

Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting

August 17, 2021, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

In attendance were Claire Pittman, Heather Day, Michael Helms, Clayton Fields, and Mary and Willie Fontenot. Ted Magee, Justin Kozak and Anne Trapp sent in their reports.

Communications & Newsletter (Claire): Claire is going to try to get the August newsletter out next week. She asks that committees send in an update article. The newsletter offers “Sponsor Spotlight” articles if the sponsor would like it. Also, “Business Sponsor” articles for someone who lives in the Garden District. “Garden District Proud” are articles spotlighting kids and young adults who are doing good things. If anyone knows a student in high school or college who is a budding journalist, please ask if they would be interested in submitting an article. Perhaps, a student could write an article for community hours. We need to gather content for the newsletter this week if it is to go out next week.

Financial (Ted): A financial statement was submitted. We raised \$2,795 for the oak trees. Since Ted wasn't present, we still have some questions as to what was included in some of the figures.

Membership (Michael Helms): June – 4 auto renewals, 1 new member, \$100 for Live Oaks on the website.
July – 1 new member, 5 auto renewals, 3 Live Oak donations adding up to \$400.
August – 2 auto renewals, new corporate Sponsor.

Security: In the past the security officers would only communicate with Eric Troutman. There is a new understanding that they should also communicate with the president and the board.

Alleys (Mike/Mary): One letter has been sent to an owner with overgrown vegetation. More will be sent. A budget has been requested to pay for stamps and supplies. There was no quorum, so this will be done later. Clayton said that Jennifer Richardson leads a group called *Keep Tiger Town Beautiful* that picks up trash all around the city. If we need them in the alleys, he can contact her. The alleys seem to be more overgrown than littered, but Claire suggested they might be put to good use picking up litter on the Government St. medians.

Welcome Packets (Anne): Twenty-one homes have been sold in the GD this year, according to MLS. Anne asks for a budget to buy more envelopes, GD canvas bags and sparkling wine. Heather will give Anne some Live Oak Love postcards to put in the bags. Blend supplies the wine. Heather will write an article about Blend for the newsletter.

Oak Trees (Justin): Two letters have been written for different audiences. Graphics/logos have been purchased to use on letters and elsewhere. Artwork for Live Oak Collective is on the Google Drive. Computer software needs: Easily track payments for specific medians. A visual showing what % of the total money is needed to do the work on specific median. Michael suggested that they ask John for his idea as to how to achieve these. A meeting with Claire, Michael, John and Taylor will hopefully take place. Two people volunteered to be “median champions” and deliver letters/talk to neighbors/be point of contact for medians. There needs to be only one person to be the contact with Bayou Trees, not several people. Dave Benton no longer handles Baton Rouge. Lee Rouse now handles Baton Rouge. Mr. Rouse will deliver a list of medians in order of need next week.

Nominations for 2022 President and Treasurer – The Board needs to decide if they would like to take on either of these positions and to recruit new board members. Clayton Fields was welcomed into the group.

Oct. 23rd Mid City Garage Sale: It's still on. Sign ups will be on the website. Heather spoke about the possibility of having a music and food happening on the same day. She still has the Garage and Groove sign. Covid will determine the future of this.

Put meeting specifics of data collection and reports on the Google Drive.

Board members should report any Doggie Bag Stations that are empty.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Fontenot