

# **Arden Oaks Neighborhood Association**

## **Minutes of Annual Meeting**

### **March 11, 2025**

The regular annual meeting of the Membership of the Arden Oaks Neighborhood Association (“AONA”) was held on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025**, at 7:00 p.m., at the Arden Park Community Center, 1000 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento, and also by video conference (Zoom).

#### **Attendance**

The annual meeting was attended by these current officers and directors of AONA: Glen Fowler (President), Kathleen Deeringer (Treasurer), Laurie Sopwith (Secretary) Linden Beck, Marcia Rodebaugh, Larry Smith, Tom Harvey, Eric Stiff, Sharon D’Arelli, and Debbie Cunningham. Absent was Joyce Hsiao (Vice President); James Jack, Paul Legacki, Libby Wickland, and Molly Parnell. At least 46 AONA members (i.e., Arden Oaks residents) attended the meeting in person, and approximately seven AONA members participated by Zoom. See 2025 AONA Annual Meeting Sign-in Sheet attached at the end of these Minutes.

#### **Call to Order and Welcome**

The Annual Meeting of the Arden Oaks Neighborhood Association was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Glen Fowler, who welcomed all attendees. Special guests attending included featured speaker Rich Desmond, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, and Lt. Rich Meredith, Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department and Aaron Zeff, Proprietor, Elite 1 Protection.

Glen announced that a quorum was present as there was in attendance over 25 voting members of AONA, in person and by Zoom.

#### **Notice of the Annual Meeting**

AONA provided notice of the Annual Meeting to members by (1) email(s) to residents who had provided their email address to AONA in the month preceding the annual meeting; and (2) placement of sandwich board signage at key locations throughout the neighborhood beginning several weeks prior to the meeting.

#### **Election of Board Members**

President Glen Fowler presided over the election process, and explained that in even years the Board elects eight board members, and in odd years the Board elects seven members, each member to serve a two-year term. This being an odd year, Glen put forth the slate of seven board members, which included six incumbents and one new candidate who had been identified by the AONA nominating committee.

Glen advised each proposed member would serve a two-year term commencing March 2025 through March 2027, and the slate was in order. The following board members were duly nominated by Glen:

Linden Beck  
Molly Parnell  
Larry Smith  
Laurie Sopwith  
Eric Stiff  
Libby Wickland  
Maggie Marszal

No further nominations were made, and Glen called for a motion for a voice vote on the slate of nominees. A motion was made by Bob Tilly and seconded by Brian Putler to vote on the proposed slate. The persons named above were unanimously elected by attendees and Zoom participants by acclamation. There were no opposition votes.

**Address by Supervisor Rich Desmond, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 3 (Guest Speaker)**

Linden introduced the featured guest speaker Rich Desmond, Supervisor (District 3), Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, who attended with Chief of Staff Vanessa McCarthy-Olmstead.

**Background**

Supervisor Desmond began his address relating his lifelong roots in District 3 and as a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Sacramentan. He said he now lives in the house he grew up in, and his siblings are also now his next-door neighbors. He said he appreciates neighborhoods who have an association, such as AONA, as those members are much more involved, and knowledgeable, of issues in and surrounding their community.

Mr. Desmond said District 3 is comprised of approximately 315,000 residents, of which 290,000 live in urban unincorporated areas (such as Arden Arcade). He said counties are not structured to provide services for large urbanized areas, and governing in these areas is a challenge; cities are better suited to provide services for large urban areas. Because an attempt to incorporate Arden Arcade failed years ago, and is not likely to succeed in the near future, he said his goal is to keep working to make things better.

**Homelessness**

Supervisor Desmond said the County continues its balanced approach in response to the increase in homelessness in the unincorporated area, one which seeks to both increase capacity by adding shelter space (currently the project off Watt Ave, behind Elica Health, near Winona & Myrtle Avenues in the North area) and affordable housing (current project at the former Residence Inn on How Avenue). Mr. Desmond said the Watt Avenue shelter will have safe cabins and safe car camping along with respite/congregate services inside the building when needed. He said the Watt Avenue shelter will serve 350 people and provide behavioral health and other services.

Mr. Desmond said the homelessness issue takes up about 80% of his time.

### Potholes

Mr. Desmond said he just finished a series of Town Hall meetings to address maintenance backlog for streets in his district. He said the County has a \$1.5B maintenance backlog, needs \$60M to \$70M just to maintain roads and its dedicated funding is only \$30M per year. He said the County has to apply for grants to get more money for projects and it will take a while to address the back log.

Mr. Desmond advised using 311 Sacramento County to report potholes; there is an app we can download which will geolocate the location of the problem. He said Sac County Department of Transportation (DOT) is out and about in the County, and it will fill reported potholes. Mr. Desmond recommends reporting potholes to the County (use 311 Sac County). He said if you incur damage to your vehicle from a road pothole, there is a claims process you can use. He mentioned it would be helpful if the county already knew about a problem pothole.

Mr. Desmond said you can also use 311 Sacramento County to report other things such as illegal dumping, or homelessness.

Mr. Desmond said DOT is always triaging roads which need improvement and has big projects underway on Watt Avenue in the south area (at Jackson Road) and in the north area (at Roseville Road).

### Arden Way Complete Streets Project

Supervisor Desmond advised this \$80M project is underway, with phase 1 to include renovation of Arden way from Watt to Morse Avenues.

### Abandoned Buildings

Mr. Desmond believes there can be an increase in code enforcement at abandoned buildings or storefronts such as Macys and Savings Center buildings along Watt Avenue at which there are violations. He said the Savings Center has been approved for “mini storage” business, with a suitable exterior design, but he has “dug his heels in” regarding a mini storage proposal for the old Macys unless developers agree to tie those plans to other uses of the entire property which will benefit the community. Mr. Desmond said it is difficult to attract development for this area.

At this point, Mr. Desmond answered questions from the audience.

Notes of interest: He is encouraging a change of culture with planning staff to remove roadblocks to developers. At Country Club Center (south west corner), Mr. Desmond says a Bank of America is coming. He said Amazon Fresh has delayed opening at this location because its other stores are struggling. Another chicken restaurant is also coming. Last, Mr. Desmond advised CPAC has openings for volunteers.

### **Presentation Regarding Security Program**

Lt. Rich Meredith provided an overview of the services provided by Sacramento County Sheriff's Off Duty Patrol, the deterrent effect this service provides, advised residents to use the dedicated Arden Oaks security phone to call deputies and to leave messages of any concerns or to report issues, and the information needed for vacation checks. Lt. Meredith answered questions from the audience.

Aaron Zeff, owner of Elite 1 Protection, provided information of how E1P conducts business, the services it provides Arden Oaks, its use of intelligence to prevent criminal activity and recommended residents take photos as often as possible to provide to patrol services. He also advised be careful with delivery apps as there is a relationship between criminal activity and delivery apps (only Uber and Amazon personnel are backgrounded).

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the members, a motion was made by Chris Cheney, seconded by Matt Cutshall, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by acclamation, and the annual meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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