

Crime and Improvement Discussion

For some time, many residents have expressed concerns to the Civic Association Board (CAB) about crime in our neighborhood and some neighbors not respecting city ordinances. In response to the increasing reports of incidents, the CAB has advertised and held several meetings open to all homeowners in Parkview Oaks, Parkview Oaks South, Parkview Oaks East and Sherwood Oaks. All meetings have been announced on the PVOCA website, Facebook, and message boards. In addition eblasts were sent to all PVOCA members and notifications hand delivered to those members with no email addresses. At each meeting, 35-50 homeowners were in attendance. (See attached: Questionnaire if you're interested in submitting feedback to parkviewca@gmail.com)

The first meeting was in February of this year. We invited officers from the BR City Police to give us suggestions on things we could do as individual homeowners and as a homeowner association. They encouraged individuals to watch out for each other & report suspicious activities immediately to the police, keep doors & vehicles locked and add security cameras or security lights around their home. Suggestions to the Civic Association included installing security cameras and/or license plate readers, speed bumps and hiring off duty officers to patrol. Our neighborhood is part of District 3 which extends from Greenwell Springs Road to the north, Airline Hwy to the west and stretches to the city limits in the east & south. The officers also shared that there continues to be a shortage of officers, but they are actively recruiting.

Next step: Begin research to determine the costs for implementing suggestions made to the Civic Association.

Our second meeting was September 25th. We recapped the suggestions proposed by the police and shared the costs identified for implementing their suggestions. Our research revealed the installation costs and the associated monitoring costs for electronics and off duty police patrols are very expensive. As such, based on the voluntary dues received annually from approximately 25% of 647 homeowners, the PVOCA (Parkview Oaks Civic Association) budget isn't sufficient to implement any of these strategies.

We also invited board members from several surrounding civic associations to attend this meeting to share the concerns of their neighbors and the strategies they have implemented to address the concerns and the methods they use to fund the solutions.

Next step: Explore other revenue sources to address neighborhood concerns. Suggestions made at this meeting included raising voluntary dues, identifying fund raising projects, OR identifying a mandatory funding vehicle where all neighbors share in the costs for implementing not only crime prevention strategies but also improvement and maintenance projects for common areas.

The identified costs indicate the funding of any of the strategies will require a guaranteed funding solution. As a result, we began to look more closely at reconsidering the creation of a CPID. That idea had been suggested in 2018-19. The PVOCA held a vote and it was voted down by the membership at that time. (see attached current FAQ about CPIDs.)

Our most recent meeting was held October 16th. We summarized our previous findings, elaborated on how strategies could be implemented incrementally and shared pros & cons for each of the strategies. In addition, we clarified the "I" in CPID is for Improvements. Therefore, some of the funds can be allocated toward maintenance such as lawn service, caring for the Oaks on each of the boulevards,

hardscape repairs or updates (fences, signage, & gatehouse) and beautification projects. Before opening the floor to new questions, we followed up with unanswered questions from the previous meeting, questionnaire submissions, and social media posts.

Susan Albus from Woodlawn Estates CPID (located between Hickory Ridge & Shenandoah) was on hand with specific stats and elaborated on their experience with their CPID and the positive impact that has taken place since its implementation. She also shared their homeowners recently voted to renew their “district” for another 10 years as well as approved an increase in their annual assessment. Shenandoah, Sherwood, & other neighborhoods have also successfully renewed their CPID’s for an additional 10 yr period.

Conclusion:

We have strived to acknowledge neighbors’ concerns and explored possible solutions by reaching out to local law enforcement and board members from surrounding neighborhoods to determine the efforts they have taken and the success of those efforts. In addition, we have spoken to vendors to identify costs associated with electronic strategies and off duty patrols. A series of meetings, open to all neighbors, has been hosted to share our findings and provide a forum for discussion/questions and an opportunity for anonymous feedback via questionnaires. In addition, we have communicated to all members of PVOCA via eblasts and made hand deliveries to those who don’t have email addresses. Dates/times/locations have been listed on the message boards at either entrance along with posts on our website & Facebook for each meeting. No decision has been made by the PVOCA board. We are trying to respond to neighborhood concerns and consider all viewpoints.

Responses have been more positive than negative toward reconsidering the creation of a CPID for our neighborhood. This is not to say everyone wants to have a CPID. There are those that may be strongly opposed but did not submit a questionnaire. (See attached tally from Questionnaires)

Next Step:

Request a vote from the Parkview Oaks Civic Association current dues payers (in accordance with the bylaws) to amend the present budget to pay for the fees associated with pursuing the creation of a CPID. If approved the fees will be used to pay for advertisement notices, professional legal fees, filing fees, and ballot placement fees. It is expected to cost approximately \$3,000-\$5,000 to be placed on a ballot.

NOTE: The CPID can reimburse the Civic Association for costs incurred if the CPID is established.

If the PVOCA membership approves the amendment of the current budget to pay for the initial fees associated with the creation of a CPID, then the board will begin the legislative process to create a CPID for our neighborhood, which will ultimately allow all registered voters in the proposed district to vote **FOR or AGAINST** the proposed assessment. (see attached: FAQ’s for a CPID)

We hope you will take the time to read over the attached handouts which may answer a lot of your questions. If you have comments or additional questions, please send an email to: parkviewoaksca@gmail.com