

# Garden District Civic Association

## Baton Rouge

Minutes :Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting Wednesday, July 26, 2006

The meeting was held at Heather Westra's house at 7 p.m. Present were Randy Nichols, Heather Westra, Sonya Pickens, Suzanne and Mike Schexnayder, Peggy Hilzim, Carolyn Schwarzhoff, Cindi Elliott, Greta Corona, Don Savoie, Ana Forbes, Joe Alton, and Mary Fontenot. President Randy Nichols opened the meeting with a financial report by Sonya Pickens. She is planning on sending dues notices and will e-mail the board for help collating. Security worked more hours than scheduled and went over the expected amount by \$800. Sonya asked if everyone who had taken returned envelopes to check addresses had been able to see if they were accurate. Some had and some hadn't.

David Franz was unable to attend so there was no security report. Mark Upton was not present so there was no update on the historical district. Mary Fontenot reported on the newsletter and offered to put one out whenever the board wants it.

Suzanne Schexnayder, with the Beautification Committee, talked about her project to get the live oaks on Park Blvd. and other avenues in the garden district as members of The Live Oak Society. The trees must meet a certain criteria, which many do. Suzanne measured oaks and believes there are more than sixty trees on Park, Cherokee and Kleinert that have the mandatory eight foot girth. Individuals may "adopt" trees in the Live Oak Society. This comes with the responsibility of watering them and taking care of them. It also comes with the privilege of allowing the individual to name the tree. Because of a tree named "Old Diggory", LaDOT has been mapping a registry of live oaks 18" or greater in diameter at breast height. Suzanne hopes to have the oaks on the boulevards accepted into the society as a group, rather than individual trees. This project will emphasize their beauty, is environmentally sound, and long range, will bring a greater appreciation of Park Blvd. and its trees. Mary offered to find out who authored the landscape ordinances. Sonya would like to spearhead the effort to get the aspidistra away from the trees on Park Blvd.

Peggy Hilzim asked that names of new neighbors be given to her so she may get them a welcoming packet. Carolyn Schwarzhoff said that all is well with the list serve.

There was a discussion about a Fall Social. It was decided that the weekend before Halloween would be good so the children can wear their costumes. Randy said that the Terrys were very disappointed that the July 4th party, at their house, was canceled so the Board decided to ask them to host the next one. Everyone agreed that a second location, with an overhang, such as the Cave's or the Westra's, would be good to line up in case of rain. The Uptons and their parents both have tents, so the Board is going to ask about those too.

Greta Corona and Cindi Elliott are on the Special Events Committee. They will meet with Margaret Bach and discuss a spring activity, such as a "Tipple and Tiffin". A Tour of Homes was discussed. Flo had said that the hardest thing about doing one was getting people to offer their homes. It was suggested that putting an article in the fall newsletter might be a good idea. Cindi thought people might open up their gardens.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at the Schexnayder's house. The social will begin at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned by Randy Nichols.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Fontenot