

Esplanade Ridge/Treme Civic Association Board Meeting

Minutes

September 10, 2008

ERTCA Board President Matt Norton called meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. at Bill Edwards's resident on Esplanade Avenue.

Board Members present included L.T. Thomas, Marie Marcel, Pat O'Brien and Rhodesia Douglas.

Hilda Young, Raymond Young and Novelt Estrella were not present.

Order of Business

1. Carver Theatre

Eugene Outman attended meeting to share his plans for restoration of the historic site and to request the Board's written support for zoning change of B1 status to C1 to include a liquor license for catering. He is working to restore the theatre as a live music venue. He elaborated on the support from neighboring institutions such as Dooky Chase and St. Peter Claver. He also has adequate parking accommodations with an adjacent vacant lot, state tax credits with Broadway South and Historical grant funding. The Board voted by a majority to support the zoning change and he extended an invitation to the Board to tour the building the next day during a city planning inspection. Rhodesia Douglas, L.T. Thomas and Bill Edwards expressed interest in attending.

2. Membership Drive Schedule. The board discussed using two-member teams to cover the district over the span of two or three weekends. Rhodesia Douglas suggested in addition to door-to-door canvassing to set up booths at high-traffic locations. Matt Norton said he would work on the map dividing up the neighborhood among teams. Bill Edwards and Pat O'Brien paid membership dues. Board discussed drive booth locations such as Chase Bank on Broad, the Cajun Seafood market, Zulu, churches and Walgreen's.

3. Catch Basin Cleaning.

Pat O'Brien vigorously promulgated this issue, which has caused constant problems with street flooding caused by clogged drains. Requests through the City's 311 response line have not resolved the problem. Both Marie Marcal and Bill Edwards offered the suggestions of writing letters to Public Works and asking the Sheriff's Office to provide labor to dig out the basins.

4. Gayerre Monument Restoration

Matt Norton announced that Pierre McGraw of the MTF will update ERTCA at the next general meeting on the restoration project. He has ongoing fundraising efforts, cleaning plans and planting needs. ERTCA will be asked to help with all these.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.