

GOHCA Officer/Board Meeting Minutes, Aug 20, 2013 6:30 at Hilltop Arboretum.

Attendees: Martha Austin, Brian Babin, Linda Babin, Lori Byrd, Jimmy Clark, Jerry Cuevas, Ellen Elias, Wendy Powers, Tim Schowalter, Rodney Underwood

Agenda

1. Hilltop construction progress: New classroom nearly completed, landscaping in place. Schowalter will contact Peggy Davis to confirm if the classroom can be reserved for the October 15 Fall General Meeting.
2. Federation news (Austin): The Federation attorney spoke about neighborhood restrictions. Neighborhoods need to keep up with enforcement of restrictions so that unchallenged violations do not become legally unenforceable. Also note that each filing is independent and must be kept up-to-date.
3. Siegen entrance sign bids (Wolfe): no report. Schowalter will check on bids and communicate to officers and board members. Selecting the contractor for the sign is the first step. CSRS will work with the contractor on positioning. Also need to connect water and electric. Second step will be to involve Charbel Harb (Harb's Oasis) in landscape design. Will need to request approval from Baton Rouge Planning Commission. Baton Rouge Green and Community Service volunteers can be contacted to assist with plantings.

Underwood distributed a 2008 budget that showed 400 dues-paying residents at \$35 annual dues. Budget was higher. The larger number of dues-paying residents was most likely due to Block Captains going door-to-door to discuss accomplishments and encourage membership. That budget also recorded that the Board voted to set aside \$5000 from reserves for a future Siegen entrance sign. Unfortunately, the budget no longer includes a reserve amount. We will need to pay for the sign by a) distributing cost over two years, b) soliciting donations, or c) increasing dues.
4. Fall general meeting plans: Decision to discuss 2013 accomplishments and proposed 2014 budget, and invite Marty Lensing and/or Captain Aguillard to speak about neighborhood watch implementation. Schowalter will contact Lensing about this. Discussed need to let residents know what we are accomplishing with dues, either to encourage more residents to pay dues or to gain approval to raise dues. We also can communicate through website and Block Captains. Elias will identify gaps in current Block Captain distribution and let officers and board recruit Block Captains in those areas.
5. Unkempt homes/yards: Elias noted city ordinance prohibiting parking on street or grass. If cars persistently parked in these areas are not moved when requested, can call 311 to have City-Parish issue citations. In this regard, also discussed trash, especially from remodeling activities, being left at curb for

days before pickup, creating unsightly conditions. Need to remind residents to practice courtesy in keeping the neighborhood attractive. Also noted that City-Parish regulations prohibit engine noise (such as mowing or construction) before 7:00 am. Residents also need to observe this restriction as a courtesy to neighbors who may work late shifts or have young children.

New Business: Question was raised about Schowalter's suggestion at the April 2013 meeting that nomination responsibility be delegated to the Board, with staggered terms leading to rotation off the Board to become President and Vice President to ensure continuity. However, the GOHCA Bylaws stipulate that nominations be channeled through the Nominations Committee. Therefore, we will continue as we have, although Officers and Board members should help recruit nominees.

Next meeting, Sept 17, 6:30 at Hilltop

Meeting adjourned 7:40