

## Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2013

Present: Ray Mack, Katherine Ragland, Aaron Smith, Dorothy Prowell, David Franz, Matt Swanner, Eric Troutman, Willie Fontenot, Mary Fontenot

The meeting was held in Katherine Ragland's lovely home. Social at 6:30, meeting at 7 p.m.

The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Ray announced that voting by the board on items will be allowed over the internet. He passed a committee sign-up sheet around the room.

Ray gave the Treasurer's report. Approximately the same amount will be spent in 2013 as in 2012. We will try to always keep extra in case of a spike in crime and a greater need for more patrols.

Board members will look into how much it would cost to rent a storage space for tables and other supplies that the association owns and uses.

Dorothy discussed the Sustainability Tour on April 20, 2013 from 2-5 p.m. Seven houses will be on tour. Brochures will be printed with the ticket on them. The ticket will be stamped when the person has paid their \$10. Brochures will be delivered to each house, Garden District Nursery, and Circa 1857. Printing and delivery is estimated to cost \$530. Paul Miller will help with the brochure. Discussed were getting volunteers, how to advertise, getting a canopy for Dorothy's backyard, finding biodegradable yard signs and getting a list of plants available at the Garden District Nursery, since they will be helping. The Board voted for a budget of \$1,000 for the Tour.

The sign committee will meet April 7<sup>th</sup> at David Franz's house to discuss a new sign for Park Blvd. and Government that will be reminiscent of the ones at Drehr Ave. and Government.

Due to time constraints, Heather Westra is no longer on the welcoming committee. She has suggested that the leftover cookbooks be given out in welcoming packets.

The Board voted to not give any gift cards to outgoing presidents.

It was suggested that the Board contact Councilwoman Tara Wicker about problems with the Group Home in the 500 block of Camelia.

To stop people from giving money to beggars and door-to-door solicitors, Ray will ask Randy Nichols to write up a short description with all the contact information for the One-Stop where they can get help. This will be delivered to homeowners so they can tell people where to go rather than give them money. The Board thought "No Solicitor" stickers for the front door might be a good idea. David will look into the cost. Ray thought residents should be surveyed to see if they want them.

Membership: David will check with Paul about the history of the yard signs, "I am a Proud Member of the GDCA." The board liked the idea of giving them to residents when they paid their dues. Matt discussed increasing membership, getting a copy of the charter and mission statement, addressing zoning, and absentee landlords, zoning violations, and establishing the value of the organization so people will know why they should pay dues. Dorothy said the association creates a sense of community. Ray explained that we do not have deed restrictions

in our neighborhood. Willie suggested that we find paying members in each block and ask them to go door-to-door soliciting membership from non-members. Eric will talk with Jason Dore' about helping with membership. Willie and Ray will help. Ray will pick a target area. Ray asked Mary to write survey questions for neighbors to ask how the GDCA can better serve them and what it means to them. Ray said that more money could be spent on patrols or infrastructure, such as sidewalks.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting at Matt Swanner's house, 1973 Oleander St.

Meeting was adjourned around 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Fontenot  
March 21, 2013