

Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting

May, 12, 2015, 7 p.m.

Eric Troutman, Liz Spaulding, Sean Love, Charles Sutcliff, Brady Barr, John Williams, Greta Corona, Dorothy Prowell, Ray Mack and Mary and Willie Fontenot attended the meeting at Liz's home.

Crawfish Boil: Eric gave a report on the April 26th crawfish boil. An estimate of 200 people ate about 600 pounds of crawfish. More corn and potatoes need to be ordered next time. Thanks to John W. for organizing, John B. for the tents and Brady for the speakers. There was \$180 paid at the gate, which included four new members. There have been twenty-three new members in the past month. Next time we'll look for a date in the first or second Sunday of April, so there won't be competition with Jazz Fest and Blues Fest. Ideas came up for a dessert contest and the possible sale of GDCA bibs.

John Williams will look into the cost for another order of t-shirts to sell in the fall or use for door prizes.

Dog Bin Report: We will start with six dispensers that are put on light poles. Someone who lives nearby will be asked to replenish the bags. Greta offered to have one placed in front of her house.

Sidewalk Committee Report: John W, John B. and Brady are on the sidewalk committee. They did a sidewalk survey and found 800 squares that could use repair and 200 squares in very bad condition. John W. gave a report with suggested rules and guidelines. The goal is to improve visual appeal, function and safety by reducing accidents in the Garden District. Sidewalks must meet city code, but will not necessarily be limited to concrete. A sidewalk account will be set up separately. \$15,000 has been approved by the board for the project. GDCA members who have been approved will be reimbursed 25% of their cost up to \$350. It is estimated that one square will cost \$180. The work will be done by a specific time so the contractors and cement truck can make fewer trips and save costs. A letter will be sent to all members explaining this opportunity, followed by a meeting explaining the procedure and rules. There are 247 household members right now. The choices will be based upon which sidewalks have the greatest need. If enough households apply for the program to use up the \$15,000, the board members may not participate. If the \$15,000 will not be consumed, board members may apply. This idea will be put before a legal review and discussed further at the June meeting. Brady moved to accept the proposal and Dorothy seconded it. It was unanimously supported.

Security patrols are about to be increased for the summer.

Traffic: Mary gave an update on the signage at the traffic light at Government and Park Blvd. Pedestrians walking to Dufrocq are having problems with vehicles turning right on red not yielding. A traffic engineer with the City said that she would look into it. If the City is still under contract they will need to wait. Traveling west on Terrace, cars don't notice the stop sign and often hit an oak tree on Park Blvd. Ray asked for a "Signal Ahead" sign. Eric and Ray will look into it.

Announcements:

Lynne Lamia Wallace will run the mid-Aug. Neighborhood Garage Sale again this summer.

Ray is looking for a yard for the Fall Picnic.

Sean will look into renting a pavilion at the BREC water park on Lobdell for neighborhood families.

Mawi plans to work on the Fall Back-to-School party. Details will be presented in June.

Brady will plan "Date Night" July 17th with passes to take the trolley downtown and have specials offered at four different restaurants. More details will be forthcoming.

Dorothy said that a dues letter isn't worth it. It is better to publish online.

The next meeting will be June 9th.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Fontenot