

Comments and Questions to the TE Board of Trustees
December 21, 2009

My name is Maureen Mallory Hearn.

My husband and I have owned property at 6921 W. Bayou Ln. for 17 years.

I am a 3rd generation resident of Trailer Estates, and during 54 years I have witnessed widespread growth and development in the Park. I have seen numerous activities being enjoyed, active participation in recreational use, and forward thinking, creative people serving on committees and bringing new ideas to the forefront.

Lately though, the quality of life in the Park and the morale of residents have been affected by divisiveness. Differing viewpoints have not only been discouraged, they have been squelched with overt disgust and disdain.

Early this year, with the swipe of a pen, the Chairman eliminated several committees that had engaged residents in animated, constructive dialogue, and those that challenged the status quo. Months have elapsed and the Board has yet to replace them. While legally correct, this is a questionable lack of action, since we are at a crossroads concerning the budget and the lawsuit.

Progressive Boards rely on committee structure and seek differing perspectives in order to make good, viable decisions. Residents of TE have good ideas, and should feel welcome to present their concepts in forums that encourage communication and discussion - not three minute sound bites. By engaging property owners in the process, a feeling of community and ownership to the decisions will be created. Increased participation will result.

At the last Board Workshop, Pam Cole, the treasurer, reported dismal monetary figures, stating that TE does not have enough money to pay the bills, and cautioned that the District can not continue to spend money that it does not have.

Residents expect the Board to pay for the operation of the District, such as; utilities, salaries, waste management, and Brighthouse. Yet, with rocketing legal costs, we are being pushed into a financial burden which exceeds the budget and may cost property owners over 1 million dollars.

I doubt that the Board member who told the plaintiffs two years ago, "If they didn't like it, get a lawyer," imagined that her statement would prompt a lawsuit. But here we are.

As a result I have the following questions:

- Should the Park continue to pay the four defendants' personal legal fees?
- If the decision goes against them, will the defendants repay their individual legal fees, as well as the Board's legal fees?
- Is it a conflict of interest or a matter of ethics for Trustees who are cited as defendants in the lawsuit to vote on monetary issues that pertain to personal legal fees?

You, Trustees, were elected by the people, to work for the people, and therefore, you Trustees have a responsibility to the people, devoid of individual pride and personal agenda. It is incumbent upon you to manage the present budget, promote communication, and foster healing through dialogue and modeling.

Cc: Martha Brauer
Pam Cole
Margo Cushman
Harry Fitzpatrick
Fred Hoch
Ken Ilg
Janet Jones
Jim McIlveen
Gail Opper
Joe Salerno
John VanderMolen
