

Esplanade Ridge/Treme Civic Association Board Meeting

Minutes

March 5, 2008

ERTCA Board President Matt Norton called meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. at the resident of Bill Edwards on Esplanade Avenue.

Board Members present included Marie Marcel, Pat O'Brien, Hilda Young, Raymond Young, Bill Edwards, Novelt Estrella and Rhodesia Douglas.

Board Members not present included: L.T. Thomas

Order of Business

1. Community Trees

Bill Edwards received thanks for distributing trees from the parkway partners community tree project to residents. Rhodesia Douglas inquired about the remainder of applicants who had not received trees. Matt Norton assured that the organization would resubmit request for the next round of tree distribution in April. Pat O'Brien updated the board about Drex Brumfield's landscape project of Esplanade, which is in the process of resubmission, and passed around to the group a map of a late 1800s plan of the landscape of the neutral ground.

2. Firehouse Lawsuit Costs and Writ of Mandamus

Discussion ensued about the legal dispute over the conversion of the old firehouse at Galvez and Esplanade into a non-profit community center. Bill Edwards and Marie Marcel each providing explanation of the writ, case background history and testimonies. Pat O'Brien introduced a motion for ERTCA to share in the legal costs of the battle. Matt Norton added an amendment to the motion to cap contribution from ERTCA so as not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

3. Parking Problems in Neighborhood

Pat O'Brien solicited ideas on how to alleviate the parking problem in the Kelerec, Columbus and N. Derbigny vicinity. Members offered and explored several ideas from converting doubles to singles, seeking permits for residential parking and asking funeral home, but are no real solutions as neighborhood density has worsened in post-Katrina New Orleans.

4. Bar at Miro and D'Abadie streets

Matt Norton provided update information on the actions to stop bar reopening in residential area. Bar applicant missed extension deadline and on that grounds permit should be denied. Calls have been placed to City Planning but as of meeting, none were returned.

5. Membership Drive

Hilda Young agrees to join Rhodesia Douglas on the membership committee. They set a meeting to develop campaign ideas and strategies.

6. Newsletter on Web Site

Matt Norton discussed content matters (zoning issues, updates, recipes, meeting dates).

Miscellaneous Items

Hilda Young proposed that the association consider neighborhood markers to designate district's boundary. Another member suggested the board consider the use of a flag, possibly designed by partner school, Clark Senior High School, and to use it as a fundraiser.

Hilda Young also moved that organization purchase a patron ticket to the PRC's "Ladies In Red" event on Fri., June 25, 2008. Marie Marcel motioned and Pat O'Brien seconded and it was approved with a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.