

Minutes
Garden District Civic Association Meeting, 11-12-12

Board members introduced themselves and Mary Fontenot was welcomed as a new board member. Rosary Beck gave the Treasurer's report. There is approximately \$33,600 in the bank. Rosary discussed breaking up the treasurer's duties into sub categories for Membership and Treasury

New Structure for Treasury/ Membership:

Membership

1. Chair manages membership data base, writes and prints letter 2x year
2. Assistant Chair will give new neighbor information to the Chair and the Welcoming Chair
3. Welcoming Committee delivers packet/letter to new neighbors
4. Volunteer Organizer finds helpers to fold, stuff and stamp envelopes as needed.
5. Secretary sends thank-you notes or postcards.

Treasurer

1. Chair pays bills, files forms with IRS and Sec. of State and makes financial statements.
2. Assistant Chair collects checks and mail at the P.O., stamps & copies the checks, deposits them in the bank, checks PayPal and keeps the data and treasurer informed.

Board members generously volunteered for the following duties:

Membership Chair – Beth Floyd

Membership Assistant Chair – Andy Johnson

Welcoming Committee – Peggy Hilzim

Volunteer Organizer – Mary Fontenot

Secretary – Anne Trapp

Treasury Chair – Rosary Beck

Treasury Assistant Chair – Dorothy Prowell

Ray Mack discussed the budget for the coming year. He thought that we should embrace the honor of "A Great American Neighborhood" and expand on it to continue to improve the neighborhood. He would like to change the perception that it is a great place, but surrounded by poorer neighborhoods and make it a target place. He proposed replacing our current Garden District signs and adding more signs. Mary Fontenot said that this should not be done without a vote at the annual meeting. She didn't think dues money should be spent on this without the residents' authorization. Jay Noland thought we should collect money specifically for the sign. Beth nominated Jay to head the sign committee. Paul Miller offered to assist. Rosary said she liked our current signs. David Franz added that the Schexnayders are diligent about decorating the signs for all the holidays, helped acquire them in the beginning and are invested in them. Because there won't be time to get enough details about sign costs and designs before the annual meeting it was suggested that residents vote on whether they want new signs at the website.

Ray briefly listed some possible neighborhood activities to continue putting the Garden District in the limelight. His ideas were:

- We add the GD to Face Book, put videos of our events on U Tube, and establish a Twitter account. It was decided that the website is enough.
- We create Signature events that will capture the interest of Baton Rouge as well as service the GD.

The Sustainability Tour and the Post Card Art Project have that potential. Another event may be a GD Garden Tour.

- We continue and expand Bashes at local GD restaurants.
- We invite choirs to carol in the GD with selected homes for refreshments. And have monetary awards for the best choir.
- Have a wine stroll in the spring.
- Establish a committee to promote the GD.
- Establish a committee of those, say less than 35 years old, to plan events that younger, newer GD residents, including renters, will have a greater interest in.

Willie Fontenot said that some rules that govern associations come up for renewal every so often and that we should look into upgrading the Garden District's. Mary Fontenot suggested they discuss this with Elliott Atkinson, the attorney who has civic association experience. Willie and Jeff Robinson offered to work with Mr. Atkinson regarding deed restrictions.

Paul Miller discussed keeping continuity in all the signage and ads announcing upcoming events. He offered to handle the signage so they would look consistent and be worded consistently. The board authorized him to spend up to \$500 for new annual meeting, social event, and Christmas lighting signs that would not state certain dates on them. Small signs t put on top can say "This Sunday" or "This Friday." Paul added that the newsletter needs someone to sell ads. Paul would like to have references to items on the website so more people will visit it.

Paul said that he has the database for the neighborhood directory that we published this year and more people add their names online. He asked the board it would like him to contact them and ask if they would like to receive notices. He can give them a choice of what they'd like to receive. The board agreed that he should send one out and see what the response will be.

Dorothy Prowell gave the Sustainability Tour update. The tour is planned for Saturday, April 20th (Earth Day) from 1-5 pm. The plan is to have experts at each house. Dorothy will line up the houses. Ray will line up the experts. Willie will talk to Mike Thibodeaux. Ray will talk to Carl Motsenbacker.

The annual meeting will be either Sunday, February 17th or 24th, 2013. Dorothy suggested that the sustainability experts come to the annual meeting to talk briefly, thus advertising the tour. The board agreed. Ray suggested that we might want to invite the speakers to put ads in the newsletter before then. Sgt. Stone will be asked to speak. Flo will be invited to speak on how she applied to the American Planning Association for our award.

The next board meeting will be in January.

Meeting adjourned.