

Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting

Saturday, March 6, 2021

9:30 am in the Pittman's backyard

In attendance: Claire Pittman, Daniel Pittman, Heather Day, Babeth Schlegel, Mike Schexnayder, Anne Trapp, Joy Couvillion and Mary and Willie Fontenot.

1. Welcome

2. Committee Updates

- Communications & Newsletter (Claire) – beautiful newsletters – Thanks Claire.
 - Claire is working on the March newsletter. Residents do not need to be members to receive an online newsletter. They can request to be put on the list.
- Membership: There is a computer problem right now with auto-renewal and active vs. non-active members. Contact Michael Helms about any problems.
- Alleys (Mike): We will need to find out who to contact in DPW's Dept. of Maintenance
- Welcome Packets (Anne) – She has run out of Champagne and will contact Greta Corona about talking with Martin's Wine Cellar to procure more. Thanks for all your work, Anne.
- Dog Bag Stations (Ari) – good job

3. Walking Campaign

- Packets were distributed for the door-to-door Walking Campaign. Board members not present will need to pick up packets at Claire's house. Clear protectors for IDs are due to arrive this Sunday. Volunteers have been assigned. Do not put push cards in mailboxes. It is illegal. Mail slots are okay.
- The sign-up sheets are to get neighbor's email addresses if they would like to be on the list to receive newsletters. They do not have to be members. *Make sure the email address is legible. If they write it, please read it back to them.* If they have a question you can't answer, please put it on this sheet with their email address and we will get back with them.
- Introduce yourself and discuss what the association does and where the dues help. Give the person who answers the door the push card. If they are engaged in what you are saying, continue. If they want to know more but don't have time right now, you can get their email address.
- The white sheet of paper with the Talking Points is your cheat sheet.
- Heather went on a Saturday afternoon and had a good response with people home.
- Bring out the point that we work as a collective voice for residents. If they have reported something to 311 and did not get a good response, we can try to help.
- Security questions: If they ask how many hours a week we have patrols, it varies. December and the summer need more hours of patrols. There is an off-duty officer who acts as the liaison between us and our patrols. They advise us. We let them handle when and where they patrol. We don't micromanage. The liaison reports to us monthly.

4. Live Oak Love Collective

- There must be the commitment of money for all the trees in the median of one block before any of those trees will be trimmed and tended. Each tree will cost \$1,000. If they are not all paid for, the collective pot from the neighborhood will probably be able to cover some of the cost.
- Marketing & Outreach:
 1. Under the Oaks Event, Sunday, May 16th, 3-6 pm., at the vacant lots on the corner of Cherokee and Drehr Ave. May pay for a basket of food and Champagne or have a food truck. More discussions later about details.
 2. Bayou Trees will provide the band.
 3. Mulch Day, Saturday, April 3

4. Annual Meeting

- Date: Sunday, March 21st, 3:00 PM/5:00 PM Leola's Café & Coffee House at Circa 1857. Leola's has offered to host the snacks.
- Virtual or Socially Distance outside
- Suggested speakers:
 1. Seth Gautier (Eric can ask) Head of our security patrols
 2. Councilwoman Carolyn Coleman
 3. Representative from Bayou Trees
 4. Possibly someone from Dept. of Maintenance, regarding the alleys

Action Items:

- Please start your walking campaign as soon as possible. If you are unable to finish, please notify the board to find a replacement with time for them to do it.
- Eric: Please ask Seth Gautier if he can come speak at the annual meeting.
- Claire will ask Bayou Trees to come speak at the annual meeting.
- Mary will ask Councilwoman Coleman and someone from DPW's Maintenance Department to come speak at the annual meeting.
- Anne will speak to Greta Corona about getting more Champagne for the Welcoming packets. Anne offered to help with Under the Oaks.
- Mike and Daniel are going to check the subdivision sign at Magnolia and Park Blvd. which is dirty.
- A future discussion with Ted Magee will be about how much he thinks we can put into the trees each year. If we raise \$XXX amount in a year, would we be able to match it? How much? Should we have it dependent on how much is left in the association's savings?