

Garden District Civic Association

Baton Rouge

Minutes – GDCA Board Meeting – February 20, 2008

Beverly and Keith Arceneaux generously let us use their home again for the board meeting and provided refreshments. In attendance were Heather Westra, Ana Forbes, Tim Page, Mike Schexnayder, Carolyn Schwarzhoff, Mary Fontenot, Randy Nichols, Beverly Arceneaux, and Greta Corona. The minutes from the January meeting were presented and approved.

Reports were given. Mike noted what an excellent treasurer's report Sonya has put together. She e-mailed it to each of us. Carolyn gave us a short history of the GDCA finances. Greg Edwards used to handle them. Then Margaret Bach took over. Then Sonya stepped in. We have had extra savings in the bank since the Greg Edwards days. The GDCA has always felt that this was important in case it is ever needed for something that would be important for the neighborhood. At a recent hearing the Christian St. residents, who lost a zoning battle, were told that if they had some sort of contingency fund they could have hired a traffic engineer and maybe not lost that battle. That is the sort of unknown battle we are saving it for.

Ray Mack has offered to work on the security committee. Mike stated that he would like to get together with Ray, Don Stone, Carolyn, and Lynn Lamia once to go over all facets of the protocol, including the telephone and the log book (who has access, what they write in it).

The Historic Preservation Commission has an opening for a Drehr Place representative since Mark is moving into another position on the commission. He had asked Suzanne Schexnayder if she was interested, but she declined. It was decided that Randy would ask Mark if there is someone in Drehr Place whom he knows would be interested and an asset. Dorothy Prowell and Heather Westra were named as possibilities.

For the newsletter report Mary announced that at the annual meeting she would like to solicit people interested in doing neighborhood oral histories. Barbara Gray (Myrtle & 22nd) is an LSU English professor and was named as a possible source for help or advice.

The next social event is the Easter Egg Hunt. Bev offered her son, Brian's services as an egg stuffer. It was decided that we would ask Ellen, a.k.a. the Easter Bunny, if she would like to be on the hunt preparation committee.

There was no list serve report other than it keeps Carolyn busy. Mike Schexnayder will be out of town so Mary will give the beautification report, which will include that Broadmoor has copied our Live Oaks Program and how to follow through on stages 2 and 3. Greta will give a Tour of Homes report.

Sonya will give a treasurer's report and the balance sheets will be printed for members to pick up. Randy will get together with Sonya before the meeting. After some discussion it was decided that the board would like to have members' names listed alphabetically so they may sign in when they enter.

This will be a reminder as to whether they have paid or not. Mike reminded us that 10% of the membership must be present and voting will be by a show of hands. The board election will follow the approval of the minutes at the top of the meeting. Bev collected door prizes from Victoria's Toy Station, Parrain's Restaurant, Sunshine Cleaners, Sherwood Forest Country Club, and Martin's Wine Cellar. Ana agreed to handle the door prizes at the meeting. Winners must be present to win. Board members may not win. People will write their names on a small piece of paper when they sign in. Randy will handle the meeting until the new board is voted in and then

Tim will take over. The nominating committee found five prospective nominations and will present its slate to the general membership. There was some discussion about what to do if there are nominations from the floor; either ask Pam Rice and Mike Schexnayder to be on the Advisory Committee or ask the newest nominees to be on the Advisory Committee and move up to the board next time. When the by-laws are changed they might say that nomination solicitations will be sent out on the listserv and in the newsletter and will be closed on a date chosen by the board. The current method was designed before we had home computers. Communications have changed. After committee reports Samuel Sanders, Director of the Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, will give a ten to fifteen minute report. Tim will ask for new business, which could be a question and answer session for the general membership. Ana Forbes will stand in for Vanna White and handle the door prizes. Becky Lane has the coolers for lemonade and water. A note will be sent out asking neighbors to bring treats.

Now that Randy is retiring from the board Tim will be invited to attend the Mid City Roundtable meetings. It was suggested that we ask Samuel about the ice business next to Ragusa's Auto Repair. Greta asked about the advisory committee and was told that it can be 20-30 people who may attend board meetings, but will not have a vote. Randy brought up some paperwork that had been sent to Mary from a resident in Southdowns Subdivision who is upset about the sewer system. She wanted the board to act on it. The board decided to handle it as individuals. We decided that if Southdown's Association board had sent it to us we might consider it as a board decision, but not when an individual sent it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fontenot
Secretary

