

Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 9, 2022, 6:30 PM, 2270 Wisteria St.

In attendance: Justin Kozak, Mike Schexnayder, Claire Pittman, Shelbie Burgett, Ashley Gremillion, Hance Hughes, Anita King, Jacob Luneau, Babeth Schlegel, Anne Trapp and Willie and Mary Fontenot.

OLD BUSINESS: Storage of signage, tables, etc. – Jacob rented a storage unit at the College Dr. Mini Storage, 4724 Concord Ave., BR 70808, P.O. Box 80820, BR 70898, colldrvms@hotmail.com, ph. (225) 927-6111. Building 7, Unit 1106. The address of the actual unit is 4866-2 Revere Dr. It is where Revere Ave. runs into Old Forge Dr. Claire and Mary were each given a key to the lock. Jacob and Mary have copies of the paperwork.

DRAINAGE/FLOODING: Looking for a resolution to the repeating problems on Park Blvd., the residents would like to have barricades put up, blocking the street during high water. Vehicles slosh through it, making waves that come into yards. The city won't put up the barricades and can't let the residents do it. Cones wouldn't work because they aren't heavy enough to stay put. Subsurface structures for drainage were not designed for these high-volume events, only for isolated rains. Tom Douthat continues to work on drainage. Claire works on the Storm Water Master Plan and is especially interested in drainage since her house continues to flood. The STORM WATER MASTER PLAN FINAL PUBLIC MEETING for the whole parish will be at the Goodwood Library on August 30, 5:30-7:30 pm. It is very important for many people to attend. The beginning will be open house style and then folks can speak to individuals. On September 8th there will be a meeting, but Aug. 30th is more important to attend. The Garden District needs to figure out 1) What are the plans for our area; 2) How to push forward; 3) What will the funding stream be to pay for improvements. Solutions might need to move from Fred Raiford, with DPW, to the Councilpersons. Federation of Greater Baton Rouge will have a meeting Thursday, September 8th @ 7PM. addressing drainage and flooding. Fred Raiford (City Parish) will provide updates on all the parish maintenance activities of the America Rescue Plan, Melissa Kennedy (HNTB) will share the proposed projects from the Stormwater Master Plan and Nick Simms (tentative - US Army Corp of Engrs) will provide updates on the 5 tributaries and Comite River Diversion Canal efforts

COMMUNICATION/NEWSLETTER: Ashley, Claire and Shelbie met once this summer. Shelbie is working on a crime article. They are thinking of spotlighting new neighbors and citizen awards. Anne thinks that some of the new neighbors she meets would be happy to be interviewed. Claire recommended that a "Letter from the President" be mailed (snail mail) to each house letting them know about the GDCA, its mission, programs and events. Many people don't know that the GDCA exists.

SECURITY/ UTILITIES: The four, armed men who were holding up residents in the area were caught. Three were on a home video on St. Rose St. near Broussard. A fifth was later caught. The resident on St. Rose didn't get his stolen car back.

ALLEYS: There was one request for help from Dennis Swain about alley infringement. After discussions with the Permit Office and looking at their paperwork, it was resolved that it is the homeowner's responsibility, not the City's or the GDCA.

WELCOME PACKETS: Anne needs more Prosecco. Her last deliveries were on June 21, 2022. Claire told her that she could get it directly and doesn't need to go through anyone. She will ask new neighbors if they would like to be featured in the newsletter and why they moved here.

DOG BAG STATIONS: Some of the stations are empty and need filling. They require a key to fill them. Anita has offered to help, but will need a key. Mary will contact Ari.

SIGNAGE: The city just got a new machine so it will be able to make the kind of street signs that sit on top of street name signs to give "branding" to neighborhoods. Poets Corner has them. The Garden District would like to have them.

STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT: There is some confusion as to whether to contact AT&T or Entergy. We will place that information in the newsletter and on the website. Mary will send it and information about private lights to Ashley.

MAPPING: Hance has offered to make a map of the neighborhood showing streets and dog bag stations. It could be useful at meetings to discuss flooding and individual houses.

FALL PICNIC: Sunday, September 25th The Event Committee, which plans to meet Tuesday, Aug. 16th will first find a venue. Mary will ask Eric Troutman about getting insurance on a vacant lot. The winner of the raffle ticket was called twice about picking up his prize, but never did, so it will be raffled off again.

POP! FIZZ! STROLL! GDCA Champagne Stroll, Sunday, October 30 – Anne Trapp is heading this committee

LIVE OAK LOVE COLLECTIVE: The Board would like to keep the momentum of this project going and have at least one median a year maintained. If interested blocks aren't found we will turn to the arborist's priority list according to need and see if we can't rally a leader on the neediest block to get some interest going. Kimberly Coffey will be consulted.

ACTION ITEMS:

EVERYONE:

Tuesday, August 30, 5:30-7:30 pm. Storm Water Master Plan - Attend and spread the word: FINAL PUBLIC MEETING for the whole parish will be at the Goodwood Library on August 30, 5:30-7:30 pm.

Everyone: Send newsletter items to Ashley.

Justin: Write "Letter from the President" to mail.

Shelbie: Write Crime article for newsletter.

Anne: Buy Prosecco and ask new neighbors about being in the newsletter.
Work on Champagne Stroll.

Mary: Ask Ari about getting duplicate keys for dog bag stations.

Try to duplicate key for storage unit so more people will have access.

Ask Eric Troutman if it is possible to insure the lots for liability for the picnic.

Ask Maginnis's for permission to use their lots for the picnic.

Send Ashley information about streetlight replacement and \$50 payment for vaccines and boosters.

Hance: Make Garden District map.

Kimberly: Call a Live Oak Collective meeting. Share arborist information and strategize.

Michael Helms - How are we looking on membership? And has Seth provided any security updates for the past couple months?

Babeth - To check in with Jess regarding planting at neighborhood signs

Next Meeting: September 13, 2022, Ashley Gremillion, 1814 Wisteria St.

October 11, 2022: Willie and Mary Fontenot, 632 Drehr Ave.

November 8, 2022: Justin Kozak, 1837 Olive St.

December Party TBA: Anne & Fred Trapp

Thanks to Mike and Suzanne Schexnayder for hosting this meeting.