

Woodland Heights Civic Association
General Meeting
January 14, 2003

- Meeting was called to order by Margaret Dower at 7:30 pm. A sign up sheet of all in attendance is attached.
- Pledge of allegiance was recited by all.

HPD Officer Gorski:

- Distributed crime statistics for our area for December.
- Reminded residents to bring in valuables in from cars at night, to make them less attractive to vandals & thieves.
- Recent thefts of yard ornaments and porch furniture have been reported to the storefront. He encouraged everyone to file a report with HPD. If you see someone carrying potted plants and furniture walking in the area, call 911 and get a unit to come out (give them a brief description of the person and the direction of travel).
- To call in and file a police report over the phone use 713-222-3131.

Margaret Dower, President:

- Speaker at February meeting will be Crime Stoppers. March meeting will be WHCA board elections.

Gonzalo Camacho, Resident:

- Saturday Jan 18th from 9:00-12:00 at the Heights Fire Station (Yale & 11th)-Woodland Heights participating in Green Space Plan workshop with Heights and other neighborhoods in the Heights SuperNeighborhood and Washington area SuperNeighborhood. Any interested residents encouraged to attend.

Amy Teare, Deed Restrictions VP:

- 4 letters went out reminding permitted construction of existing deed restrictions. 1 set of plans were reviewed and approved.

Sharon Greiff, Treasurer:

- Ending balance \$17,452.58
- Lights in the Heights netted about \$2,600 profit this year.
- Update on denial of parade permit to close the streets for Lights in the Heights 2003 – asking Councilmember Gabriel Vasquez for his assistance.

Florence Clark & Elliott Johnstone, Home and Garden Tour Chairpersons:

- Still need lots of volunteers, especially for docents. Information available on the table about variety of volunteer opportunities. Captains still needed: docent captain, house captains, publicity, waste management, security, & tickets.
- Can contact existing committee chairs via the WH website.
- Volunteers for day-of-event should be able to commit to a 2 1/2 hour shift on either Saturday or Sunday.
- Anyone can volunteer for more than one committee. People from outside the neighborhood are also welcomed on committees.
- Next meeting for anyone interested in assisting with the Home & Garden Tour is Thursday January 23rd at 7:00 at 212 Teetshorn.

Ron Britt, Centerpoint Energy forester:

- Provide handout of general information and specifics of electric service in our area.
- Woodland Heights area is covered by 3 main electrical circuits (“Crocket #1, Crocket #3, and Crocket #4”) out of the substation on Sawyer Street. These 3 circuits serve 7300 customers and are composed of 35 miles of pole lines.
- Centerpoint Energy operates under a franchise agreement with the city of Houston. This gives them access to the city right of way for purposes of maintaining and operating their facilities.

- Pruning standards – 7 foot clearance width from the primary line, minimum 3 foot clearance below the primary line, all overhanging limbs trimmed back. Degree of judgement involved to make proper cuts that are best for health of tree.
- Resident inquired if homeowners are willing to pay to have trees in front of their property maintained, will this keep Centerpoint contractors from doing routine trimming ? Centerpoint reported that most tree contractors are not authorized to do cutting within 10 feet of power lines, so the trimming needed cannot adequately be done.
- Resident inquired if Centerpoint has considered burying the lines, rather than maintaining them overhead ? This is not a standard option. The customers must be willing to bear the cost difference between buried lines and overhead poles and this is very expensive. Generally cost prohibitive.
- Resident who hired private company to trim trees at 411 Bayland requested that Centerpoint view this trimming and if adequate, use this as standard for other trimming on the street. Centerpoint agreed.
- Ron Britt will provide Margaret Dower with schedule of which streets to be trimmed on which days, once pruning resumes in the next few weeks. Door cards will be distributed to residents to notify them of when their street is scheduled. If resident is concerned about not getting the door card, they can email Ron with their address and contact information to request notification of when the trimming in front of their property will be performed. Ron provided his contact information.

Mickey Merritt, state forester:

- City Ordinances-Chapter 33 & Chapter 28 deal with trees at new construction sites (mostly commercial/multi-family) and street trees, respectively. The street tree ordinance prohibits removal of trees of 1 ½” diameter and above from city right of way without city consent, but does not address trimming for utility maintenance. Neighborhood Protection Committee of city council is proposing combining Chapters 28 & 33.
- 3 additional ways to protect a specific tree: 1) homeowner petition city council, 2) Harris County Tree Registry, 3) prove historical significance . See Chapter 33 for more information.
- Trees do have monetary value and can be appraised and a value per square inch determined. There are many factors that go into this rating and appraisal – species of tree, condition of roots/trunk/branches, site/location placement, etc
- There is supposed to be 13-16 foot of clearance over all city streets to allow for trucks, buses, etc. City forester can ticket a vehicle that damages an overhead tree.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:00