



Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

7:00 PM at Claire Pittman's backyard

In Attendance: Claire Pittman, Mike Schexnayder, Michael Myers, Liz Spaulding, Willie and Mary Fontenot, Heather Day, Babette Schlegel, Anne Trapp, Neil Terry and Tom Douthat.

Welcome by Claire: Claire discussed the newsletter and gave special thanks to Joy Couvillion for her nice article about Ginger Ford's flowers for the neighbors. She briefly reported on the LA Action Coalition Summit on Health that she attended.

Drainage Update by Tom Douthat: Tom reminded the board that Fred Raiford said he would have a study done regarding the drainage and would hire an engineer to do it. He did write to an engineer who sent back sketches of what they know about the drainage. The Board would like to know if it is a capacity problem or if the water can't get to the Claycut pipes. The City doesn't know the diameter of all the pipes. Tom offered to write a letter to Fred Raiford before the election.

Activities: The Board does not have any firm social events planned for the neighborhood. A champagne picnic under the oaks in the medians is in the planning process in coordination with the tree improvement campaign. Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance is tentatively planning a garage sale in the spring which would involve the Mid-City neighborhoods. Claire suggested we also work with the other neighborhoods on the drainage problems.

Alley Update: Mike has been gathering Block Captains. He said that when people ask if their block has a captain, they need to give their address. The board would like to be sent a list of the block captains. Mike will send an update to the block captains with a timeline, so they will be motivated.

Holiday Lighting Contest: Mary and Liz will be leading this. The judging will be on the evening of the Board's Christmas party, December 15th. Babette offered that her husband would take photos of the winners. Some of the categories could be best door, most eclectic, jolliest, Blue Christmas, and most traditional. Claire suggested ornaments as prizes. Signs advertising the contest will be purchased. Claire would like to design new artwork for it. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

yard signs will be needed. We will need to recruit more judges. We have Mary, Liz and Babette and her husband.

Financials: Ted was unable to attend, so Claire gave a brief update, saying finances were close to what they were at last month's report.

Tree Campaign: The graphic artist submitted her design for the *Live Oak Love Collective* campaign. The artwork shows a crosscut of the trunk of a tree. Design-wise, it is strong enough to be used in black and white and save us money while still being very attractive. Mary made a motion to accept the artwork. Mike seconded it. It was unanimously approved.

Claire and Heather are planning a campaign to advertise the program before the tree trimming is done and after. Signs will go up telling people to watch the trees for future improvements. Before and after photos will be taken. Bayou Trees has offered to trim 16 trees in two areas and mulch for \$700 per tree. The areas are on Cherokee, starting at 22nd St. traveling westward toward Camellia to include eight trees and on Kleinert, the eight trees at the far west end where it intersects with Perkins Rd. from 22nd St. to Camellia and Kleinert from Camellia to Perkins Rd. Mike motioned to proceed with \$12,000 to fund Bayou Trees work. Heather is going to ask Mr. Biggz for a price quote, keeping in mind that as money is collected, more groups of trees will be cut. Claire and Heather would like to get a fund-raising campaign going to raise \$160,000 to trim all the trees in the medians. One suggestion was to sell dinners to-go for fund-raising. It was explained that we must spend money to make money. Claire will work on a budget that she will get to the Board. Heather will write up the plan for the Board. The Board unanimously showed support for the tree campaign.

To Do List:

Claire: Design signs for Holiday Lighting Contest. Work on *Live Oak Love* campaign budget.

Heather: Write up *Live Oak Love* campaign plan and timeline.

Liz & Mary: Look for ornaments to give and/or decorate for prizes. Plan 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place yard signs.

Mike: Contact block captains about Alley campaign. Mary, work with Mike on letter.