

Minutes of Barkley Area Neighborhood Association Bi-Annual Meeting July 31, 2011

President Russ Copeland opened the meeting just after 3:00 pm with an invocation. Rich Bryars read the minutes for the January 30th meeting (written by Anise McMahon). A motion to accept the minutes was accepted and approved.

Rodney Young delivered the financial report, including some discussion of the sign project, which came in under budget.

Andrew Eames suggested that we formally thank Mr. Dillworth for his part in handling the 'finishing' of the sign project, and this met approval by the assembly.

A gentleman on Magnolia Chase expressed interest in a replacement sign for the Magnolia Chase entrance on Siegen Lane, which had been destroyed by Hurricane Gustav; since the Siegen Lane expansion project, replacement of the sign has become problematic. The city-parish and the contractor refused to cover replacement of the sign as it had originally been placed illegally in the highway right of way. Mary Fontenot offered suggestions on how to ensure that any replacement be installed in compliance, and Tommie London contributed some pragmatic considerations.

It was also noted that the street sign for the Siegen Lane entrance has not yet been replaced since the construction process removed it. Mary Fontenot suggested that requests for service from the city-parish be handled through the web site, so that the person filing the request can control the language and description of the problem, improving chances that the problem will be resolved correctly.

Additionally, there was some discussion of the nature of the relationship of Barkley Place, Siegen Village, and Magnolia Chase as neighborhoods with the Barkley Area Neighborhood Association.

This was followed up with a discussion of membership. At the time of the meeting, 19 households were paid up members of the association. Laura suggested a possible membership activity to recruit additional households.

Mary Fontenot spoke briefly about FutureBR, the city's project to make Baton Rouge a better place to live, including addressing issues such as sidewalks, zoning, and connectivity between neighborhoods. Mary also suggested we remain vigilant as regards zoning issues such as the Overlay District for Perkins Road.

Mary Fontenot also updated her credentials, announcing that her job is now with "the office of neighborhoods" (within the Office of Community Development). She also gave us some information about Fraud that she gleaned through a recent seminar.

Additional questions and considerations about the sign were discussed, including flag accommodations and lighting. Aubrey briefed us on measures underway to provide lighting.

Russ asked Mary about dealing with damage still evident since the hurricane, and Mary made us aware of some assistance programs which are in place.

There was a lively discussion of the amount of dues and the manner and timing of payment.

The recording secretary reminded the group the handling of dues, in accordance with our agreement with the library, must take place outside the meeting venue and off library property.

Comments about the ditches and drainage (surprise) also were raised toward the end of the meeting. With regard to cleaning of the front yard ditches, Mary pointed out that we may be able to get it done by the city by way of petition, the chief obstacle being that not all neighbors care to have their ditches dug out.

The date of the next meeting - Sunday, January 29th, 2012 was announced, and the meeting was adjourned.