

Wachtel, John S.

From: Murry, Fredrick J.
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 10:19 AM
To: Wachtel, John S.
Subject: FW: request from Woodland Terrace residents

Attachments: Woodland Terrace09.doc



Woodland
rrace09.doc (32 KB)

Per your request - K

-----Original Message-----

From: Blackburn, Russ D.
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2010 2:32 PM
To: Murry, Fredrick J.
Cc: Bredfeldt, Erik A.; Andrew, Devonia L.
Subject: FW: request from Woodland Terrace residents

Fred,

Please have John Wachtel contact Ms. Hill and Mr. Hodgin to convey the City's appreciation for their neighborhood commitment and to describe neighborhood preservation options.

Russ

-----Original Message-----

From: Hill/Hodgin
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 9:35 AM
To: 'Hirneise, Debra'; citycomm
Cc: citymgr; Scott, Teresa A.
Subject: RE: request from Woodland Terrace residents

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

The attached letter and petition is from many of the original residents of Woodland Terrace, one of Gainesville's earliest neighborhoods, just to the west of the University. The signed version is being prepared with signatures and addresses and will also be sent to you. We respectfully request that you consider this request from our neighborhood. We remain an active and cohesive group, despite the diverse and multigenerational mixture of residents, and believe that recognition of our landmark neighborhood for its longevity and importance to this community is long overdue.

We have an active Crime Watch, led by many of our elderly, and original homeowners. This often requires them to go door to door to communicate information. They provide a remarkable example to all of us and remind us that neighbors can and should help neighbors, despite our many differences.

Over the years, they have managed to keep alive the notion that your neighbors really are your first responders, and have a connection to each other, that goes beyond their common property lines. They volunteer their time and energy again and again. It is a reminder of the early fifties when neighborhoods really were the cornerstones of communities.

Recognition and a permanent marker may seem like a small matter for the City, however, it would be very meaningful to all of us, but especially to our many original residents who are now in their eighties and still living here in their original homes. We rely on fascinating oral histories from our vibrant elderly neighbors, who can describe both the community and the neighborhood when the development was new. It is our understanding from these accounts that a marker identifying the entrance to our neighborhood once existed some fifty plus years ago, and we would very much appreciate the City to once again erect

a permanent marker to replace the one that no longer exists. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this small, but important request. If you have any questions, you can reach us at

Susan Hill and Jon Hodgin

We, the undersigned residents of Woodland Terrace, one of Gainesville's earliest residential developments to the West of the University of Florida, do hereby request that the City Commission, by proclamation, recognize our neighborhood, as a landmark in this community, and in doing so, erect a permanent marker as a testament to its longevity and ongoing importance to this City. It is located in the heart of our City and remains a popular neighborhood for our University students.

Established in 1956, Woodland Terrace also continues to be the home of many of the original owners and lifelong Gainesville residents. The architecture of the homes is reminiscent of the era from the 1950s to the 1960s, as most remain unaltered from their original design. It is rare to find lifelong Gainesville residents who do not recall spending time in this neighborhood, while either growing up here or visiting friends who had lived here themselves.

Many of the original residents purchased homes here when the development was new to Gainesville. Many worked for the University, have seen their children grow up and leave home from here, and some have outlived their spouses, and still remain in this neighborhood in their original homes. Over the last fifty years, it has become a diverse and multigenerational mixture of individuals from all walks of life. College students have become an integral part of the neighborhood, as many rent or own homes here now. We are a cohesive neighborhood where youthful energy and the wisdom and historical perspective of age compliment and balance one another.

This was most evident during the hurricane season of 2004 when the first responders were the neighbors. Elderly residents used chainsaws to open access from fallen trees to major thoroughfares, and college students rushed to the aide of an elderly neighbor, staying with her through the night after a tree went through her bedroom roof during the storm. During the nearly ten days without electricity, the few, who did have electrical power, opened their doors to those who did not. It was truly an example of neighbors helping neighbors, regardless of their differences.

We have an active Neighborhood Crime Watch, spearheaded and kept alive by some of the original homeowners, many in their eighties. This often requires going door to door to distribute information to the neighborhood. We have witnessed these same neighbors going to the aide of college students when their rental homes were in disrepair and they needed someone to speak on their behalf. Their efforts resulted in speedy responses from landlords to correct living conditions for these students. This occurs in our neighborhood, despite the generational differences.

As a group, we have effectively stood together on past issues which threatened only a few. We are proud to live here and would love for the remaining original owners to finally see their neighborhood duly recognized by proclamation and a permanent marker from the City.

The Residents of Woodland Terrace,
