

Grand Lakes Green Committee

Meeting Date: August 30, 2016, 9-10:30am

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

Meeting Minutes

This first meeting started at 9am with brief introductions. Leigh Anne provided some history on her involvement with the management company, the HOA Board in starting the Green Committee.

All agreed that meetings will take place at Whole Foods for the time being. All members are willing to attend bi-weekly meetings during the initial planning phase. Leigh Anne will lead the committee and set the agenda. Grace will take and aim to distribute minutes to the committee within 72 business hours of a meeting. The committee members will aim to review and provide comment within 48 business hours after receipt. Grace will send minutes to the management company (Erica Morgan) after all members have approved.

We reviewed the Green Charter in detail. Leigh Anne will look into getting the Green Committee meetings posted on www.grandlakeslife.com 48 business hours in advance of a meeting date.

To address concerns regarding timely communication with the HOA Board and management company, the committee decided it would be helpful to have a liaison from the Board of Directors. *Action: Leigh Anne will reach out to the HOA board to inquire about a Green Committee liaison.*

The Green Committee wants to learn what environmental sustainability initiatives are most important to residents, and would like to potentially conduct an initial survey.

As a compliment to Grand Lakes email blasts and the newsletter, we would like to use social media, specifically the Grand Lakes Community Forum on Facebook and/or NextDoor, to communicate with residents.

Action: Leigh Anne to ask the Board about a potential resident survey and guidelines for posting information on social media. She will also check with the management company (Erica) regarding an online presence (a Green Committee section) on www.grandlakeslife.com

The Green Committee may be able to work together with the Wildlife Committee on mutual interests.

Discussion on what is important to us as a committee:

- 1) Communication - use multiple mediums to promote awareness about environmental sustainability in the Grand Lakes community.
- 2) Community Input - solicit resident input. Focus on the environmental sustainability initiatives most important to residents.
- 3) Have deadlines/ target dates for our actions; conclude meetings with clarity on next steps.
- 4) Making a Positive Difference - pursue initiatives that are both green and have a positive impact in our community.
- 5) Measuring our success and impact.

The following ideas were captured as part of a brief brainstorming session on the Green Committee's areas of focus:

- 1) Reduce GL's environmental impact in particular on the watershed (Review use of fertilizers, pesticides). *(Action: Patrick will begin research and report at the next meeting.)*
- 2) Get a "deal" on residential solar panels for the residents.
- 3) Review of water usage in the common areas. (time of day, rain sensors)
- 4) Investigate cost effectiveness and other factors (e.g. reduction of carbon footprint, cost savings on AC bills) relating to use of white shingles on roofs.
- 5) Create a bicycle friendly community with bike lanes by working with Fort Bend County Commissioner or TXDOT. *(Action: Grace will begin research and report at the next meeting.)*
- 6) Easier access to hazardous waste (paints, motor oils, etc) removal by working with TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality). *(Action: Larry will begin research and report at the next meeting.)*
- 7) Conduct a hard to recycle residential drive. Also add trash and recycling bins in Grand Lakes common areas (ex. parks) *(Action: Leigh Anne will begin research and report at the next meeting.)*
- 8) Provide recycling and other tips in the Grand Lakes monthly newsletter.
- 9) Engage and educate the students that attend Grand Lakes schools.
- 10) Have a community event to celebrate Earth Day (April 22, 2017). Some ideas include: planting trees, providing a community service project for the Girl or Boy Scouts troops in the Grand Lakes neighborhood.

All members agreed to attend the September HOA board meeting. *Action: Leigh Anne to request the Green Committee to be on the agenda. Discussion topics with the board to include Introductions & Questions such as what green initiatives have already been done in Grand Lakes.*

Next meeting scheduled for September 14, 2016, 9-10:30am. It will be a brainstorming and evaluation session. We will focus on what we can do inside the boundaries of the Grand Lakes Community Association.

Meeting adjourned 10:35am.