

Southern Plaza Homeowners Association

News for Southern Plaza Homeowners

3rd Quarter, 2005

Board Report

By David Brock – Association Secretary

Your Board of Directors meets monthly to discuss neighborhood issues, discuss and decide on solutions, and plan activities. Much of the Board's efforts in the Spring were focused on neighborhood improvements through the City's Vision 2025 program. The Board submitted applications for two projects:

- constructing a neighborhood entrance sign at the corner of E 51st Street and S 76th East Avenue that will help identify the neighborhood as well as beautify the entrance area.
- constructing a walking path around the perimeter of our greenbelt area, installing two metal park benches, building a gate to the park entrance, addressing drainage problems, and constructing a footbridge over a run-off ditch. The path will give residents a safe place to walk without hazards such as curbs, uneven sidewalks, or auto traffic. The benches will provide a place to sit and enjoy the outdoors or to watch children play.

In July, we learned that our projects were not selected for the first round of Vision 2025 funding. Our proposal scored in the top 30 of those submitted, so we are hopeful that we will be granted funding in upcoming rounds. The Board will continue to submit applications throughout the process to ensure that Southern Plaza remains visible with City planners and decision makers, even if we do not ultimately receive funding.

The Tree Planting project that was discussed in the last newsletter will not be submitted to the Vision 2025 Committee. We will go ahead with this project and pay for it using Association funds. The planting is scheduled for October or November. Volunteers will be needed.

The Board continues to discuss traffic and safety issues in each meeting. At the request of the Safety Committee, stop signs have been placed along S 76th East Avenue to slow traffic. Also, "Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25" signs were approved and purchased. School traffic continues to be a problem that the Board intends to address. Finally, the Board approved "No Parking" signs near some problem intersections.

In keeping with our mission to support our neighborhood schools, the Board approved a partnership with Salk Elementary and Byrd Middle School through the Partners in Education Program. The Association will make a financial donation to each school and will seek volunteers as requested for school events. This will help the schools meet financial and volunteer needs, as well as help them achieve Partnership scores used by the School Board to assess the quality of each school. The

Board believes that the strength of these neighborhood schools is critical to increasing property values in the neighborhood.

To increase communication and involvement, the Board (with much help from Stephen Gerrard) has opened a website for you to view. Board member contact information, Association news and information, an events calendar, meeting minutes, and community links can be found at <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/tulsa/spha>.

In addition to the projects discussed, the Board has managed the mowing and upkeep at the 51st Street entrance and the greenbelt and the watering of the trees that were planted last fall. We have discussed ideas on neighborhood beautification, homeowner involvement, safety and traffic. There are several ideas on the table that we are anxious to discuss in the coming months.

If you want more detail on the Board's decisions, discussions, and meeting topics, please contact David Brock (621-1423, dbrock@webcoindustries.com) and ask for a copy of the meeting minutes, or go to our website at <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/tulsa/spha>.

SPHA Becomes Partners with Local Schools

By David Brock

The Southern Plaza Homeowners Association has agreed to a partnership with our neighborhood schools through the Partners in Education Program. This program brings resources (financial, volunteers, materials, etc.) from community businesses and organizations together with local schools to improve the quality of education for our children. Salk Elementary and Byrd Middle School have each accepted our offer to become partners.

Besides assisting schools with resources, becoming a partner helps the schools on their annual assessment scores. The number of partners is a part of grading the quality of each school. More partners means better assessment scores for the schools we support.

The Partnerships benefit our neighborhood as well. The quality of our neighborhood schools has a strong effect on our property values. Therefore it is in the neighborhood's best interest to have strong schools nearby. This is why supporting our schools is part of the Association's Mission Statement.

In our partnership agreements, the Association will provide a cash donation to Salk and Byrd. We have met with the Principals at each school to discuss other ways our Association can help. Elaine Reusser at Salk indicated that she would need volunteers for special events like Grandparents Day in November, science enrichment activities, and Super Salk Kids Day in May.

