

Al Santiago

Narrative:

Hi,

I'm Al Santiago and today I'm asking for your vote to join the ILPOA.

I'm an engineer with over 45yrs of experience and I just resigned after serving my 11th year as President of the Lake Parks North Home Owners Association in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Of all the places in the world, my wife and I selected Indian Hills for our retirement, and by the time you read this, we'll be permanently in our home here at Indian Hills.

The people, the culture, and the peacefulness of this community is what brought us here. With your support, and as your live-in neighbor, grant me the chance to work for you in protecting and improving this beautiful place we all call home.

Questionnaire:

2022 ILPOA Board Candidates Questionnaire

Personal Background & Community Involvement

1. What skills/work history do you have that would be beneficial to the ILPOA board and community?

I'm a Civil Engineer with a Master's degree from Georgia Tech. I practiced my profession for 45 years working in both public (State and federal governments) and private sector. I have managed organizations ranging from 5 to 300 employees with budgets ranging from \$3 to \$120 million per year.

A couple of weeks ago, I retired and moved to Indian Hills where I intend to live the rest of my days. This is the best decision my family and I have ever made. I moved from Texas, DFW area, where I served as president of the Lake Parks North Homeowners Association for the last 11 years.

I am fully bilingual, English and Spanish

2. Have you been or are currently a member of any ILPOA committees or clubs?

Yes. I became a member of the ILPOA when we bought three contiguous lots next to the marina on December 2021, hoping to build my retirement home here. Scarcity of building materials has delayed that process but we ended up buying another home in Indian Hills on September 2021 because were eager to get here and start enjoying our retirement life. I currently serve in the neighborhood watch and volunteered to serve in the Road Infrastructure and Improvement effort.

3. How would you get more people involved in making ILPOA better?

People's involvement, in my opinion, is an issue of feeling/believing that they are being heard and that they are able to influence processes that can make a difference. Indian Lakes is my home; the place I want to protect, the place I want to ensure safety, the place where I can feel good about my neighbors and our community. That's why I decided to run for the BOD. It is my hope that, with your support, I can help the BOD awaken that same sense on everyone in our community. There are a lot of caring and talented people in this community and it is my intention to help their voices be heard for the benefit of us all.

Problems Facing ILPOA

Overall

1. Speeding Traffic – Most of our roads are narrow and have blind spots. With roads being used by golf carts, ATVs, pedestrians, etc., speeding traffic creates a serious safety problem.
2. Pedestrian Safety- Poor lighting, overgrown vegetation, speeding traffic, and lack of sidewalks restrict the areas where safe walking is available
3. Upkeep of areas adjacent to roadways and easements – overgrown vegetation create a water flow problem for drains, increase the accumulation of trash, and affect pedestrian traffic

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4. Property Upkeep – Overgrown yards, deteriorating and unsafe structures, nuisance properties, etc., are common place in our neighborhood. Why? These all affect the esthetics of our community as well as the value of our properties.
5. What do WE want our community to be? Do WE have a master plan? My very personal perception, stemming from my very novice and recent involvement with this community, is that challenges are being addressed as they show up and reactive measures then get implemented

Infrastructure

Yes. Extremely poor cell phone connection availability, street signage and lighting, the potential for isolation of the west side of the lake due to weather, cost and reliability of utilities, underutilization of common areas, poor upkeep of easements, etc.

No. I do not support any special assessment to our members. I believe that the association has a very healthy income stream and that we should find ways to use that income more effectively. It is all an issue of priorities and thoughtful planning.

Budget Funding

It is difficult for me to answer this question because I am a new member. As such, I do not know how the funds are being spent, how effective those expenditures are, if there are any reserve funds, or why we have not invested monies into avoiding the major problems that we currently face. I do understand, however, that the association owns multiple lots. Could their sale be a potential source of revenue?

Nuisance Properties

I am a firm believer that each owner should have the right to do whatever they decide with their legally owned property. However, any given property that is part of a community must never be allowed to negatively influence or affect the esthetics and/or value of adjacent properties based on its usage and/or condition. In my experience, neighborhoods that have nuisance properties are typically the result of weak bylaws, poor management, or a combination of both. Personally, I am a strong believer that nuisance properties are not acceptable. If an owner is not able to maintain a property due to incapacity, financial hardship, or any other circumstance out of their control, I'd be the first to volunteer to help. I just can't sympathize with owners that don't want or care to be responsible for the condition of their property and the way it affects their neighbors.

Other thoughts

My family and I made the conscious decision to live here. We made that decision because we love the people, the culture, and the beauty of this little piece of heaven. I am hereby offering my time and talents to help protect, preserve and improve OUR homes. Thank you for your support.