

## **Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting**

Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 6:30 PM

Location: Mary & Willie Fontenot, 632 Drehr Ave

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kimberly Coffey, Heather Day, Clayton Fields, Mary Fontenot (Sec.), Willie Fontenot, Ashley Gremillion (V.P.), Josh Howard, Anita Parsons King, Jacob Luneau, Ted Magee (Treas), Michael Myers, Claire Pittman, Mike Schexnayder, Babeth Schlegel, Anne Trapp.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Events:** (Anne Trapp): Champagne Stroll 2022, "*Pop! Fizz! Stroll!*" – 4 homes, Tickets \$30 members, \$40 non-members – Limited sales to 60 people

1<sup>st</sup> Catherine & Jeff Russell – 2546 Terrace, Greeter: Ted & Janet Magee, 4-4:45 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Cindy & Richard Tiek – 2355 Olive, Greeter: Ashley Gremillion, 5-5:45 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Victoria & Prescott Bailey -2040 Kleinert, Greeter: Anita King, 6-6:45 pm

4<sup>th</sup> Dickie Howze and Andy Plaisance – 2527 Terrace Ave., Greeters: Joy Couvillion and Kay Williams, 7-8 pm

The Board voted unanimously to budget a \$100-150 gift for each host house. This could include a bottle of champagne and a gift certificate to a restaurant or other appropriate business in a Garden District tote bag. The host will be given the option to provide plates, napkins and utensils and be reimbursed or have the GDCA provide them, with the thought being that they might want to choose them. Josh offered to receive the Champagne on Friday, cool it in his office refrigerator and deliver it to the houses on Saturday. Anne will ask each house to provide water for guests that don't drink alcohol.

**Financials:** (Ted Magee) \$60,485 balance. 38 tickets have been sold for the Stroll. Budget: Look at what has been done in the past, pre-Covid, and make budgets for individual committees. Ashley made a motion and Babeth seconded it. Passed unanimously.

**Communications + Newsletter:** (Ashley, Claire, Clayton) A free, non-profit Google account was set up so emails will be able to go directly to the President, VP, Secretary, and chairmen of the Live Oak and Drainage committees. It will work like a filing system. Clayton has other software that he hopes will be easy to use to improve communication. He'll start with setting it up for the Board and let it develop. **Newsletter:** Awaiting an article regarding Officer Seth Gautier and security. Hoping for an article about drainage. In the future we want to interview neighbors.

**Live Oak Collective:** (Kimberly Coffey) The 1200 block of Park Blvd. is donating 80% (\$6,400 pledged) of the cost of trimming, etc. the trees in the median, so the GDCA will pay the other 20% (\$1,600). Bayou Trees will be notified. The 2300 block of Kleinert, between St. Rose and Drehr is collecting contributions to have the tree in their median trimmed, etc. When they reach 80%, the GDCA will contribute the 20%. Claire would like to follow up

with her block, but they haven't raised the funds yet. Some form of receipt or thank you note receipt will be designed. Ted has been sending receipts when requested.

**Welcome Packets:** (Anne Trapp) More bubbly and tri-fold brochures are needed for the welcoming packets. Heather assured that Bubbly has been ordered and is on the way. Claire said that she has the format for the tri-fold. Ashley asked her to check the dues on it to make sure they are correct.

**Dog Bag Stations:** (Anita King) Dog bag stations are refilled regularly.

**Signage:** (Babeth Schlegel) The GDCA has been receiving free labor and only paying for the plants in the past. Jesse would like to be paid for her work. The new landscaping design has been planned with more sustainable plants. At Government and Park she would like to use evergreens behind the sign and hearty perennials with low annuals in the front. We will look into the possibility of raising the signs since it is difficult to see "Garden District". Mary will look into what is allowed by the Traffic Division. At Park and Magnolia, Jesse would like to use ferns and palmettos. The first year's expense would be higher at \$500 for each sign with subsequent years costing perhaps half that. Heather motioned to budget \$1,000 to landscape the two signs on Park Blvd. Anne seconded it. The vote was unanimously in favor. It was decided that the landscaping around the Magnolia/Park sign would not begin until the tree trimming is finished.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The November Board Meeting is on Election Day, so if it works for Justin, the Board agreed to move the meeting to Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Pop! Fizz! Stroll! GDCA Champagne Stroll, Sunday, October 30

Holiday Lighting Contest, December 15, 2022

## **FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:**

November 9, 2022: Justin Kozak, 1837 Olive St. (tentative)

December Party Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> : Anne & Fred Trapp

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Each committee should figure out a budget for 2023, using expenditures from pre-covid activities to help formulate it and present it to the Board in January.
2. Pop! Fizz! Stroll! – Greeters will be at their assigned homes during their allotted times. Josh will manage the Champagne cooling and deliveries.
3. Communication: Clayton will work on a new system. Officers and some committee heads will use a new system. Newsletter: Articles on security, drainage and neighbor interviews requested.
4. Welcoming packets: Claire will get more tri-fold brochures.
5. Signage: Mary will find out the signage requirements for height.