

Garden District Civic Association Baton Rouge

The meeting was held at Beverly and Keith Arceneaux's house. Present were Randy Nichols, Heather Westra, Sonya Pickens, Joe Alton, Greta Corona, Beverly Arceneaux, Tim Page, Carolyn Schwarzhoff, Becky Lane, and Mary Fontenot. There was a motion to approve the minutes by Sonya, seconded by Greta, and accepted by all. Sonya gave the financial report. New dues paying members have been joining. Some of them lived in the neighborhood for a long time but have not joined before. Quite a few envelopes were returned for various reasons. Becky offered to take them home and research the addresses to find out why they came back. She has software that will help her. Beverly said that she has staff that has extra time occasionally so she would take the envelopes that need stuffing and stamping. Greta suggested that we look into using bulk mail. There is a one-time fee of \$175, but if you have several mail outs a year you can save money. It can be as low as \$.20 each. Greta offered to start the process. Carolyn suggested that we address it to the person and add "or current resident" so they aren't all returned. There was some discussion about starting a new directory. Carolyn suggested we put it on the website. Mary noted that sometimes people would use the information inappropriately. Joe thought that we could ask in a dues request, "Would you mind having your contact info online?"

Joe gave a security report. There were Halloween suggestions for increasing security and sitting outside in groups. People also thought the mayor should be encouraged to limit the age to twelve or thirteen. Next year we want to put out "Best Practices" info, which would include:

- 1) sit with neighbors outside
- 2) don't try to out-scare the kids
- 3) don't be scary to the kids – there are a lot of little ones
- 4) ask for volunteers to have neighbors in orange vests patrolling.

We will check the web for others.

Randy thought that the historic guidelines might be coming up at the Nov. 20th zoning meeting. He called Lorri Burgess to find out but she has not called him back. Mary is going to put an e-mail out on the list-serve as soon as she knows for sure. It was thought that if the guidelines don't pass, maybe we'd try to do them separately with Kleinert Terrace first.

Mary brought up the possibility of trying to re-zone Park Blvd. from A3 to A1 or A2. She is going to try to get Lynn Maloney, in Bernard Terrace to tell her how she did it. Mary also announced that she would be putting together a newsletter the last week in November so that people should get any articles that they want to her. She also announced that Mike Schexnayder will decorate the light posts.

Heather discussed the Holiday Lighting contest. It will be Dec. 19th at 6 p.m. Mary suggested that we all show up at 6p.m. with our potluck so the judges will feel like they are part of the party. At 7:00 the judges will go out, judge and return to the party. There was a motion to allow up to \$200 in expenses for the contest prizes and judges presents, which was accepted.

The membership welcoming committee is ongoing. For social events Randy reported that the fall picnic was not as well attended but went very well. Mary offered to host the Christmas caroling party, unless someone else wants to do it. Carolyn is going to ask John Turner if he would like to host it. Randy and Greta said that they have plates, napkins, etc. The list-serve had no report. Greta resigned from the Special Events committee. Mike, Carolyn and I offered to be on the nominating committee for the 2008 annual meeting. The Board voted unanimously in favor of restoring the main building at Baton Rouge High and keeping the façade. The meeting was

adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fontenot, Secretary

