

**GDCA MONTHLY MEETING MAY 6, 2014**

**Present:** Eric Troutman, Ray Mack, Sean Love, David Franz, Willie & Mary Fontenot, Dorothy Prowell, John Williams, Liz Spaulding, & Nancy Grush

**Absent:** Matt Swanner, Fran Shurtz, Philip Hackney, Jason Dore, Austin ?,

**Place:** Liz Spaulding's home. Thanks, Liz for your gracious hospitality.

**Old Biz:**

Software expenses: Liz did not need the \$225 (approved by the Board at its April 2014 meeting) for the purpose of upgrading Quick Books.

Thank You to Members: 266 GDCA residents joined or renewed their membership dues for 2014. It had previously been agreed that a "Thank You" to these members would be posted on the listserv. John Williams will help Dorothy create a list of these members that can be included in the email.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt was a great success. Matt Swanner agreed to serve as the rabbit. Although \$1,500 was budgeted, only \$294 was spent.

Mid-City Fix Up: The Mid-City Fix Up went well thanks to David Franz. Lynn Kirby was very appreciative.

**New Biz:**

Town Hall Meeting: Eric reported that a second Town Hall Meeting is still in the planning stage.

Traffic Committee: Mary Fontenot reported that Councilman Heck is planning to propose a 25-mph speed limit for streets without speed limit signs. (Note: Following the meeting, an article appeared in the Advocate on this very issue.) Mary said the city had placed car counters on Camellia & Dreher in January, but has not heard anything about the results. Sean said he'd check into it. He said the traffic committee would meet. Nancy said she contacted Sidney Coffee, who said she was very interested in serving on the committee.

Finances & Security: Eric reported that the bank balance is \$61,855. Ray reminded us that security will have to be increased in the summer months & extra funds in the bank account will help.

Crawfish Boil: John Williams reported that he had received 56 RSVPs. Grant Fontenot, a GDCA resident, is providing the crawfish. Eric discussed the 70% chance

of rain for the weekend. The event was scheduled to take place the afternoon of Saturday, May 10, on Camellia, between Olive and Myrtle Streets. John said the permits would have to be re-issued if the event is postponed unless someone offers his/her yard. Michael McIntosh had offered his yard. Plan C is City Park. Mark Upton agreed to provide tables. Ray has some tables & chairs, but people should be asked to bring chairs. Eric has two large ice chests & Ray said he has several. Someone (Eric) said he/she has 24 bottles of water. Lemonade will also be served. Trash cans are needed. John Williams agreed to provide the music. A table will be set up at each end of the block to admit attendees. Mary suggested a sign-in sheet for non-members. Although Eric offered the bathroom in his house, Ray suggested renting two Port-a-Potties for \$95.

Membership Drive: A membership drive is set for end of May or early June. Andy Johnson will write the letter.

Communications Committee: David Franz said they would send a re-invitation of the Crawfish Boil to the Listserv.

Champagne Stroll: Ray said he wants to train someone to take over this event. Mary is looking for volunteers. Ray thinks the price should increase to \$40-45 per person. Someone mentioned the Wine Walk in Goodwood is \$20-25 per person. Eric said that some of the businesses in Mid City are sponsoring the event. He also said many are owned by GD residents. John Williams agreed to be a sponsor for the Champagne Stroll. It was suggested that GDCA members pay \$20 & non-members, \$40. Eric said he would talk to Matt Swanner about finding sponsors.

Abandoned Houses: Mary said she can find out if the taxes have been paid if Ray sends her the addresses.

Alley Cleanup: Ray said he would send Mary information on the man who pruned his trees. He said he was quite reasonable. Mary also said she would ask for recommendations on the Listserv.

Entrance Signs: A bigger sign at the Government Street/ Park Blvd. entrance was mentioned. It was decided to postpone that discussion until the re-design of Government Street from a four-lane to a three-lane street is completed. David reported that the "No Soliciting" signs cost \$190 each for the sign, pole, concrete, & installation.

Community Garden: David & Dorothy said that BREC is considering a community garden at City Park & that the GDCA might want to participate. Matching funds from the GDCA or other groups may be needed.

Love Your Block Grant: Mary mentioned that the grant will be awarded this summer.

Social Media & the Lakes: Willie talked about plans being studied to restore the lakes at City Park & near LSU. Sean suggested posting links to the plans on Facebook.