

**Peoria Park Civic Association
General Meeting
April 17, 2007**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Betty Frederick, President.
2. Welcome and board member introductions—Betty Frederick introduced Jane Deacon, Secretary, Darrell Schwartzkopf, board member. Tony Arlt, Mike Pieper, Bud Matis had other commitments and were unable to attend.
3. Par Officer Bill Pontius report—Lori Matis introduced Officer Pontius. He is our direct link to the police dept. He commented that Peoria Park and Village East are the strongest neighborhoods in his district. From January 1 to now our neighborhood (including the area from Jewell to Iliff and Oakland to Lima) had 9-10 calls for service from the Aurora Police Department. This number of requests for calls is quite low. One resident asked about a neighbor who parks in front of her home—she has frequent elderly, handicapped people visiting and they need the street to be able to get out of their vehicles. The sloping nature of the driveway does not allow these individuals to exit their vehicles easily. Officer Pontius recommended she call him—they may be able to get a handicapped parking designation in front of her property. Another resident discussed youths gathering on the north end of S. Oakland—Officer Pontius reported that this situation is known to the APD and is in process. Officer Pontius recommended residents always call regarding things that don't look right—it gets things in the system for follow up. One resident reported truant students hanging out at Asbury and S. Oakland—Officer Pontius recommended you call police and also call Overland HS.
4. Treasurer's report—The treasury has \$ 4,750.59 with 98 members paid for 2007.
5. Introduction of public officials-
 - a. Pat Noonan—resident of Peoria Park and is one of the elected Arapahoe County Commissioners. Information was made available regarding various Arapahoe county issues. She also recommended residents call her if they have county issues.
 - b. Molly Markert—Ward IV Councilwoman. She briefly discussed the water bill, budget meeting scheduled for May 26th at Heatheridge Country Club and invited residents to attend and discuss items they would like funded for the upcoming year. She reported that Walgreen's construction has begun and that Utah Park renovation will take 2 years. The pool, sports fields remain open. Additionally, the city council will determine watering restrictions by the end of May. Our water basins are 85% full at the current time. Extra snow removal this year necessitated \$3million from reserves.

7. Entrance sign maintenance and Jewell Ave cleanup—Volunteers were sought to assist Tony Arlt in keeping the entrance site maintained for the summer. William Agner and Pete Caldwell volunteered to help.

8. Real estate report—Darrell Schwartzkopf reported that in the last 6 months 9 houses have sold for an average of \$234,000 (\$190K was the low and \$264K was the highest). 4 of the 9 were foreclosures. 2 homes are under contract—one was a short sale (sold just before foreclosure) for \$196K and \$218K. One other home is for sale for \$285K at 2171 S. Newark. Currently there are 5 houses in foreclosure. Foreclosures bring down all of our home values. These foreclosures represent 2-3% of our homes. Village East has similar numbers percentage wise. Total number of rentals are ~12.

9. Fence replacement—Jane discussed the General Improvement District (GID) recently approved by the Aurora City Council. Elements of the General Improvement District are as follows:

- a. Peoria Park would create a tax district and impose a tax on ourselves to pay for the fence which would show up on the property tax bill.
- b. The amount of tax a resident would pay would depend on what the tax assessment is on their property. Example—a house assessed at \$200K would have a lower tax than a house that is assessed at \$285K.
- c. A tax does not allow for tiering the cost. (In other neighborhoods that have a Special Improvement District residents on the perimeter pay more and interior pays less). A tax does not allow for this under the GID.
- d. The tax is deductible.
- e. The financing will be over 20 years (City Council changed it from 10 to 20 years). After the tax is paid off there will always be a yearly maintenance tax—typically \$20 dollars to \$30 dollars per YEAR. The city owns the fence and will maintain it.
- f. If the property is sold the tax goes with it the same as all property taxes—this is ***not*** a Lien on the property
- g. The city will require the area from the fence to the sidewalk be landscaped as part of the project. For Peoria Park they would put in a water tap and get Excel to put electricity out there for lighting, etc. All this will be a part of the entire cost.

According to Margee Cannon from the City of Aurora, the steps in approving a masonry fence are as follows:

- a. Inform Marsha Osborn (neighborhood support) of our intent to go forward with the process—this sets aside monies for engineering work
- b. Fence committee is identified
- c. Schedule a meeting with the public works department to begin the engineering process, discuss materials, design, landscaping. The project will be

sent out for bids to determine cost. Once this work is done the estimated cost will be known.

d. City puts together the petition which will have all of the information on the front of the petition so residents will know how much it will cost.

e. Fence committee will obtain a list of the registered voters in Peoria Park.

f. The petition will be circulated to these voters for signature. 30% of registered voters is needed to approve the petition. The petition asks that this issue be put on the November ballot for a vote (for Peoria Park it is too late this year for this to happen so our target date would be Nov 08)

g. Clerk and Records office validates signatures on the petition.

h. City Council holds a public hearing and based on all of the information will decide whether to put it on the November 2008 ballot or not.

i. If placed on the ballot, this will occur in Nov of 2008. Only registered voters in Peoria Park will have this item on their ballots.

j. A majority of those who vote can approve the measure.

k. If approved, the fence will be built.

The PPCA board will bring this up at the next board meeting and decide whether to go forward with the program.

10. Home improvements—Residents were encouraged to get approval from the Architectural Control Committee for improvements to the front of their home. Forms were available.

11. Tree program—Residents were reminded to call the City Forestry Dept for any maintenance of a city tree on their property. A letter was sent out to each resident who has a City Tree on their property so they would be notified and informed about the program.

12. Civic beautification

a. Home of the week—will commence in June to recognize outstanding properties.

b. Flowers—as a kickoff to beautifying Peoria Park, 6 residents were chosen at random to receive a flower to plant in their yards.

13. Covenant education program—covenant rounds will be conducted in June to remind residents of covenants they may need to comply with.

14. Trash collection—large items such as stoves, refrigerators, mattresses need to be removed from properties and not left out in the hopes that someone will come by and take them. This has been occurring regularly.

15. Garage sale—June 8 and 9. Signs will be placed and ads will be taken out in the newspapers.

16. Questions from the floor—One resident asked why the freestanding basketball hoops can't be put on sidewalks or put out in the street. The board has gotten numerous complaints about these items blocking the sidewalks. Children and handicapped persons must go out into the street to get around them. Additionally, it decreases parking in cul de sacs. It is against the law in Aurora to block the street or the sidewalk.

15. Elections—6 on the board intend to remain with one position currently open. Pete Caldwell has volunteered to take a seat on the board. Entire slate was approved.

16. The next meeting will be October 18, 2007. Residents were thanked for coming.

Meeting dismissed at 8:50pm by President Betty Frederick.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Deacon
Secretary
Peoria Park