

Esplanade Ridge/Treme Civic Association Board Meeting

Minutes

June 3rd, 2009

ERTCA Board President Matt Norton called meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. at Bill Edwards's resident on Esplanade Avenue.

Board Members present included Marie Marcel, Marva Arcenaux , Matt Norton, Novelt Estrella, L.T. Thomas, Bill Edwards, Rhodesia Douglas and Gregory Douglas. Hilda Young was not present.

Order of Business

1. Blight Update/Entergy Program -Former Board Member Pat O'Brien turned in a report of more than 20 properties for consideration. Marva A. raised concerns about elderly people who could possible lose their property under such citing. Matt N. attempted to clarify the position of the Board in acting because of the City of New Orleans's new aggressive policy towards blighted properties. Bill E. added a few thoughts about the responsibilities of homeownership.
2. Gayerre Park Update – M Norton mentioned that the Monumental Task Force has engaged a Columbia University preservationist group to determine if there are structural concerns and problems with the foundation of the monument. Task Force will come to next months general meeting of ERTCA to report.
3. Odyssey House/Unity Update – M. Norton announced to the Board that he is rescusing himself in the matter as his firm has entered into a contractual relationship with the Gulf Coast Housing who is proposing this controversial conversion of Bethany House into an indigent housing facility (group home) on the Esplanade Avenue. Several board members expressed strong objection to this project.
4. Daul Payment – Annual Insurance Premium payment of \$1,400 for liability coverage is due. Members offered suggestions for lowering the premium by increasing deductible and removing events ERTCA does not do anymore.
5. Letter for Novelt/Clark – Matt N. informed Board of the Recovery Schools District plan to eliminate N. Estrella based on a bogus performance evaluation that ignored his doubling of LEAP scores by 50 percent and charged that he failed to make faculty feel a part of the decision-making process. The board voted unanimously to write a strong letter of supporting N. Estrella and protesting this move.
6. Miscellaneous – Night Out Against Crime. Board brainstormed ideas from closing a section of Bayou Road adjacent to Gayerre Park, adding brass band music, adding lights, what food should be offered and other ideas. Talk about also paying tribute to

Raymond Young for his earnest and diligent service to the community and the organization during the outing.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.