

Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

6:30 pm in the Fontenot's backyard

In attendance: Claire Pittman, Heather Day, Babeth Schlegel, Mike Schexnayder, Ted Magee, Justin Kozak, Alli Guay and Mary and Willie Fontenot.

Welcome – Everyone introduced themselves to Alli Guay, the new Board member.

Committee Updates

- Communications & Newsletter (Claire) – Claire needs assistance. Alli offered to write articles for the newsletters and help with other communications. Babeth offered to help with the operations side of communications by setting up meetings and communicating with the Board.
- Financials - Treasurer Ted Magee handed out a report showing profits and losses of 2021 compared to 2020. Dues income is up, which might allow for more money for the Life Oak Love Collective. Possibilities for how to manage helping blocks with tree expenses was discussed. Some donations for the trees have been generated. There are 160 trees and a goal of \$175,000.
- Walking Campaign – Some board members discussed good experiences going door-to-door on the walking campaign. Ted speculated that the increase in dues might be due to that interaction.

Live Oak Love Collective

- Mulch Day – It was harder work than we anticipated. One neighbor had the mulch that was on top of grass hauled away from the median near his house. The Board decided to not replace that mulch. The mulching on Kleinert is finished. Mike and Ted will decide what to do about Cherokee. Heather offered to call Bayou Trees and ask for advice toward a compromising action that will help the trees, but not inspire the neighbors to remove the mulch.
- There must be the commitment of money for all or almost all of 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 (Heather):
 - a. Under the Oaks Event, Sunday, May 16th, 3-6 pm., at the vacant lots on the corner of Cherokee and Drehr Ave.
 - b. Heather walked the lot. It needs cleanup of sticks and such and a mowing. There did not seem to be holes in the ground.
 - c. Tickets will be \$35 for members of the GDCA and \$45 for non-members, welcoming people from other neighborhoods. This will include a box of snacks and *The Bayou Swingers*, a band sponsored by Bayou Tree Service.

- d. In case of rain, Gallery 14, a warehouse on S. 14th St., off Government St. will be the venue.
- e. Scott Higgin, the owner of Blend, will help with the purchase of the liquor.
- f. The board voted unanimously to approve of \$1,000 toward the event expenses.
- There was a discussion to clarify the public's understanding of the event.
- Alli and Mary proposed having signs to give to people who donate \$1,000. After a discussion, the Board unanimously approved of setting a limit of \$750 for signs and stickers. Stickers could be purchased for \$25 with the money going toward the trees. Signs would be available for a \$500 donation. Claire proposed this and Justin seconded it.

Annual Meeting

The Board felt that it went well. Heather offered to take a gift to the owner of Leola's as a thank you for hosting,

Future Events

- Mid City Garage Sale – Mid City Redevelopment Alliance is waiting to hear from other neighborhoods. There might be a party when it is over. A Fall date might work out.
- Mad About the Trees Croquette – With an Alice in Wonderland Theme, in the thought stage
- Street Closure Event – Possibly a Jambalaya meal, maybe a Men's Cookoff to raise money with Camellia St. closed

Action Items:

- Alli will write articles for the newsletter.
- Babeth will help with Operations by communicating with the board.
- Heather will call Bayou Trees for advice about the mulching on Cherokee.
- Heather will ask the person who designed the Live Oak Love logo to design signs and stickers for donors.
- Where the money is going and purpose of the Picnic needs to be clarified.