

Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2022, 7 pm

In attendance: Anne Trapp, Michael Myers, Tom Douthat, Babeth Schlegel, Ted Magee, Mary and Willie Fontenot. Guests: Chris Mericas, Michael Crane and Shelbie Burgett, Kathryn Mount, Nathan McBride, Hance Hughes. Mary conducted the meeting. It was held at Anne Trapp's house, 2438 Terrace Ave.

Welcome and Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves and spoke a little about their experience in the neighborhood.

Committee Updates:

Communication & Newsletter:

Mary announced that Claire was looking for someone to write an article about crime for the March newsletter. Shelbie was a journalism major, so she volunteered. She needs to get information from whoever is in contact with our patrols.

Financials:

- Ted reported on the tree campaign as it relates to finances. The live oak trees have a positive affect on our our property values. Trimming them is also a safety issue. The most recent maintenance of trees on Park Blvd. brought in some generous donations from residents in that area. The 501(c)(3) also incurred some expenses for tree trimming.
- Membership dues in the past year are up from the previous year.
- A \$2,000 grant from the Mid City Redevelopment Alliance paid for overhead for the Live Oak Collective activities to raise more money. *Beats, Bubbles and Bites* was an event that brought in money for the trees and brought the neighborhood together for a common cause.
- There were business expenses, such as the website, communication, flyers, post office box and more.
- Neighborhood patrols were an expense.

Alleys:

Mary told those present about the letters that were sent to property owners if the alleys behind their property was overgrown.

Welcome Packets:

Anne reported on new neighbor welcoming packets and distributed three packets to new neighbors at the meeting.

Drainage:

Tom gave an overview of where we are with the drainage issues. The city assessment has not been finished. Bridges have been replaced on Hundred Oaks and on Broussard. Right now, culverts are acting as dams and pipe sizes are inadequate.

Live Oak Collective:

Park Blvd. update: kudos to the residents on Park who made this happen. News coverage & newsletter. A copy of the newsletter was on hand. Thanks to Claire and Kimberly for all their efforts.

5G Cell Towers:

Mary explained that 5G cell towers must be closer together than the 3G towers that we now have, so there will be more towers in the neighborhood. Ted moved to send the following statement to Steve Shurtz with the City and to the city council members. "Since residences within the member neighborhoods in the Garden District (Roseland Terrace, Drehr Place and Kleinert Terrace) have their utilities served by rear alleys and servitudes, which are public rights-of-way, the Garden District Civic Association Board recommends that any Small Wireless Facilities be placed within those public alleys and servitudes and not along primary street frontages. Medians on the street boulevards would be a secondary choice to the alleys and servitudes. If possible, the Board requests that any new poles be placed next to already existing poles." The Board unanimously approved of the motion.

Annual Meeting:

Sunday, March 27, 3:30 pm, Leola's Café. Leola's is providing snacks.

Suggested speakers:

- Councilperson Carolyn Coleman,
- The head of our security patrol,
- Steve Shurtz to explain 5G cell towers,
- Garrett Graves for updates

Events:

Babeth suggested that we have an Events Committee and put out an email to the neighborhood naming the events and ask who would like to be on the committee. COVID has disrupted the smooth transition from event to event. The Board would like to get back on track.

Upcoming events are:

- Crawfish Boil (The Board would like to plan on it this year. We canceled the past two years.) We were happy with the company that provided crawfish last time. Red River Bank's ice cream truck was a nice addition.
- Fall Picnic
- Champagne Stroll – Shelbie suggested that this be held at Christmastime, so homes would be decorated.
- Bike Ride – Tom is with Bike Baton Rouge and will look into whether they would like to have a Garden District Bike Ride.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.