

Garden District Civic Association Board Meeting

September 13, 2022, 6:30 PM - Location: Ashley Gremillion's house, 1814 Wisteria

In attendance: Prescott Bailey, Kimberly Coffey, Heather Day, Mary Fontenot, Ashley Gremillion, Hance Hughes, Anita Parsons King, Justin Kozak, Jacob Luneau, Ted Magee, Kathryn Mount, Babeth Schlegel, and Anne Trapp.

OLD BUSINESS

- Storage unit keys: Justin was given a key. Mary will give one to Michael Myers or Chris Mericas and Claire, if she wants one. Mary has one.
- The Board voted to pay Katie Love \$150 for entertainment at the Fall Picnic. She will play the guitar and sing for 1 ½ hours.
- Landscaping needs at the signs on Park Blvd: Babeth and Ashley will talk with Jess Cole, the landscaper from Sweet Farm Landscape. She has been charging the GDCA only for plants, not labor. Babeth will ask her for a proposal as to how much she would like to be paid. Treasurer Ted suggested that she be paid quarterly, not monthly.
- Decorations at signs are being done by Catherine Russell.
- Dog Bags: Anita filled the doggie bag dispensers.
- School Board Candidate Forum: The Board decided that it would not organize a candidate forum, but would advertise one if a forum is planned.

NEW BUSINESS/UPDATES

- Fall Picnic – Mary asked for volunteers to help Michael and Chris pick up and return chairs and tables at Mid City Redevelopment Alliance (Sept. 23rd & 26th) and to help set up and take down on site on Sept. 25th. Justin volunteered to help with the Mid City pickup and drop off and Babeth volunteered to help set up and clean up on the 25th. Mary will ask for volunteers from the neighborhood on Nextdoor.com.
- Financials – Ted reported that dues income is up a little bit from last year and expenditures are down because money was spent on tree maintenance last year. He found an accounting software online that is free, so he has started using it. Half the annual dues go to security. The Spring Crawfish Boil brings in members.
- Membership Update – It was proposed that we could send attractive postcards or magnets to promote GDCA events. The Board liked the idea and will consider it in the future.
- Security: Seth Gautier is supposed to give the GDCA monthly security reports, but has not been consistent with that. Justin and Ashley will ask Mike Helms to talk with Seth.
- Communications & Newsletter: Ashley asked that someone from each committee come to the Board meetings. The newsletter is scheduled to go out the Tuesday after the Board meetings. We are asked to send committee updates and articles to

Jason or Ashley by the Monday after the Board meeting, preferably earlier than that. It would be nice to have a Community Calendar in the newsletter, so please send information about any upcoming events. The newsletter will promote the use of 311 to report flooding and drainage problems (storm drain cleaning) and trash in medians. Attaching photos of the problem will be encouraged.

- Short Term Rentals (STR): Justin and Mary gave a quick overview of the STR Ordinance that is up for a vote next week. Mary read a statement from the GDCA, which the Board approved. *“The Garden District Civic Association appreciates the Short-term Rental Committee’s hard work to write this draft ordinance. We recognize that rules governing the STRs are extremely important for neighborhood residents’ quality of life and property values and look forward to having an ordinance in place. While the protocols involved in the enforcement have not yet been designed, we would like to stress how important it will be to make sure the public, neighborhood associations, renters and the owners of the short-term rentals are informed of what the rules are and how the chain of command involved in enforcement will proceed from the owners and renters being made aware of the rules to the neighbors knowing what to do if there are problems and being able to track any follow-up. Thank you.”*
- Government Street development- Mary gave an update on Councilperson Caroline Coleman’s request for a grant to put a crosswalk at Government and Leticia so patrons at Garrison Neill’s businesses at St. Rose and Wisteria may safely cross Government St. to park at Boudreaux’s and John William’s where they will have permission to park. The crosswalk costs \$100,000, too much for a small business to pay.
- Champagne Stroll: Anne Trapp reported that she has three houses lined up. Prescott Bailey offered his house, so now there are the four needed. They belong to Catherine and Jeff Russell, Cindy Tiek at St. Rose and Olive, Prescott, and Dickie Howell and Andy Plaisance. We appreciate them all. More etched Champagne glasses will be ordered. The committee will ask for donated refreshments. Heather will talk with City Pork about their donating some.
- Drainage: Hance reported on the Stormwater Master Plan meeting where engineers seemed to think that there might be something in the system under our neighborhood that is blocking drainage and causing the flooding. The pipes under our neighborhood have not been photographed for problems. The engineers feel that this should be the next step. This will be our goal. The Master Plan will cost \$2 billion. Hance and others are compiling a video collection of the neighborhood flooding on YouTube. Someone suggested that long-time residents lead a campaign.
- Welcome Packets: Anne reported that she needs bottles, a new president’s letter and copies of the tri-fold brochure that was used before. John Williams might have it on his computer.

- Trees: Kimberly updated the Board on the tree campaign. She is going to contact Susan Billings because Mary heard that she was collecting money for the trees in the median on her block. She wants to get details and make sure that they know that if they go through the GDCA's 501(c)(3), the money will be tax deductible and the group might get a 20% reduction. The GDCA would like to use Bayou Tree Service, though. The trees on the Bayou Tree Service priority list that are most in need of maintenance are the first two blocks of Park Blvd. off Government. Mary will get Kimberly a list of the owners.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fall Picnic, Sunday, September 25th
- Pop! Fizz! Stroll! GDCA Champagne Stroll, Sunday, October 30

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

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

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

December Party TBA: Anne & Fred Trapp

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Mary** will give a storage key to Michael Myers or Chris Mericas and Claire, if she wants one. She will contact Mary Juneau about the candidate forum and Sean Love about paying Katie for her entertainment. She will ask for picnic volunteers on Nextdoor.com. She will get a list of property owners in the first two blocks of Park Blvd. to Kimberly.
- **Babeth and Ashley** will speak with Jesse Cole about the landscaping at the signs on Park Blvd. and a payment proposal.
- **Mike Helms** will talk with Seth Gautier about handing in monthly security reports.
- **Board members** and committee heads will get updates and articles for the newsletters to Ashley or Jason by the first Monday after the board meeting, preferably sooner.
- **Anne** will order etched glasses for the Champagne tour and get her committee to get food volunteered. She will make sure more bottles are ordered for the Welcoming packets and try to find the original artwork for the GDCA tri-fold brochure.
- **Justin** will write a letter from the President for the Welcoming packets.
- **Kimberly** will contact Susan Billings about the tree campaign.