

GDCA Board Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2019

The meeting was held at the home of Ari and Kelly Kocen. Present were President John Williams, Vice-President Claire Pittman, Treasurer Liz Spaulding, Justin Kozak, Heather Day, Mike Schexnayder, Greta Corona, Joy Couvillion, Ari Kocen, and Willie and Mary Fontenot.

Marlee Pittman, Community Building and Event Manager for the Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, gave us an overview of landscaping that will take place on Acadian Thruway between Government St. and North Blvd. Through a public/private partnership, which includes non-profit organizations, a grant was acquired to remove the concrete in the median of the road with plans to plant native trees and low maintenance plants. It is a major thorough fare with no traffic light in there so crosswalks will not be provided. Weather permitting, the concrete removal and planting should be finished this January. This spring, Mid City will work with property owners along those same blocks for improving landscaping along the road. In April they will ask for volunteers to help plant.

Marlee briefly listed the Programs that Mid City offers. They have a Home Ownership Program that teaches Financial Literacy and a Home Ownership Preservation Program that rehabs homes. There are volunteer projects every month on their website. There are Community Events. They are planning a Resident Leadership/Blight Boot Camp in a few months. The Civic Association Roundtable assembles representatives from the various associations in Mid City to hear about pertinent topics and learn from each other. The Real Estate Development Program buys houses to rehab and sell and builds new ones. They sell them for around \$125,000. Tools, tables, chairs and speakers are available to Mid City Associations and organizations. The Neighborhood Challenge is a \$1,000 grant awarded to a neighborhood for a project that is planned to improve it. Poet's Corner added branding sign's on top of their street name signs. Another association got a subdivision sign.

The treasury report was discussed. The annual financial sheet was distributed. There are 241 members. Income is up slightly and there is a positive net. It is the goal of the organization to maintain a full year's worth of security expenses in the bank.

Ted Magee and Anne Trappe were introduced. It is hoped that they will join the board. They came as guests tonight.

The annual meeting will be Sunday, March 10, 2019 at The Guru, on the corner of N. 19th and Government St. at 3:00 pm. The Board is planning to cook hamburgers. Invited speakers will be someone from the Mayor's office, a Mid City Merchant, Marlee Pittman, Camille Manning Broome and possibly Garrett Graves. Right now, only the venue is confirmed.

Brad Jensen, proprietor of Tim's Garage, on Government St. designed a small poster to sell with a lovely art deco design of flowers and the words "Garden District" on it. With

our permission he would sell them and give the GDCA \$5 for each one sold. The Board voted unanimously to approve of the idea.

Greta announced that she is rotating off the Board after volunteering for four years on her second go-round on the Board. Greta was instrumental in the past few years with the Pop! Fiz! Walk! We thank her!

The meeting was adjourned about 8:15 pm. But people hung around and visited.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Fontenot, January 15, 2019