

Esplanade Ridge/Treme Civic Association Board Meeting

Minutes

April 5, 2008

ERTCA Board President Matt Norton called meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. at the resident of Bill Edwards on Esplanade Avenue.

Board Members present included Marie Marcel, Pat O'Brien, L.T. Thomas, Bill Edwards, Rhodesia Douglas, and Hilda and Raymond Young who arrived later.

And Guests included: Felicia Freidenburg and Gregory Douglas

Board Member(s) not present included: Novelt Estrella

Order of Business

1. Firehouse Lawsuit Costs & Writ of Mandamus

Legal action was filed this week by attorney Clarence Roby on behalf of Joe and Marie Marcal, Bill Edwards and the ERTCA. President Matt Norton verified that ERTCA paid \$1,000 into the defense fund as agreed by the board last month.

2. Break-ins on Barracks – 2200 Block

Discussion led by Pat O'Brien and Matt Norton followed regarding the rash of burglaries in the area, an alarming four to five over a span of a few days. Rhodesia Douglas raised the question of a possible link between them and the growing concentration of drug rehabilitation programs in the district. Marie Marcal said she would bring this concern up at the next NONPACC meeting.

3. Report on Carter Meeting regarding HDLC Expansion

Matt Norton, Pat O'Brien and Hilda Young met on Friday, March 28th in Pat O'Brien's home with District C Councilman James Carter, whom members present described as "less than receptive" to ERTCA goal to extend the Esplanade Ridge HDLC full control boundaries to St. Bernard Avenue. Mr. Carter strongly expressed his position that the association would place an undue burden on elderly and poor residents to comply with stringent HDLC regulations. Bill Edwards voiced his dismay with politicians who conveniently forget constituents and have little or no concern for the neighborhood. Pat O'Brien suggested joining forces with adjacent neighborhood groups, such as Faubourg St. John. Matt Norton stated he would contact Kathleen Parker, president of Faubourg St. John about joining forces on this.

4. Membership Drive

Rhodesia Douglas reported on the membership committee's meeting held with Hilda Young, Raymond Young and Gregory Douglas and presented a campaign based on meeting. Input was given and discussion followed about outreach strategies. The

design for the Flyer was approved by the Board. Matt Norton will explore printing costs for copies for door to door distribution by Board members.

5. Zoning Issues

Discussion followed surrounded the appearance of zoning docket # 26-08 for 1936 Esplanade on the City planning Commission Agenda for a second time. Members felt that Monica Dove had come to the Board to talk about commercial uses for her first floor and as long as she still intends to use it for uses that do not lead to parking problems ERTCA should support her zoning change request.

6. Miscellaneous

Pat O'Brien asked for support in arranging a meeting with Clark High School Art Teacher to move forward and explore the idea of students designing a flag. Rhodesia Douglas agreed to work with her. In addition, she kicked around the idea of holding a big garage sale at the school. Pat and Rhodesia will work through Novelt Estrella with School Art Teacher

Meeting adjourned 7:41 p.m.