guests:

State Representative Ann Johnson

- Went on “warehouse tour” in the area - noting concerns about flooding and runoff in local area
- Neighborhood concerns expressed by members of LCC:
 - o Lack of safe transportation for children in the neighborhood – trouble determining who has jurisdiction over projects and regional plans (City, TxDOT, etc.) – SN14 has been trying to work together to get the governmental entities on the same page
 - o 18th St. being designated as a major thoroughfare with increased truck traffic

Clementina Nunez from Harris County Tax Office

- Offices downtown or in Spring Branch
- Property tax workshops are available and anyone can request one by emailing tax.outreach@tax.hctx.net or calling 713.274.8387
- In May, there are propositions r.e. homestead exemptions as well as opportunities for people over 65 yrs old.
- HCAD does the appraisals, protests, exemptions – they recommend that you protest every year – take pictures, show neighborhood comparisons, etc to justify not having an increase in your property taxes

President Update – Kurt Swafford

- SN14 has been very busy r.e. community development and neighborhood transportation; concerns r.e. developers and city ordinances; joint initiatives for master plan for bike trails with safe pedestrian crossings
- Completed a walk through on Friday with Public Works Dept.
- Met Lesley Briones – Democratic candidate for Commissioner – she was very concerned with our needs

Membership

- Have been handing out the new signs
- 44.6% of households have paid their dues to date – up 14% since drive started!
- Goal is 105 more houses to reach 60%

Block Captains – Nicole Fuhrmann

- Need a captain for Widdicomb
- Thanks to Ellie Johnson for years of service on Sea King – need a new person for those 10 houses
- Haverhill – 12 homes – need new captain
- 1800 Willowmoss needs a co-captain

Treasurer’s Report – Kurt Swafford

- \$3000 net income for 2021
- We’re doing well for ad and dues revenue for this year

Deed Restrictions – Combined with Architectural review now – Ernest Fuhrmann

- Approved 5 projects since last meeting
- No concerns

Beautification – Renee Taylor and Vennie Wolf

- City responded r.e. signs on TC Jester and Ella that have deteriorated – The sign on TC Jester has to have a 3ft buffer around it so we will need to remove plants, etc. around it. Ella sign may be sponsored by Heights Mobil. They are over 20 years old and need to be repaired. The company that made them is out of Stagecoach, TX.
- Leaning on Parks Dept to maintain the esplanades – one crew covers 100 acres of mowing/maintenance so this will take some time but won’t cost LCC
- Parks dept mows the street; Flood Control mows the ground sloping towards the bayou

Communications – Jessica Swafford

- Lost some ad revenue so to keep the newsletter sustainable we will reduce to 16 pages (from 20 pages)
- Paul at Hughie’s may be willing to help with an ad and a donation – various neighbors will reach out to him
- Future options to reduce printing costs may include moving to more electronic options for distribution
- Sign up for email list if you have not been receiving LCC emails!

Security – Joel DuBois

- Patrol hours are down – need more people to help with COPs. – patrol entails a few hours a month just to look for anything that seems amiss and to act as a deterrent; only takes about an hour to drive the whole neighborhood
- Will set up a training class in April with Officer Vieira
 - o Ernest volunteered
 - o Brigit hasn't been turning in hours but has been doing patrols

Capital Improvements – Kurt Swafford

- Got a road condition report for the neighborhood
 - o Our streets are likely within 2-3 yrs within the Public Works schedule to be replaced so we may be able to appeal for an acceleration of replacement. If it's longer than that, we will work with City Council to get help with repairs
 - o Kurt will give updated timeline at next meeting
 - o If/when streets are repaired, they will also fix the sidewalks that are associated with them
- Decorative street toppers – design being worked on – will cost about \$1500
- Kurt submitted a sidewalk application for Millwood as well as the houses missing on Lazybrook – Abbie Kamin's and Sallie Alcorn's offices are supportive
- Speed reduction measures (probably a goal for 2023 based on grant funding)
 - o Speed cushions – LCC would have to pay for them and maybe replace existing ones
 - Install 2-3 new ones on Millwood
 - Use matching grant program to apply towards that project
 - Will work to get estimates from City contractors
- Millwood having increased truck traffic, especially early in the morning
 - o Brigit will contact Abbie Kamin's office and put in a non-emergency ticket to HPD
 - o Everyone who sees someone speeding in the neighborhood should put in a ticket to HPD

Door prizes – thanks to Pat!

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm