

Minutes from GDCA Board Meeting
July 29, 2009

Meeting was held at Alex Tucker's house on Terrace. Attendees were: Alex Tucker, Ellen Alderman, Pat Penton, Greta Corona, Anna Hanks, Paul Miller, Jon Emerson, Frank Farmer, Willie Fontenot, Steve Ketcham, Honey East.

First order of business – minutes from May 13th meeting approved.

- 1) Dufrog Garden. Garden plot for the kids has been set up at school. Each section will be 3'x12' for ease of use by them. David Franz going to design entire garden but garden will be built in stages as demand grows. Food grown is yours and you can decide what you want done with it. There are going to be gravel paths, tool shed and a compost bin. Looking at some sort of rainwater collection system, want garden to be as organic and green as possible!
- 2) Tee shirt. Approved design.
- 3) Security.
 - a) Security cameras are too expensive. But information about them will be placed on our web site in case residents want to add cameras to their own property.
 - b) Fake cameras and signs placed only at alley intersections this alone costs \$10,000. Batteries must be changed every 6 months. Investigate another neighborhood that has used this option to get their feedback.
 - c) Entergy very affordable to add street light to existing pole. This information will be put on web site.
 - d) Security patrols have been changed to include alleys.
 - e) Street captains for each street. Door to door campaign to increase security dues participation. Orientation prior to going out so all captains will have the same story. Packets will be delivered, contain lots of information. Approved money to print packets, get signs, stickers for this campaign.
 - f) Security dues to be \$120 per year beginning January 2010.
- 4) Park Blvd. beautification. Project has been completed from Government to City Park. Cast iron plants removed. Mulch added. Trees trimmed.
 - a) Looking at getting traffic signal box repainted to cover graffiti.
 - b) Hoping to get a neighborhood "be green" grant from Baton Rouge Green.
- 5) Welcoming packets. 6 packets have been delivered since last meeting.
- 6) Special Events – November next event. Rotollos wants to partner with our events. 2011 is garden district centennial, looking for suggestions on special things we participate in.

- 7) Website – New feature, if you are planning on being out of town you can go to the website and indicate to the police for them to check on your property while you are gone. Website stats are up!!
- 8) Mary Fontenot – commendation from the board as an official thank you for writing the newsletter alone for many years.
- 9) Historic Preservation Committee – no update.
- 10) Finance - thru June 2009, we have collected security dues from 262 households. We have over 800 households in the garden district. So far \$13,300 has been spent on security. We typically average 88 hours per month. 95% of our dues go towards off duty police patrols.
- 11) Newsletter – working to get more ads. Feedback from residents says the newsletter is informative. October 2009 is next newsletter.
- 12) Tee Shirts – design for new tee shirts have been approved. Our cost will be \$5.25 and we will be selling them for \$10.00. Difference will go in coffers for extra security. When the security committee goes door to door they should wear new shirts.
- 13) Areas – there are some areas near the Garden District, that according to the official city plat maps are not part of the Garden District, but yet almost all residents consider them to be part of the Garden District, Magnolia is one street that this applies to. Magnolia in our minds is part of the Garden District.
- 14) DPW – according to DPW can not change directions of the sidewalks.
- 15) POD containers – board not going to get involved, but information on our website for complaints to get information on who contact should be to get rid of such containers.