

NEIGHBORHOOD REP MEEING  
THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2010, 7:00 PM AT THE CLUB

**Board Members Present:** Michael Pincomb, Vice President; Sharon Cole, Director; Robert Chirich Treasurer

**Staff Present:** Susan Rash, Executive Director; Dan Massy, Recreation Manager; Sue Miller, Staff

**WELCOME**

Executive Director Susan Rash called the meeting to order and welcomed the Neighborhood Reps at 7:02 pm. She noted that a representative from T-Mobile was in attendance to answer concerns regarding the proposed cell tower. The Fusion tournament went very well. Ms. Rash will schedule a realtor's breakfast in April.

**BOARD UPDATE**

Vice President Michael Pincomb updated the Reps on the last Board workshop. He stated that the Board is working on setting goals, some of which include a review of the Governing Documents and procedures. He noted that the next Board meeting will remain as scheduled at 7pm on Monday, March 15, 2010. Mr. Pincomb also noted that the Board had discussed the T Mobile cell tower proposal. The Rep from Lake Pointe asked why the neighborhoods boarding the proposed cell tower had not been notified earlier. Mr. Pincomb stated that the proposal had been around for over a year, but had really died out. The issue resurfaced last November when several cell phone companies contacted then Manager Dwayne Lowry. He stated at this point the Board is just working through the proposal process and allowing the residents an opportunity to respond.

**CONSTABLE REPORT**

Sergeant Clark reported for the Constables. He stated that several homes have reported the theft of jewelry. A solicitor was ticketed for disorderly conduct, and since that time there have been fewer solicitors in the area. There was a BMV in the Club parking lot. In the past, the sheriff's department has set up a dummy van in the parking lot, in order to catch the person burglarizing vehicles, but they were unable to make any arrests. The recent security sweep went well. He asked the Reps to remind their residents to not ride dirt bikes in the neighborhoods.

**RECREATION REPORT**

Recreation Manager Dan Massey introduced himself to the Reps. He noted that he is working on updating the parks and recreation portion of the website and gave the following report:

**Sports Programs**

- Youth spring volleyball and soccer start next week.
- All adult spring leagues began this past week.
- Spring middle school and high school basketball leagues are now registering.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Cricket Tournament will be April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**The Club**

- Zumba classes will be every Saturday from 9:30-10:30 a.m., with babysitting available.

- The Master Zumba class was held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, with just under 100 people in attendance.
- Fencing classes for children 8 years and up have started on Saturdays from 11am – 2pm. The cost is \$50 per month.
- The next kid's night out on March 19<sup>th</sup> will feature our tennis pros.
- March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Keenagers will take a trip to the dog track. The cost is \$25.
- The Keenagers trip to see the painted churches and blue bonnets will be April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The Early Learning Program will start registration for the 2010-2011 school year on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Club would like to start an art wall to display residents work.

#### **Special Events**

- On March 6<sup>th</sup> the "Do Something Walk" benefiting women in developing countries, will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Pecan Park.
- The Neighborhood Olympics will take place on March 13 with the Neighborhood Reps serving as Captains. Events include kick ball, cook offs, horse shoes, talent show, etc.

#### **Parks and Facilities**

- An area of demonstration landscaping has been completed near the entrance to Autumn Ridge.
- The resurfacing of the Club pool decking has started.
- Dr. Todd toured New Territory on February 18. His report should be sent out this week.
- The sidewalk between the Club and the baseball field has been repaired.
- Mulching of the beds in New Territory should be completed by next week.

#### **OPEN LINE THURSDAY**

Ms. Rash informed the Reps that Reserve Advisors had been on the property this week and should finish as of today. They will then begin compiling their results.

Ms Rash then introduced Shawn St. John, a representative from T-Mobile, to answer any of the Neighborhood Reps questions. Mr. St. John started by informing the Reps what makes up a cell tower. He noted that cell companies usually look for existing structures to build towers on, but there was not a good option for such a structure in New Territory. He displayed a map that showing that the central area of New Territory has very poor reception. An ideal location for a new tower is in the center of the Homeward Way loop. Because there is no available land there, the maintenance yard became a viable option. He explained that with cell phones replacing many land line home phones, and the expansion of the population in the area, more towers are required to keep pace with the demand. The pole that T Mobile would like to use in New Territory is a uni-pole under 100 feet tall. It will not have antennas protruding from the top. He noted that it would emit a very low signal. He sighted a study by O'Conner and Associates that showed no impact on property values on homes that are near cell towers.

There were many questions from the Neighborhood Reps in attendance including: Why couldn't the tower be located on the Club property? Isn't there a better sight than the Maintenance yard? What about on Sartartia M.S. or Parkway Methodist or behind Chase Bank? Can't it go on an existing electric pole? Why do the poles have to be so close?

The Neighborhood Rep from Blakely Bend read several emails he had received from his residents. They are concerned about aesthetics, health risks, and declining home values. They noted the bylaws that stated common areas are to be used for parks. Will T-Mobile pay for any litigation that result from this cell tower? Who will pay for the cost of removal of the tower if problems occur? Can we get documentation that no light will be on the tower? He also had residents remark that they would be willing to obtain an injunction to stop the work and then file a law suit. The Rep had sent out a survey to the residents in his area asking opinions on the cell tower. All the responses he received from the residents in his subdivision were all against the tower.


The Neighborhood Reps from Robinson's Landing have sent out a survey regarding the cell tower to their residents. The responses they received so far are 57 against and 7 for. They also remarked that 3 weeks is not a reasonable amount of time to get this sort of information out to their residents. They also questioned why a better location, that isn't so close to homes, can't be located for the tower.

Other concerns noted included: Why didn't the association mail out a notice to the impacted neighborhoods? Shouldn't Telfair be notified? Does T-Mobile have any statics on the complaints from cell towers they receive? The Rep from Preston Forest noted that the communities against the levee were not happy when the levee was raised, and people walking on it can now see into their yards, but they accepted that it was for the common good. She noted that they have very poor cell phone reception in her neighborhood. The Rep from Morningside stated that it was better to have the cell tower in New Territory so that we could have some control over it as well as revenue.

Mr. Pincomb noted that there are several cell towers in the out tract area and suggested that residents might go by Thompson's Landing and Summerhill to see what they look like. Ms Rash asked the Reps to suggest that their residents look at the information posted on the website. The Rep from T-Mobile stated that they want to answer all of the resident's questions and suggested that they attend the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Sue Miller, Staff

4.22.10  
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Date