

Central Oak Park Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting 9/24/2024

Present: Elaine Hartin, Heather Chumbris, Michelle Anderson, Diana Schuh, Phillip Baker, David Ponte. About 30 neighbors also were in attendance.

Michelle opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and reviewed the agenda. Because of the impending hurricane, the city's Code Enforcement Office and the Fire Department canceled their presentations.

District 8 City Council Member Richie Floyd

Council member Floyd discussed the issue of clogged drains in the city, which are contributing to a lot of the city's flooding issues. He stated the SeeClickFix app responds quickly to obvious blocks. Other issues, like slow drains, have to be investigated by city officials before they can be resolved. He also urged audience members to take pictures of any flooding issues when filing a SeeClickFix ticket.

He also discussed the county flood plain maps, which are much more accurate about potential flooding areas than the designated flood zones. The City is in the process of creating a stormwater master plan and will have some public conversations concerning recent flooding issues. He added that the City is looking at lining the slip-joint piping system to help with water flow.

Someone from the audience asked about the concrete medians that were recently installed along Fifth Avenue North. Floyd said these were created by the state DOT as traffic calming mechanisms, not to address the flooding problems on the street.

Another question involved the city's impact fees in light of all the downtown development. The city's fee schedule is out of date; the county is working on updating its schedule.

The Obama Library is slated to be completed next Spring. The City has been waiting on the installation of an AC chiller so that crews can work inside the building.

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) Report

Diana attended the quarterly meeting that was held on Sept. 18. A USF professor gave an extensive presentation on the research she is conducting on flooding in the city and county. More information can be found at the Community Resiliency Information System website. She and her team are mapping flooding and encourages residents to upload pictures of their areas into the website. Cameras are also being installed around the county to record flooding, and an app is available through the website that will show real-time flooding conditions. Diana posted a flyer with a QR code and other information at the table in the back of the meeting room (see below).

Announcements

Halloween Porch Party will be held on Oct. 18.

The deadline for the Halloween Trick or Treat map is Oct. 15.

Nov. 8th's porch party theme will be: Back to the '80s and held at Frankie Garay's home

The West St. Petersburg Festival will be held in Azalea Park this Saturday.

Membership Renewals are due Oct. 1

The Mayor's Neighborhood Summit will be held on Oct. 23, 4 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Schuh

COPNA Board Secretary