She also indicated a need for volunteers to read books to students or to be a lunch buddy with students on a regular basis. Garry Nichols, Principal at Byrd, said that they need volunteers for test monitoring, book fairs, field trip guides, tutoring, career days, and monthly mail-outs. He also wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of the newspaper recycling drop-off area in the North parking lot. It is a source of income for the school.

If you are interested in volunteering for this program, please contact David Brock at 621-1423 or dbrock@webcoindustries.com. The Board, the schools, and the students greatly appreciate your interest and involvement in this great program.

Thank-you Southern Plaza!

By Elaine Reusser, Salk Elementary

Salk Elementary wishes to thank the Southern Plaza Homeowners Association for their interest in becoming a partner in education. Our motto is: ***Success at Salk begins when we set goals, work hard, and believe in ourselves. Together we can soar toward excellence.*** We are excited to have a community partner to assist us in our journey.

Salk Elementary had a great beginning on August 22nd. At present, we have 494 students enrolled at Salk Elementary. All of us at Salk Elementary are looking forward to an outstanding school year. We endeavor to develop strong academic and social skills for each child so that he/she can be a life long learner.

Salk Elementary needs 100% membership in the Salk PTA. We encourage family, friends, community members, etc. to show support by joining our Salk PTA. Enrollment forms are available through the school office.

Homeowners Association Meeting and Election of Officers

By David Brock

The annual Homeowners Association general meeting and election of officers will be held on Thursday, October 20th at 6:30 PM. The location is tentatively set for Byrd Middle School. We will send out a flyer prior to the meeting with the confirmed meeting location and a meeting agenda. When finalized, the location and agenda will also be posted on our website <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/tulsa/spha/>.

Selecting effective Association leaders is important to the future of our neighborhood. There is always work to be done and money to be spent, and the Board you select will be charged with these tasks during 2006. Please attend this meeting and make your voice heard.

The Board (current and elected) is always looking for good ideas to improve the neighborhood. Though this meeting will be tightly structured, there will be time set

aside for homeowners to speak. If you have ideas or concerns, this meeting would be a good time to bring them up.

Safety Committee Update

By Monica DiSanto

We are pleased to announce our "KEEP KIDS ALIVE" signs are scattered throughout the neighborhood. We will be rotating them once a month. If you would like to display one in your yard, please call Monica or Gene. We are in need of yards on S 76th E Ave and E 57th Street.

The city will be doing a traffic study soon in our neighborhood. If you live along 57th Street and would like to be included in this study, please contact Monica. A request needs to be filled out and mailed in by a resident of 57th Street.

We will be having an Alert Neighbors meeting hopefully in Oct. and a committee meeting in Sept. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the Safety Committee to focus on, or would like to attend a committee meeting, please call Monica (627-8921) or Gene (664-5163).

Tree Planting Project

By Chris LaPorte

During the latter part of July and early August, the trees we planted along 57th Street began showing signs of stress from the heat and lack of water. Early morning watering was needed to save them from the summer heat and Tim and Ellen Pedersen, Scott Collins, David Brock, Ed Jones and Chris LaPorte volunteered their time to give the trees the much needed water.

An additional 15 trees are scheduled to be planted in late Fall, tentatively, at the end of October or in early November. A sign will be posted by the trees one week prior to planting. If you are interested in volunteering, call Chris LaPorte at 663-7920.

Office Depot Supports our Schools

By Steve Gerrard

At no additional cost to the customer, Office Depot is donating 5% of the amount of qualifying purchases to the school of your choice. The schools receive credits for free supplies. All you need to do is identify the school where you want the donation sent. The ID numbers for our neighborhood schools are:

Salk: 70083088

Byrd: 70083089

This offer lasts for the remainder of the calendar year. For additional information, go to the Office Depot web at <http://www.community.officedepot.com/local.asp>. Other Office Depot programs that support kids and schools are also discussed on this site.

