

GDCA BOARD MEETING  
October 20, 2015

- Present: Liz, Brady, Sean, Dorothy, Greta, Eric, Ray, John, Willie, Mary
- About \$66,000 in bank

**Discussion of Garden District Trees in street mediums:**

Present: Steve Shurtz and John (owner) and Dave Benton of Bayou Tree Service – recommendations to save trees in the medians.

**It is the sense of the Board to initiate a GDCA project to improve the safety and longevity of the Garden District Trees.**

**What can we do now:** Ask residents to put their leaves on the mediums, work with Baton Rouge Green, start education and communication, prepare website for fund raising, and be vigilant to prevent damage.

**Summary:** Trees in the mediums are stressed with not enough root or crown room. Soil is compacted. Roots are weak. Limbs not maintained. Trees are suffering from lack of nutrients and water. Deep root fertilization, aeration, mulching, and dangerous limb pruning is needed. Cherokee is the worst. Ideal spacing is 80 ft between live oaks.

One crew can do five trees per day at about \$700 per tree winter rate – day rate \$3,500. Rates are less expensive (15% less) during the winter slow down time. Objectives: save trees, improve longevity, improve aesthetics.

The City cannot provide help.

**Actions:**

- Fund raise through education
- Start with demo block or group of trees
- If only one block or group than on Park
- Work with BR Green a nonprofit that can receive donations that are tax deductible. BR Green may have access to grants or money for the GD trees.
- Have new website capable of accepting donations for specific blocks, entire street mediums, or specific trees
- Steve will work to educate the neighborhood, explain to BR Green, and write articles for the news letter, web site, and e-mails.
- News Letter articles, e-mails
- Residents put their leaves on the medians
- Consider treating the trees planted between the sidewalk and the street with the consent and participation of the home owner
- Be vigilant to prevent damage – parking, utility work, large trucks, plantings
- Tree Committee formed: Eric, Jason, Ray

**Information:** Relatively old (100 years) trees are growing in extremely limited conditions – narrow medians with limited access to resources (soil, water, light). And suffer damage from street overlays, large trucks, and median plantings. We do not need trees to grow – need to restore their equilibrium.

Restoring Equilibrium:

- Prune dead wood, cracked live wood, and branches that may be taken off by a truck thus damaging the trunk
- Aerate the compacted soil
- Deep root slow release fertilization
- Mulch 3- 4 inches (more better and last longer)

Suggest Park Blvd. to be restored first because it is the signature boulevard. Cherokee second – it is in the worse shape. Kleinert third. Terrace fourth.

- Liz and Greta volunteered to write new/renew member thank you notes – helping Sean

**The GDCA Board approved a proposal from JCW Productions September 30, 2015 and incorporated by reference to design and produce a new fully functional GDCA website.** Cost \$6,600 with a yearly hosting fee of \$400. There will be a 60 day period after coming on-line to correct issues. After 60 days can added/tweaked, if needed to set up new options. Board training is included.

Willie proposed the motion, Brady seconded and the vote was unanimous.

- The website will be designed and built so Board Members do not have to do common tasks: sending e-mails to renew (renewals will be on-line), data base management, mouthpiece for GD
- For example and not limited to website will incorporate current information from the current GDCABR.com website, will have single account integration – neighbors can log on and input their info, digital newsletter integration and distribution, payment system for dues, activates, merchandise, recommendation system, special project integration
- The GDCA Request for Proposed New Website was sent to Hatchit, The Design Smith, and JCW Productions. Hatchit did not respond, The Design Smith declined, and JCW submitted the proposal that was approved.