



GARDEN DISTRICT CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

October 8, 2019

MINUTES

The meeting was held at Eric Troutman's office on Government Street. Present were Eric Troutman, Claire Pittman, Justin Kozak, Liz Spaulding, Ted Magee, Joy Couvillion, Anne Trapp, Michael Myers and Willie and Mary Fontenot, John Williams, Liz Spaulding.

Tom Douhat, a resident on Cherokee, who has experienced flooding problems and spearheaded a meeting with city officials at his home this summer, spoke to the Board about getting in improvements and policies. His concerns included making the neighborhood more walkable by making it safer. A safer walk to City Park and a safer bike path to Downtown are needed. Perkins Rd. is not safe for children and it needs crosswalks, especially at Broussard. He is concerned about how MOVEBR will affect the traffic in the Garden District since the main goal is to move vehicles, not pedestrians. The exit ramp at Terrace downtown could bring more traffic our way. They need to mitigate traffic impacts.

Board members noted that the Complete Street Committee for the city hasn't been especially successful. There will be bike lanes on Government, but no protection for bikers, such as warning bumps between the lanes and the speed limit is too fast to be safe for bikers. They wondered how to get a crosswalk at Broussard and Perkins, since right now it is too dangerous a corner for pedestrians to use. If a traffic study is done, the usage count will be low. It will be used when it is safer. MOVEBR includes Terrace from Perkins to Park, siting it is for "road improvements". A traffic light is needed at Country Corner at Hundred Oaks. Mary will ask about getting that done.

Drainage was discussed. Tom talked about the Open Street map that is available online. It could be used for drainage issues and pedestrian needs. Justin explained that there has not been more overall rainfall, it's just that a great volume has come in a shorter period of time so the drainage system was unable to handle it. Tom said there is a storm water master plan, but it is not yet funded.

The Garden District needs to prioritize our area for the government. Hank Harper has city level maps but they haven't been digitized. It would help if we could find out where the pipes are and see if it is a capacity problem. Tom suggested a committee map out where the pipes are and their sizes. Use quadrant maps. We should ask to have the whole line inspected. Claire said the drainage will stay as a permanent topic at the meetings. Tom is going to email a list of suggestions to the Board and they will follow-up.

Ted reported on Finances. They are about the same as last year. There are 228 members, so we are down a few. Claire is planning to get a dues letter out. We spent less money on the Fall Picnic this year. The Purgerson's daughter did a wonderful job with the face painting and Mid City Redevelopment Alliance loaned chairs and tables, so we didn't need to rent them. Claire would like us to find more



sponsors. A new policy started where businesses who offer in-kind services may be considered sponsors and have publicity.

Claire will work on the newsletter in the coming week and highlight the Champagne Stroll and Lighting Contest. Everyone congratulated Joy on the good job she has been doing writing articles. She would like to get some on the accomplishments of the “saplings” (children) of the neighborhood.

Anne has delivered seven new neighbor packets and has nineteen to go. Few of the people have been home when she delivered them. Twenty-six homes have sold since February.

Eric gave a security report. Burglaries are up, mostly in the Park Blvd. and 18th St. area. Three people have been caught, one is still in jail and one is set to be released in the next week. Neighbors are encouraged to practice due diligence, lock everything, don't leave things in the car, get Ring Doorbells and cameras. The only way to put and keep people in jail is with evidence.

The utilities were repaired on Terrace, except two have a wiring problem. The lights in the 2200 block of Cherokee and Oleander have been going out some night and then working on others. Mary will check on it with Entergy. Officer Chad said he would have his patrols drive by and check those blocks.

Ted said the tree committee decided to have Dave Bennett work on four sets of two trees that are next to each other. They will do this on Park Blvd, Kleinert, Terrace and Cherokee. Mr. Bennett will get back regarding which trees would be the best to do. They are planning to set aside November 16th as mulching day and mulch those trees. The trees will be trimmed a few days before Mulching Day. The same date will be used for Alley Cleaning Day and Sign Cleaning Day. People may choose what they want to do. Claire suggested a Food Truck could come around noon for the workers. The work day could be a media event highlighting the trees.

Ann detailed what has been planned for the Champagne Stroll on October 27th. Claire asked that the Board let her know who is donating food, so she can give them credit. If they can get high resolution logos she will use them. Board members will continue to ask for food donations and try to find water dispensers. There will be posters at each house thanking the businesses that donated food. They will invite Bill Rodman's business to be one of the in-kind sponsors and advertise for him.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fontenot