

Grand Lakes Green Committee

Meeting Date: October 12, 2016, 9-10:30am

Committee Members in Attendance: Leigh Anne Goerland, Patrick Friend, Larry Lucarelli, Grace Young Baechle

Meeting Minutes

Old Business:

1. Patrick provided an update on extending the sidewalk on the west side of Peek Road from the Spring Walk Lake tarmac sidewalk to join the Buffalo Bayou walking/biking trail on the north side of Buffalo Bayou: the distance from Spring Walk Lake to the Buffalo Bayou bridge is ~1140 feet. On the Cinco Ranch side ~120 feet of sidewalk are needed to complete the connection. Based on the lowest cost found via research online of \$6 per sq ft, a sidewalk width of 5.5 foot would equate to a cost of \$40k on the GL side and \$4k on the Cinco side. A width of 6 foot would add a slight amount to the cost. Both widths were found from measuring different sidewalks in our neighborhood. On the Cinco side, some utilities are in the path of the new connection; costs of addressing this are not included in the above figures. Key question: What funding sources are available for this? Sidewalk is currently being laid on Peek north of Kingsland - who is paying for that? The committee decided to defer this idea for future consideration but will look into the question above in 2017 for information purposes.
2. Larry provided an update on the cost for a "Hard to Recycle Drive". The cost of hiring a third party to conduct a drive was ~\$3k. Recommend that we rent a truck and we can drop off recycled electronics at Best Buy for our neighbors.
3. Grace provided an update on what a Grand Lakes Earth Day event could look like with some examples. The idea is to incorporate many of the priorities outlined previously on the April 22, 2017 Earth Day. Green initiatives scope: Waste & recycling; Litter clean up; Water; AIR; Green Expo; Healthy Living; Transportation; Wildlife; Kids entertainment; Food & Beverage. We discussed that many of the exhibitors/vendors could be present at no cost to GL. The cost would come from mainly a BOPA, hard to recycle drive, and the kids' entertainment.
4. Leigh Anne provided an update on adding additional trash bins and recycle bins in GL common areas (e.x. parks and pools). The committee reviewed a map of current trash can locations. The original GL trash cans are made by DuMor and are 32 gallon cans. A retrofit option is available for these cans to change them to a split stream (accepts trash and recycle). The retrofit costs \$350/can (2016 DuMor catalog). ~26 of these cans exist in GL. ~7 more recently installed trash cans are of a different make/model. ~9 pool trash cans exist. The MUD does not currently manage common area trash bins - the landscaping company empties them weekly per Erica Morgan. Regarding new trash bins, trash is most commonly found in our neighborhood near retail centers. Trash can costs vary greatly (\$500 - \$2k) depending on the model. The original cans, retail for \$1.4k to \$1.6k (2016 DuMor catalog). Key questions: What would be the cost

of having recycles from common areas picked up by Best Trash? Can trash cans be moved? Could we ask the retail centers to install a trash can at the boarder of where pedestrians re-enter our neighborhood? What type of common area recycling bins would we need to ensure trash is not put in them? The committee decided to defer this idea for future consideration but will look into the questions above in 2017 for information purposes.

New Business:

The following budget and initiatives will be submitted to the Board at the October 24th meeting:

Green Committee 2017 Budget Request: **\$10,300 TOTAL**

This includes the following initiatives we would like to pursue this coming year.

- Grand Lakes Earth Day Event (April 2017): \$3k
- Batteries, Oil, Paint, Antifreeze (BOPA) collection event (April 2017): \$4.5k
- Hard to Recycle Drive (electronics, worn clothing, etc; coincide with garage sales, April 2017 & Oct 2017): \$500
- Signage around Grand Lakes (litter prevention, etc.): \$2k
- Green Committee survey for resident feedback (SurveyMonkey - cost depends on number of responses): \$300
- Review GL's environmental impact in particular on the watershed (review use of fertilizers, pesticides, plants, and water usage): \$0

Next Steps:

1. Leigh Anne and Larry will attend the October HOA meeting to present the budget and initiatives request to the Board.
2. Next step is to create a survey and submit to the Board for approval.
3. *Action: Patrick will contact RAE's principal about what their plans are for Earth Day. He will also contact them about the "Read, Deed and Run" program.*
4. *Action: Grace will look into the possibility of having an American Textile Recycling bin (free) on Earth Day. Also on whether the initiatives of "Keep Houston Beautiful" would apply for our neighborhood.*
5. *Action: Leigh Anne will follow up with Erica on what it means for a company to be a sponsor for Grand Lakes (see homepage).*

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 2, 2016, 9-10:30am.

Meeting adjourned 11:00am.

