



Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 5, 2019

7:00 PM

Minutes

Board members in attendance: Claire Pittman, Michael Myers, Liz Spaulding, Anne Trapp, Ted Magee, Mike Schexnayder, Willie and Mary Fontenot. It was held at the Fontenot's home.

Neighbor, Martha Salomon, explained the proposed AirBnB ordinance. It may have been changed over the summer by the metro council members who are working on drafting it, but originally limited AirBnBs to only in Historic Districts, which would include Drehr Place. We already have a Bed and Breakfast ordinance with conditional use, which restricts it. Right now, short term rentals are not allowed in A1 or A2 zoning. A2 allows for garage apartments, but not short-term rentals. The new ordinance would allow investors to buy property and use it for short term rentals without owners on the property. We could see a lot of property purchased for this. This could put quite a few people in the house and quite a few cars on the street. Do we want new neighbors every weekend? What will this do to property values? Martha is going to ask to meet with Councilwoman Tara Wicker to get an update on the ordinance and voice her concerns. Martha also explained that the Old Town Overlay District, which is in our neighborhood, encourages building new structures, or infill. This puts more hard surfaces in the neighborhood and less soil to soak up rain water. This could affect flooding. The Board suggested that while they have Councilwoman Wicker's attention, they should bring up flooding and drainage with her.

Claire discussed the July 31, 2019 Drainage Meeting at Tom Douthat's house.

Fred Raiford, EBR Dept of Transportation & Drainage; Darryl Gissel, Office of the Mayor and Kyle Huffstickler, Director of Maintenance were there.

Notes from Justin Kozak:

- BR has 440,000 catch basins and 3 maintenance crews (400 per day, 365 days a year)
- When they do try and clean out sewer lines in the Garden District, they get push back from people worried about the trees
- Streets are part of the drainage system (better on the street than in your house) but when they redo streets, they can't grind it down on account of tree roots so they have to overlay the asphalt instead, reducing the amount of water storage space
- Existing drainage system was built to a 10-year storm event standard (which is likely now a 1-year storm event)
- Parish has limited resources to address this issue

- Parish has a comprehensive stormwater master plan study ongoing, getting final chunk of federal dollars to complete it
- Parish is updating their monitoring and maintenance system (iPad and other post-1990s technology) to hopefully better manage what we have.

Ted Magee gave a financial update. Less income and greater expenses this year than last. Fall dues letter planned. Ted needs a volunteer from the neighborhood to help in learning parts of QuickBooks.

Claire encouraged the Board to reach out to possible corporate sponsors.

Security Report: Sean Gautier is the lead officer now. Billy Walker, Michael Richard and Haley Stafford also work on it. They log in on a Google app that John Williams made.

Welcome Packets Update: Anne Trapp. Once she picks up the cloth bags and wine she will be ready to start. Claire will write a new Welcome letter by Sept. 1st with a flyer about how we can help our drainage problem on one side and oak tree project information on the other.

Tree Update: Ted will talk with Bayou Tree Service about having a demonstration median with two or three trees next to each other trimmed, to show people what the projected outcome of the project will do for the neighborhood. Kleinert was suggested as a possible street to target.

GDCA Events:

Fall Picnic: September 22, 2018

Anne will ask the Purgerson's if their yard may be the venue. Mary will call Trixie the Clown to do face paint and Mid City Redevelopment Alliance to see if we may borrow chairs.

Champagne Stroll - October 27, 4pm:

Anne Trapp, Chairman. 2 homes found, 1 more possibility 4 are needed altogether. Attendees want to come into the homes.

Board Christmas Party AND Holiday Lights Judging -- December 19, 7pm

Annual Meeting 2020 - March 1, 2pm

Easter Egg Hunt - April 5 – John can ask Brook and Chad again at Terrace and Camellia if their yard can be used.

Garage Sale - partner with Ogden, Capital Heights and Bernard Terrace- need to find out their date.

Crawfish Boil - May 17th

Alleys: Mike - Fall Cleanup Day - October 19th suggested as it is an away LSU football game. Pair the alleys with cleaning the drains on the same day. Have block captains. Mary will get the dates of the quarterly Operation Fresh Start clean up days.