

## Secretary's Report for November's Board Meeting 10-31-2014

The conversation below is copied from Facebook for reference for those that are not on Facebook. The post was started by Rosemary Hall requesting to keep the neighborhood Facebook page open. I have this on the agenda for the upcoming board meeting. Please spend time to read through and see what the neighborhood thinks on the topic so we can discuss.

*Rosemary Hall*

*Hi, neighbors - just wanted to ask if I understood correctly that this group will be closed soon to anyone other than dues-paying members of PGC? If so, could I ask that this be reconsidered? Keeping it to just folks in the neighborhood makes sense, but it's a great resource for sharing info (lost dogs, events) that I'd suggest shouldn't depend on ability to pay dues. Facebook doesn't charge for this group, does it?*

*Seen by 55*

*3 people like this.*



***Katy Beck Mallory*** *Hi Rosemary - thanks for speaking up about this. What you recall is correct - we do see the Facebook group as a membership perk. The other thing is we want to feel free to post information such as "I'm out of town - so please watch my house for me this weekend if you don't mind" type news - which we won't want seen by the general public. Closing the group to members helps us keep up with who should be in the group so privacy can be respected. We can certainly revisit at the next board meeting (two weeks from now) though. My bigger question is why you are considering not being a member this year. If you don't want to publish that here, feel free to e-mail me [katy.mallory@gmail.com](mailto:katy.mallory@gmail.com) or call me at 770-881-5264.* *October 29 at 9:33am · Like*



***Ellen Powell*** *I also support not closing this group to members only.* *October 29 at 9:36am · Like*



**Suzi Boyden** Just an idea, my parents are hesitant to join because they aren't up to gardening. Perhaps a name change is in order to better demonstrate the social and community angle. *October 29 at 9:39am · Like · 1*



**Rosemary E. Hall** Absolutely - I think it's a great idea to keep this neighbors-only so we can freely post such things! I do think it could be done simply by virtue of living in the neighborhood, though, rather than making it dependent upon dues, which not everyone may want or be able to pay. *October 29 at 9:39am · Like · 2*



**Katy Beck Mallory** Suzi - with your personality I'm not sure if you're being sarcastic or serious! No gardening required - it's really another way of saying social club. Will e-mail you the brochure to share with your parents if they don't have a physical copy *October 29 at 9:42am · Like*



**Suzi Boyden** Serious. My mom looked at the brochure briefly and later said she didn't read it because they can't physically garden. She's very literal. I explained about bunco la la la... *October 29 at 9:45am · Like · 1*



**Suzi Boyden** And I joined this fb so I can clue them in on stuff. *October 29 at 9:46am · Like · 1*



**Rick Willis** I'm a paying member but I don't see why this group should be closed to neighbors who are not members. *October 29 at 9:53am · Like · 2*



**Adam Bourque** Been a dues paying member for five years and while I wish all neighbors would sign up for the PGC, I agree with allowing all neighbors to be a part of this facebook group regardless of paying. I see this group as more of a neighborhood information page rather than a "perk" of being in the PGC. One thing I love about our neighborhood is we aren't forced to pay a homeowner's association fee. I don't think people should be shunned and not allowed to easily find out information on things happening in the neighborhood because they don't want to join the club. *October 29 at 9:55am · Like · 7*

**Sharon Simons** Thank you Rosemary! I agree with restricting it to Parkwood residents, dues-paying or not.

...[See More](#) October 29 at 10:03am · Like



**Katy Beck Mallory** Thanks y'all - we'll take it under consideration at the next board meeting! Appreciate everyone being open and honest here. October 29 at 10:06am · Like · 3



**Rich Santiago** Agree. We could also just have a closed FB site for members and a community one (this one) open for our neighborhood. October 29 at 10:09am · Like · 2



**Joel Gilmore** The name has a lot of history behind it. It is older than all of us. Please let's not change it. You can always start another group and call it whatever you wish. October 29 at 11:16am · Like · 4



**Katy Beck Mallory** The Parkwood Garden Club will continue to be named as such (the civic/social membership group in the neighborhood) - has 60 years of history with it October 29 at 11:16am · Like · 4



**Andy Vocaire** People may not realize that what is posted currently to this Facebook group can be seen by anyone that is a friend of a member on the list. Changing the settings to PGC members only would provide a lot more security of information. October 29 at 11:38am · Like · 5



