



EARTH DAY EVENT 2021

Free Shredding

Saturday, April 17, 2021

8:00AM-1:00PM

(or until trucks are full – COME EARLY)

NEW LOCATION:

Baptist Hospital Parking Lot
At Stone Oak Parkway and Madison Oak

Simply pull up, and your bag/box will be removed from your vehicle for you, and thrown in the on-site shredder! *(4 box/bag limit, please)*

We ask that you please stay in your vehicle – our team will take your shredding to the trucks for you. We also ask that you please wear a mask when conversing with our team members. Thank you!



ACCEPTABLE:

White Paper
Colored paper
Folders
Staples
Paper clips
Rubber bands

UNACCEPTABLE:

Cardboard
Food Waste
Tapes/CDs/DVDs
Large Binder Clips
X-Rays/Medical Waste
Wet Paper

Please continue to visit www.StoneOakPOA.com for community event updates!

**STONE OAK PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 14, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Meeting Notes by Sharon Meyer, NRC Sonterra POA

Neighborhood Representatives Present:

Vicki Melton *Chairperson*, Meg Lorenta *SOPOA*; Andy Adams, Yolanda Adams, Arnold Alvarez, Jack Amersen, Danny Ashenurst, Greg Barnes, Mike Bedwell, Debbie Bertram, Mary Cardenas, Casey Carlson, Al Crouch, Connie DeMeo, Art Downey, Robert Fernandez, Tom Hill, Alvin Jackson, Daryl Johnson, Lisa Kuehl, Mac McCarthy, Sharon Meyer, Gilbert Ocanas, Ken Piland, Jose Quesada, Clifford Rath, Janna Sandridge, Lisa Tkatchuk, Thomas Trbovich, Jill Williamson, Avone Monette, Derek Courage, (*Guest of Councilman John Courage*).

Absent: Carol Sexton, Joe Silman

Welcome New NRC Representative: *Casey Carlson, Canyon View*

Our very best wishes to Arnold Alvarez *who chose his grandkids over SOPOA. Can you believe that?! Mr. & Mrs. Alvarez have been residents in Stone Oak for the past 35 years and made the decision to move close to their family near Dallas.*

SOPOA sincerely thanks you for all you have done for our community, in many capacities and for many years. Enjoy your grandchildren.

Speakers:

ART DOWNEY – District 9 Neighborhood Alliance

LETICIA HERNANDEZ – CASA

lhernandez@casa-satx.org 210 225-7070

www.CASA-SATX.org

COLT OSBURN – District 9 Updates

Colt.Osburn@sanantonio.gov 210 207-7803

SAFFE OFFICER GERALD RODRIGUEZ

Gerald.Rodriguez2@sanantonio.gov 210 207-5198 (West of Hardy Oak/SO Pkwy)

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 9:

COUNCILMAN JOHN COURAGE

ERIKA MOE

PATRICK VON DOHLEN

I. District 9 Neighborhood Alliance – Art Downey

Next District 9 Neighborhood Alliance Meeting will be held via ZOOM on April 28 at 7pm.

Speakers will be SA Police Chief William McManus, SA City Manager Eric Walsh and Assistant Mgr. Dr. Gomez, Assistant City Manager Dr. Bridges and District 9 Councilman John Courage.

The speakers will lead us on a Question and Answer session about what the role of the SAPD should be. Everyone can interact and participate with the speakers.

State Legislature – very onerous. Companion Bills 3367 by Turner and Senate 1588 by Hughes. Both are currently in respective committees and have been heard; if bills go to the floor and one passes, the other will go through quickly. They have lot of things that will affect how POA and HOA operate and none of them are good. If put on the consent calendar, that means there would be no floor debate; just passed.

To find Texas Legislature On-Line go to <https://capitol.texas.gov/>.

II. CASA – Leticia Hernandez, VP Recruitment and Training

The mission of Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) is to recruit, train, and supervise court-appointed volunteer Advocates who provide constancy for abused and neglected children and youth while advocating for services and placement in safe and permanent homes. CASA has served SA since 1984, for over 36 years. No other agency provides this unique, critical service in Bexar County. The efforts of CASA's volunteer Advocates help ensure Bexar County's foster children are receiving the necessary medical, developmental, educational, and legal impacts they need.

Covid brought a lot of unknowns for everyone and especially already-frightened children wondering what's going to happen next. Foster care children move between two to four times a year during the course of their case. Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) gives these young victims what no agency can: someone to speak up for them and someone to trust. CASA provides advocates in court and visits minimum once a month. They also visit with family members. Currently Bexar County is ranked #4 in the State of Texas for abused children. Between 2019-2020, there were 5,499 victims of abuse and neglect. This year we had 241 deaths in the State of Texas due to abuse and neglect. 218 of these children had no supervision, and were not in school.

