

Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting via Zoom
January 11, 2022, 7 pm

In attendance were Claire Pittman, Tom Douthat, Kimberly Coffee, Mike Helm, Babeth Schlegel, Mary and Willie Fontenot and Mike Schexnayder.

Live Oaks: Kimberly reported that neighbors on her block have pledged \$8,200 toward the maintenance of the live oaks. They need \$10,000 to pay Bayou Trees, plus the cost of people using their credit cards. Mary made a motion that was seconded by Tom to have the civic association donate \$2,100 to finish covering the cost of the maintenance of the trees on Park Blvd. between Perkins Road and Terrace Blvd. The motion passed unanimously. The website now has a place where people can donate to the collective fund for the live oaks or to specific medians and in some case, with extra-long medians, to a section of it. Claire suggested that they have John put a link on the Home Page of the website, leading people to the Live Oak Collective page. Kimberly offered to write down what worked well for them, to help other blocks successfully solicit donations for the live oak trees in their medians. She praised Clayton Fields for his help.

New Board Members: Justin Kozak, Heather Sewell Day, Ted Magee and Eric Troutman will all be stepping down from the board. We greatly appreciate their dedication and hard work. We must now look for replacements. Claire will ask for interested people in the January newsletter. Mary, Kimberly and Claire will work on a recruitment letter to the neighborhood.

Security: Some reports of crime on Nextdoor.com do not have police reports about them. Claire is wondering if we can get the state of the union concerning crime in Mid City as a whole. Marlee, with Mid City Redevelopment Alliance might be able to help. Neighbors would like to know more about security, so the board will ask the police and specifically our patrols to help us with better accountability and communication. The neighborhood wants to feel informed. With that in mind, The GDCA might focus the annual meeting on crime and ask for data that our head Patrol Officer, Seth Gautier, can deliver. When people pay their dues, they may donate an additional amount to an account that is specifically for security. There was a discussion about the structure, pros and cons of having a crime prevention district. Most of the crimes in the Garden District are crimes of opportunity. Neighbors must continue to be vigilant.

We will aim to have the Annual Meeting in March.