**Rick Willis** I agree about changing the security setting, but I think this is a separate issue from excluding neighbors who are already in this Facebook group. October 29 at 11:56am · Like · 1



**Joel Gilmore** Membership dues are necessary to help keep this neighborhood great. And there should be perks for joining. There are other ways to know what is happening in our neighborhood and surrounding area for free. Consider this group: <https://nextdoor.com> October 29 at 12:36pm · Unlike · 4



**Rick Willis** One last post just to be clear about my issue. I agree that dues are important, and I don't have a problem with a group just for members. My point is that this particular group, whatever it's original intent, is currently used by the neighborhood to talk about downed power lines, lost pets, etc. and it doesn't seem right to me to exclude current users. *October 29 at 1:26pm · Like · 4*



**Lisa Perras Gordon** Thanks Rosemary for starting the conversation. I've been a dues paying member of PGC for 24 years, since 1990. I completely get where you need to draw a line for non-paying members when it's an event where the dues pay for it, but I don't see why you would not be inclusive and welcoming of all neighbors on forums like this which are great for open communication and sharing and for which dues are not needed. This seems to be a departure from the inclusive nature of the Parkwood Garden Club that we've known for decades. I will be very sorry to hear if the Board takes that action. *October 29 at 2:48pm · Like · 4*



**Becky Vocaire** These are really great talking points on both sides of the issue. This will surely be on the agenda for the November board meeting in a couple weeks. If you have an opinion, please post it here or let a board member know so we can represent the neighborhood accurately in the vote. Thank you! *October 29 at 3:14pm · Like · 2*



**Lisa Radtke Bliss** I am in favor of keeping this group open to all neighbors, regardless of whether they pay dues. I have not noticed folks posting messages that say "I'm going out of town, please watch my house." That is something that could be private-messaged to your immediate neighbors and rather than advertised on a FB page. FB is free to all users, so no dues are going toward supporting it. It seems to be a place where neighbors can exchange info about power outages, pets, and other neighborhood news. It seems exclusionary to restrict it to "dues paying members only." It would encourage neighborliness to keep this page available to anyone who lives in the neighborhood, regardless of their payment of dues. *The October 29 at 8:31pm · Like · 2*



**Patti Fields** I agree that participation in this Facebook group should not

be dependent on PGC membership, especially since so much community information is shared via this mechanism. Perhaps we could change the name to Parkwood Neighborhood and/or pass the moderator responsibilities to someone in the community, so that the group is not necessarily affiliated with the PGC? [October 29 at 8:32pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)



**Alicia Perry Foo** I'm a PGC member and think this FB group should be open to Parkwood neighbors regardless of their membership status. i think that is both fair and inclusive. Thanks to [Rosemary E. Hall](#) for bringing it up and to the board members for being open to hearing everyone's opinions. I also agree that carefully thinking about security is important (which is why I wouldn't ever post on FB that I was out of town - no matter if it were a closed or open group - I would contact my neighbors directly about that). Given that there are likely PGC members who aren't on Facebook, I'm wondering if we should contact people (i.e. email or flyer) to let them know this is on the agenda for the Board meeting in November so they too can give feedback. [October 29 at 10:00pm](#) · [Unlike](#) · [4](#)



**Becky Vocaire** So as a conversation topic....how do people feel about securing the group to current residents only? I am sure this will come up in the board meeting. As adults, I should hope no one is posting that they are out of town (so I think we can get over that point now), however, where do we draw a proverbial line in the security sand? Pictures are posted with location stamps, someone might inadvertently post something that someone might not want someone else to see (kids or what have you), your mother-in-law in another state doesn't need to get worked up because a tree is down somewhere in the neighborhood. As of right now, everyone's "friends" see what is posted here. What are everyone's thoughts on this? I love that so many people are weighing in! [Yesterday at 9:34am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



**Rosemary E. Hall** Thanks everybody for this discussion - glad to see I wasn't the only one wondering. [Rick](#) really got it spot-on that dues and security are separate issues. I'm all for closing this to neighbors only so folks can feel more secure in posting, whether they're comfortable letting neighbors know they'll be away, or just have a question. (I was surprised when friends outside the group let me know they could see my posts). It's a free resource provided by Facebook that a lot of neighbors have been using for a while, and I'd hate to see anyone shut out from a community forum like this. Thanks to board members for re-considering and to everyone weighing in one way or another! [18 hrs](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)



**Alice DeKelly** *Is there a setting so "friends of friends" can't view posts?2*  
hrs · Like