April is CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS PREVENTION MONTH. Kids are afraid to speak up because they fear being taken from the only family they know, and are frequently threatened by predators who have caused the abuse. **See something; say something!** For any urgent matters call 911.

Advocates are assisted by CASA staff for one year (that's how long CPS gives families to go thru the court system and reunify with families). Qualification Requirements: Over 21 yr. old; valid Texas Driver's License, pass a CPS and criminal background check and a full FBI background check. Virtual training last 33 hours. Must commit time for kids between 0 – 18 years; and, kids that might be exiting the foster system. Volunteers are appointed to a CASA supervisor who will attend court, answer questions you are not sure about.

NEXT CLASS: First week in May for 3 weeks Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. CASA is currently taking applications for interviews for the May class.

CASA is supported through private funding from the community, State and Federal funding as well.

III. COLT OSBURN – D9 Councilman Representative

The new sidewalk getting started on Stone Oak Parkway by Canyon Golf, goes almost down to Hardy Oak to Mesa Ranch on north side. Hardy Oak / Stone Oak intersection people not obeying paint markings on the ground. Public Works is gathering data to make a decision about what to do. They are putting out Radar feedback sign and providing data to SAPD. Colt reported that they have talked with Public Works and Officer Helle. Residents from Saddle Mountain report speeding and having trouble getting in and out of their subdivision. Public Works is looking at it and trying to figure out what to do.

Step 1: call 311; Step 2 call or email Colt Osburn; Councilman's office meets with Public Works in the summer (around July) to go over the 5 yr. infrastructure management plan regarding sidewalks, street preservation and rehab, and drainage work.

IV. SAFFE OFFICER GERALD RODRIGUEZ

Nothing major to report. Receives frequent complaints about speeding and they are currently using Radar on Wilderness Oak and Hardy Oak. Radar set up on Wilderness Oaks and Hardy Oak was successful in issuing speeding tickets.

Community-wise, Officer Rodriguez is handling neighborly disputes.

New connectors on 1604/281 will be open end of April or very early May.

V. CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 9 CITY COUNCIL

JOHN COURAGE – Current Councilman seeking re-election

Councilman Courage served in the US Air Force, and as a Security Police Officer. He has resided in San Antonio for 45 yrs., (currently in Stone Oak), he is married, has grown children, and was a teacher for 27 years. Also served in public office at Alamo Community College District Court.

Service to D9: Serves the community, not himself. Things that he wants to complete is finish D9 Senior Center, Classen-Steubing Park, playground Encino Park Library, finish work on Bitters/Blanco, and currently putting together a team to organize for the next bond issue in 2022. What do we need in D9? We need to identify the needs and take it to the City to meet the needs of the community.

ERIKA MOE – Seeking election for District 9 City Councilman

Ms. Moe is an attorney and grew up in District 9. She was raised by her grandparents: Grandfather attended West Point and Harvard; Grandmother was the highest-ranked woman in the Pentagon in the 1960's. and first woman to attend the Industrial Work College. Both were public servants and role models for Erika.

Ms. Moe has been an attorney for 17 yrs, practices with her husband; Certified Guardian Ad Litem focusing on the elder population. These people are exploited because they are either elderly or incapacitated mentally or physically. She is a Director at Child Safe, who also deal with abused and neglected children, and human trafficking. CDC estimates if children don't get the help they need it costs taxpayers \$850,000; but, if they get help and turn lives around, costs non-profit like Child Safe \$850.

Ms. Moe is a Certified Mediator and as such brings people together to make common-sense decisions. She also cares about maintaining our roads, supporting law enforcement and military and believes we need leaders to be supportive of them.

If elected, Ms. Moe wants to overhaul the budget and audit projects to make sure money is used efficiently. "Roads are a big deal and we need to maintain them."

QUESTION: What do you mean when you say you support affordable housing?

JC: I've only supported housing funded in public and private partnerships that do want to create affordable housing for people working in those communities. Not low-income housing (Section 8). If people can afford to pay \$800 or \$1000 rent, they are not living in poverty and won't disrupt our neighborhoods.

EM: Current wait list for SAHU is 7 years. Need alternative solutions.

QUESTION: During recent snow-Covid event what would you have done differently to get water to Stone Oak residents when other areas of town were up and running first?

JC: CPS and SAWS made a big mistake when they decided to cut off power to a major pump station in the north side of SA. Ended up not ensuring some of water pump stations would stay open.

