

Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2018

Present: John Williams, Heather Day, Liz Spaulding, Ari Kocen, Joy Couvillion, Mike Schenayder, Justin Kozak, Chris Subba and Willie and Mary Fontenot. Missing were Jenny Iverstine, Claire Pittman, Lynn Hosie, Eric Troutman and Greta Corona.

Joy generously hosted the meeting.

The board voted to add Heather Sewell Day to the Board.

Liz and John gave the financial report. There are now approximately 168 members. It costs \$350 to be a corporate member. Ads are on all events announcements and on newsletters. On newsletters and other communications, the readers can just click on the corporate sponsors' logo to be taken to their websites. John would like to do pie charts of income and expenses for the next annual meeting.

The Garden District Beautification Fund is a 501(c)(3) corporation that was set up to collect tax deductible donations to fund infrastructure in the neighborhood such as maintenance of the oak trees in the medians and sidewalk improvements. Chris is going to talk with Greg (Doug?), with DPW about the possibility of getting the City-Parish to help. Chris will ask two people he knows about Baton Rouge Green helping. Heather will also inquire with Baton Rouge Green.

Mike reported that there was a problem with large tree trunks in the alley behind Terrace, near Drehr Ave. He will check on them again.

Joy has offered to write articles for our newsletter. She will send them to John, who will put them together. Camille Broome and Justin will be asked to write an article about the Government Street development. They want to put minutes on the website and have a box with resources that readers can click on if they want to know something. Some board members thought that postcards are better to send to residents than envelopes with announcements of events, because many people throw away mail without opening it or looking at it. It's easy to glance at a postcard with information. Readers can go to the website for more if they are interested.

Heather will ask Lamar about the possibility of using one of their digital signs to advertise a future activity.

The board will look into insurance for the board. The association always gets event insurance. We will ask Eric about insurance.

Events: The recent neighborhood garage sale had more than 30 homes participating.

Mike will send the participants a survey asking if they have any ideas about how to make it better. Some board members thought that adding entertainment would be a good idea. Salvation Army picked up leftovers that were put on the curb at the participants' houses. The Easter egg hunt at the City-Brooks Park had about 50 children, with a total of possibly 125 people. The giant Easter Bunny, John Williams, was a big hit handing out carrots with the greenery left on them. Nels Anderson once again donated adorable ceramic egg cups for each child. The children chose the one they wanted to keep. Families had a good time visiting with each other.

Preparation for the Crawfish Boil this weekend, April 15, 2018:

John will rent tables and chairs. They are already paid for from a previous activity that had to be canceled due to weather. There have been three offers for tents. Ari will also loan a tent. John has arranged for tablecloths. Ari will call around to find a good price on jambalaya and order 30 servings. There have been 190 people RSVP. Ten tickets were purchased. There will be one keg a beer with a donation box to pay for it. Liz will supply the box. Jason Petrie from Tru Crawfish will boil the crawfish, corn, potatoes and mushrooms. John has trash cans and will get lemonade and sodas. Eric will get the insurance and John the permit.

John read the survey outcome from the survey that people filled out last year. Mary will bring new, blank surveys this year.

The board would like better communication with the crime patrols who guard us. Liz and Eric will try to contact Officer Wheat. Mary will try to find out who the officer is that coordinates all the off-duty patrols.

Joy prepared delicious food and the board appreciated it. The meeting started at 6:30 pm and ended at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fontenot