



LEAH SMITH – OLMSTED

WHY ARE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR A BOARD POSITION?

Background: My name is Leah Smith. I have been a resident of Legacy Park since 1997. My husband Jody and I have four children – Lauren, Alex, Josh and Stephanie. I am a Special Education Teacher for the Cobb County School System. My employment background includes working in residential and commercial property management positions for Cushman and Wakefield. I also worked as a Management Analyst for the Florida

Department of Commerce. Here oversaw compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, State of Florida Bids and Contract Compliance and Legislative issues, in addition to human resource and budgeting activities.

Why I feel I could make a contribution? My first goal as a Board member would be to maintain the amenities we currently enjoy. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful community in which to live. Let's keep it great! Next, I would want to keep expenditures reasonable and avoid raising dues/fees for our residents. I would also love to promote and utilize our collective power as the largest community in Kennesaw. We can affect change within Cobb County and the City of Kennesaw. My final goal would be to enhance and expand our amenities and services to make Legacy Park a destination community

LEGACY PARK AND/OR RELATED ACTIVITIES:

Within our community I have served as a member of the LP Swim Team Committee since 1999. This is a volunteer position which requires between 40-60 hours a week during the swim season from May to July.

OTHER EXPERTISE:

I feel the combination of my professional background; volunteer service and willingness to serve others would be beneficial to all of my fellow residents. I want to do all I can to keep our wonderful neighbors and add new members to our Legacy Park family.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What two things would you like to change to enhance Legacy Park in the future?

a. I would like to see the upgrade of the existing pool(s). Whether we work to include a theme type pool or enclose our existing pool during the winter months we need to accomplish this to make ourselves competitive in the market. I would like to see swimming lessons, water aerobics, etc., offered year round. There are no indoor facilities for our residents to use during the colder months in this area. Many parents/seniors have said they would love to have the opportunity to continue with lessons/classes after the weather changes.

b. We have a wonderful community and many people who live in this area are aware of the amenities we all pay for and enjoy. I would like the HOA board to work to keep our amenities available for use to Legacy Park Residents. We all have guests who we all invite to come to the pool with us or play a game of tennis. We need to find a way to keep our amenities available and in good working order for our residents.

2. Board meetings are poorly attended by residents. What steps can you suggest to improve the level of engagement within the community?

a. Board meetings unfortunately come on evening nights when many of us are helping our children with activities and homework. Perhaps some type of incentive – a drawing for \$100.00 off of dues or gift cards for attendance would help boost the meetings. Also, I would like for us to have some type of communication set up where residents could e-mail Board Members with questions or comments that could be shared if they are unable to attend due to family or work issues.

3. Most activities are geared toward young children or swim and tennis. What ideas do you have for appropriate activities for teens and other age groups? Would you support a census within the community to determine demographics? Why? Why not?

a. I would support a census within the community to determine demographics. I do agree that there are activities which are available for young children. However, there appear to be a large number of activities for seniors as well. Our lives are very busy and many of us just do not have the time to arrange and coordinate something with our neighbors. I would like to see more “family” type activities where all ages could attend. A community that caters to one specific group would not be an asset to anyone here. However, we need to remember that we are a community with a large percentage of two-story homes with 4 and 5 bedrooms, so we do need to continue to attract and keep our families.

b. I disagree that a large number of activities are geared toward swim and tennis. Swim Team and Tennis Teams are two organizations which are more organized than most. The Swim Team and Tennis teams usually only use the facilities during pre-arranged times. Our Swim Team uses the pool during hours where there is the least disruption for our residents. They only use the facilities 3 times (maximum) during the month of June for Home Swim Meets. Our Tennis Program is very well developed and has gained prominence in the ALTA/USTA Communities.

We should not cut back on these programs because they do provide a service to a large number of residents.

c. There are many programs such as Boy Scouts, T-ball, Women's Club, Men's Club and Soccer that use our facilities and receive more funding than Swim Team or Tennis. Soccer has more involvement (numbers) than Swim Team. It also has a larger percentage of non-residents participating. I think we need to let our residents dictate what organizations/programs they would like to have expanded upon

and/or promoted. Some organizations such as Women's or Men's Club would be inappropriate to have more than once or twice a month.

4. What would you propose to do with any surplus savings that may occur during the budget year? Why?

a. First, any current amenities should be examined for upgrade or repair. We should never appropriate money for a new amenity when we have current amenities needing repair or upgrading.

b. Second, I would like to see a list of potential upgrades/enhancements we can choose to invest in for our community based on surveys or resident input.

c. Lastly, I would like to ensure we have an appropriate reserve to maintain our community needs in the event of an emergency. We should work to cap our dues and avoid raising homeowner's fees whenever possible.

5. Would you be in favor of bringing back Town Council? Why? Why not? What suggestions do you have to get residents involved?

a. I would recommend bringing back the Town Council. This representative could work to bring issues affecting their particular subdivision to the group. Again, we are all busy and have jobs and families. Meetings are not always possible. However, if you can go to your representative with a note, e-mail or concern, he/she can bring this to his/her representative who needs to bring these matters to the board. This would promote a sense of community for all of us to interact with our neighbors and friends.