We need to ensure, and the City has a commission to find solutions so it doesn't happen again. So does SAWS. It was an extraordinary occurrence. Hundreds of cities lost power and water. We want to make sure it isn't San Antonio's problem in the future. We need to install electric generators that run on their own power and attached to major pump stations in the City. CPS and SAWS said it would cost multiple Millions of dollars for every pump station.

EM: City Council was warned by industry experts over 10 years and again 5 years ago, as well as in the Fall of 2020, so it wasn't just possible but probable that we would have some kind of national weather disaster, and if it were to happen, we were completely and utterly unprepared because we did not have the generators we needed. We should have done everything we could since CPS and SAWS are City-owned and managed and City-run. Put pressure on them to buy generators knowing that in an emergency people's lives would be on the line. Our City knew 10 days before, but we had no warning.

We had an opportunity to create warming centers; roads were frozen but no one could get downtown to one warming station when we had areas of pockets within D9 that could have had warming stations. Many elders do not have access to iPhones, Wi-Fi, and computers; they depended on their battery-operated AM/FM radio. These people need emergency notices.

We have an Emergency Preparedness Commission in place with 8 former and current City Council members, 1 person from the Army and another an attorney. I would insist SAWS, CPS, people from hospital sectors, first responders, Housing Authority, people who deliver meals to homebound; all of them should have seats at the table. That's who we really need to be active participants in an emergency plan.

QUESTION: We need a traffic light at Evans Rd and Big Springs because we've had at least 5 very bad accidents. Why can't something be done about that?

JC: D9 worked w Stone Oak and put out signs that say "Slow Down Stone Oak", portable radar detection signs and bought additional signs, the only district that has done so. Information from signs is reported to SAPD so they know times of day, and we asked for police patrol during those times. We also worked with Public Works and put up additional lighting or additional flashing stop signs, highlighted turn signs so people get more protection from dangerous drivers. We support legislation to reduce speed in residential neighborhoods to 25 mph.

EM: We need increased police presence; more traffic studies and reduce speed limits; explore all options and account for problem areas. Support law enforcement.

[Note: Speed Bumps: Go to the City website, fill out forms and have approval from 5 residents in each direction; and everyone has to agree. 90% of people on street must agree to speed bump; however, if none of the 10 immediate surrounding residents agree, your request will be denied. There is a 30% reduction in speeding as result of radar feedback signs.]

QUESTION: Ken Piland: McDonalds' intersection has accidents from that strip center, bad accidents that happen every day. There is enough room to make a dedicated right turn lane there. Why can't something be done about that before someone is killed?

Viki: Someone also mentioned Rumble strips – bother the driver to some extent but nearby homeowners are annoyed by the noise, especially at night.

Red light cameras – we don't allow them in SA. State Legislature created legislation against red light cameras.

QUESTION: Candidates, what is your Position on Proposition B?

JC: The City Council made a list of issues they felt they should be negotiated with the police. Make sure police are being held responsible for their actions, but also includes healthcare. City put a package together several months ago and said these are the issues they will present to the SAPD PO. Current contract runs until Sep 2021. It requires both SOPOA and City to '*negotiate in good faith with one another*'. Because citizens created this proposition and with enough support, it was put on ballot. Now the citizens need to make decision to remove part of the regulation called Section 174. Council is negotiating with Police Officers Association.

EM: Opposed to repealing Section 174. Opens Pandora's Box for reduction in pay for officers and pay reduction for specialty pay, incentives, night differentials, certification, education, stand-by and field training and could increase health insurance costs. This could result in 20% pay reductions.

SAPD has 2,400 officers, 600 are eligible for retirement. SA has the lowest per capita ratio of any major city in Texas.

History: In 1970s SA had one person allowed to administer punishments and terminations and he was doing so unlawfully. Resulted in the City losing millions of dollars in lawsuits and said they need to shield the department and taxpayers from liability, and from losing millions of dollars in unlawful terminations and disciplinary proceedings. Therefore, they created an arbitration body. All other major metroplexes have four or five arbitration bodies. Real issue lies in the policy. [History was provided by Erika Moe].

Candidate PATRICK VON DOHLEN – signed in post- meeting (8:15 pm) – Most representatives had already left the meeting, and no notes were taken of Candidate Von Dohlen’s presentation. The meeting had been extended for a private discussion and was interrupted by Candidate Von Dohlen’s tardiness.

VI. NRC Business – Viki Melton

Next NRC meeting is May 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Election results on SOPOA.COM

May 15th DUMPING & DONATION STATION

Extended meeting adjourned about 8:35 pm.