Green Committee Idea List - Ideas with open action items:

| Priority Focus (Note: Ideas are not ranked) | Category | Pros, Cons, Questions and Comments |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Review GL's environmental impact in particular on the watershed (Review use of fertilizers, pesticides, plants, and water usage). | Landscaping Practices / Water Conservation | Need to obtain agreement from Board to request information from landscaping and water management contractors |
| 3. Have a community event to celebrate Earth Day (April 22). | Education/Sense of Community | Earth Day event on April 22, 2017 in lieu of National (and Texas) Arbor Days. GL events on average between \$2K-4K. Idea to hold #4 and #5 on Earth Day. |
| 4. Easier access to waste (paints, motor oils, etc.) removal by working with TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), county, or waste management company. | Trash/Recycling | We have had residents mention to us that they would like to see paint recycled. Quote for BOPA event is \$4200. |
| 5. Conduct a hard to recycle residential drive (potentially coinciding with GL garage sales - clean out for the garage sale then recycle the items that aren't saleable/donateable) - e.g. electronics, packing peanuts, worn clothes, etc. | Trash/Recycling | Could also post list of local locations accepting these items online. Instead of hire out, propose to rent a truck for recycling and bring to Best Buy. Truck rental costs ~\$150 + misc. = \$250. |
| 7. Signage around Grand Lakes | Education/Sense of Community | Litter prevention, etc. |
| FOLLOW UP ITEMS: | Category | Pros, Cons, Questions and Comments |
| 2. Work to extend/add sidewalks (for example across Buffalo Bayou on Peek on west side of road) to make for more friendly walking and biking community. | Transportation | Peek and Fry Roads in Grand Lakes. Add Bicycle Friendly Signs. Investigate cost/legality of adding Bicycle Friendly Signs. Peek Road from the bridge to the Rock Pool blacktop: GL side sidewalk at least \$40K, Cinco Ranch sidewalk ~\$4K + cost to relocate utilities. Key questions: What funding sources are available for this? Sidewalk is currently being laid on Peek north of Kingsland - who is paying for that? <i>Action: look into the key questions above in 2017 for information purposes [Research Item for 2017]</i> |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>6. Add additional trash bins where needed and add recycling bins in Grand Lakes common areas (ex. parks and pools)</p> | <p>Trash/Recycling</p> | <p>Key questions: What would be the cost of having recycles from common areas picked up by Best Trash? Can trash cans be moved? Could we ask the retail centers to install a trash can at the boarder of where pedestrians re-enter our neighborhood? What type of common area recycling bins would we need to ensure trash is not put in them? What locations in GL are in most need of trash cans? \$3800 for 2 new trash cans, and 4 trashcans retrofitted to add a split stream for recycling bin = \$6K total. Landscapers currently pick up the trash from common areas. <i>Action: look into the key questions above in 2017 for information purposes [Research Item for 2017]</i></p> |
| <p>Clean up trash in the neighborhood - either resident run, boy scouts/girl scouts service project invitations, hire out, etc.</p> | <p>Trash/Recycling</p> | <p>How often is litter picked up along 99 feeder roads by the county? Could landscaping crews pick up litter as they tend the plants? Litter can become especially problematic along Fry and along 99. Food trash wrappers is concentrated at the South Fry Road and Center Village Drive. Also along South Fry Road from Beckendorf towards 99. <i>Action: Leigh Anne to look into how we can get "Don't Mess with Texas Signs". Who is responsible for picking up trash by intersection of Fry Rd & 99? [Research item for 2017]</i> <i>Link to "Read, Deed, and Run" → Consider picking up trash.</i></p> |
| <p>Promote "Texas Wildscapes" – backyard habitats</p> | <p>Landscaping Practices</p> | <p>Would this be a better fit for the Wildlife Committee to pursue if they so desired? Or perhaps collaborate. None of the committee members have experience with this yet. <i>Action: Leigh Anne to reach out to Wildlife committee to suggest this idea for their future consideration.</i></p> |
| <p>Get info from Best Trash on top 10 items put in recycle bin that they don't accept to bring awareness of our being overly optimistic about what can actually be recycled</p> | <p>Trash/Recycling</p> | <p><i>Action: Larry to arrange for tour of facility.</i></p> |
| <p>Encourage rain barrels – investigate if there are MUD incentives to a certain percentage of GL homes having barrels</p> | <p>Water Conservation</p> | <p>Info from GL MUD 1: The North Fort Bend Water Authority offers a conservation tiered rate structure (which runs for 3 year increments) and we receive a certain percentage discount for choosing 3 conservation "projects" to do. One is sending letters every month to</p> |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | the top 10% high usage residents offering services to lower their water usage. The rain barrels are one project which is available out of the many. We can revisit that as an option when the 3 year period is up. <i>Closing Action Item.</i> |
| Discuss with MUDs adding drought notification signs and/or post on social media what drought stage we are in and what water conservation they recommend to promote awareness among residents of our rainfall status and conservation needs. | Water Conservation | The MUDs do have signs to put if the need arises. Suggest follow up in person should we desire to investigate further. <i>Closing Action Item.</i> |
| Offer uprooted plants to residents on seasonal color changes | Landscaping Practices | Believe Cinco Ranch already does this, could learn from their process. <i>Action: Leigh Anne to look into how Cinco Ranch does this. [Research item for 2017]</i> |