



## **Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting**

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

7:00 PM

# Minutes

Board members in attendance: Justin Kozak, Michael Myers, Liz Spaulding, Anne Trapp, Ted Magee, Mike Schexnayder, Willie and Mary Fontenot, Joy Couvillion, John Williams, Eric Troutman, Ari Kocen, Chris Suba and Heather Day. It was held at the Magee's home.

Seth Gautier, from EBRPD, the new coordinator of our neighborhood patrols, gave an overview of what to expect. Halley Stafford will continue to be involved, but Jacob Wheat is no longer with the Department and has other pursuits. There are three officers who patrol. Two are usually with traffic patrols when on duty. Patrols will stop vehicles in the neighborhood when they see violations and start by giving warnings. He gave a monthly report. A high percentage of the crimes are crimes of opportunity. The monthly report will continue to be reported in the GDCA newsletter. To reach Officer Gautier, we should contact Eric Troutman. He recommends that we get more up-to-date alley signs with the current ordinance that applies to them, 11:286 of the Traffic Code Ordinances.

Ted Magee gave a financial update. Less income and greater expenses this year than last, but close. A dues letter is being planned for non-members. Ted works with Officer Gautier in overseeing the hours of the patrols. Membership and income are about the same as last year. There are 231 members now.

Welcome Packets Update – Anne Trapp. She has been waiting for the go-ahead to deliver packets, waiting to find out if we wanted to put anything about the Tree Program in the welcoming letter. The Board decided to keep the Tree Program separate and asked her to start delivering packets.

Utilities Update: Eric worked with Entergy on the problem with the lighting in the alley, where lights were out, but the private lights were not associated with any accounts. The owners of the accounts had probably moved. Entergy found one active account and registered all the unassigned lights in that alley to that account. There will be no extra

charge for that account and Entergy will handle the maintenance. On a different subject, it was suggested that a message be put in the newsletter asking residents to call 311 when their streetlights (not alley lights) burn out.

St. George Update: Ari attended the first meeting of the Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Associations concerning the City of St. George. At that meeting the proponents of the city gave their financial projections. On Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, the opponents will offer their financial projections.

Tree Update: Ted talked with Bayou Tree Service. They have offered the same price as two years ago, which was low then. Eric spoke with four companies in the past and Bayou looked like the best one. To trim several trees next to each other at once, so the equipment doesn't need to be moved, we would be charged \$700 per tree. This would also show people what the outcome of the project will do for the neighborhood. Possible locations were discussed. Having neighbors get together to mulch the medians was also suggested. Trimming one tree and mulching with the media present was suggested as a way to inform the neighbors and city residents about the project. Ted will talk with David at Bayou Trees about this idea. Eric motioned to allot \$5,600 to trim trees and mulch as a demonstration of what the neighborhood can do to help all the trees. Heather seconded it. The Board unanimously approved. There is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation set up for the tree program. Ted, Michael, Justin, John and Willie offered to be on the Tree Committee.

GDCA Events: Fall Picnic Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> at the Purgerson's: Mary will contact Trixie the Clown to do face paint and Mid City Redevelopment Alliance to see if we may borrow chairs and tables. The board unanimously approved of rental expenses for the games for the kids. John will order them.

Champagne Stroll - October 27, 4pm: Anne Trapp, Chairman. 4 homes are scheduled. 60 tickets will be sold. Attendees will be invited to come into the homes. Anne went down the list of details and decisions were finalized. Board members are encouraged to ask businesses for donated food. The sponsors ads will be put on the maps that are given to the attendees.

Board Christmas Party AND Holiday Lights Judging -- December 19, 7pm. Anne will host.

Next Board meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at Eric's office, 2905 Government St.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Fontenot  
Sept. 18, 2019