

ERTCA Board Meeting Minutes- May

Esplanade Ridge/Treme Civic Association
Board Meeting
May 6, 2010

Meeting called to order by Michele Braden in Bill Edwards' residence on Esplanade Avenue at 6:38 p.m.

Board Members present: All

Not Present: None

Agenda Items:

1. **Bethany House Update-** Michele reported that the staff of BZA voted against ERTCA and for Odyssey House on waiver for parking and setback at Bethany House ignoring that this is in a historic district. After vote of BZA next week next step is lawsuit. Issue does not go to City Council but must be appealed in Civil Court. This is a halfway house not apartments like they are claiming. Debbie and David Villarubia are open to helping with court costs. It is still important for members to go to the BZA meeting next Monday at 10am even though they usually vote what staff recommends. No surrounding neighborhood organization supports Odyssey House. DNIA is neutral but supports alternative Cooking School concept. Steve felt DNIA members might be persuaded to oppose halfway house. Steve also recommended that at BZA meeting we refute staff recommendations point by point and discuss the density issue. Cutting of funding support is also another avenue. An Odyssey House resident was recently arrested for exposing themselves to Sandra Ewell. With addition of Bethany House these incidents will increase several-fold.
2. **Membership Drive-** To start first week in June. Advisory Council for ERTCA is in place and on letterhead. Matt is compiling membership list with contact info to announce renewal deadline. With this ERTCA can contact members without e-mail on a regular basis by postcard.
3. **Gayerre Park-** ERTCA is in queue for Pro-Bono landscape design services thru Parkway Partners.
4. **Street Lights on Esplanade-** Michele brought up issue of the menagerie of street lamps on Esplanade as opposed to the uniform look of the LED lights on St Charles. She has brought this up to Mr. Mendoza as a neighborhood wish to fix. She would like to add it to wish list of what ERTCA presents to our two council members. Board agreed this was a good idea.
5. **Susan Guidry/ Kristen Palmer Meetings-** each is scheduled to come to an ERTCA general meeting. Michele would like to present a wish list to each and asked for ideas. Approved Ideas were as follows,
 - Replace Street Lights on Esplanade with LED
 - Ask for street car up Esplanade

- Ask for study of abandoned/blighted housing
- Support Indian Market at Broad & Bayou
- Support St Bernard Circle restoration

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.