

**Minutes of
Barkley Area Neighborhood Association Bi-Annual Meeting
Jul 27, 2014**

Introductions of current executive board

The meeting was called to order with an invocation by Ralph McMahon. Minutes of January 2014 meeting of read by Rich Bryars. Rodney Young delivered the financial report as of July 19th with an ending balance of \$4722.92. Most of the expenditures for the period related to the new sign for the Magnolia Chase entrance. The books were audited in March, and the audit report is available. It was also reported that 41 households had paid their dues for the year.

Guest Speakers:

Mary Fontenot, citizen liaison from the mayor's office, gave us an update on activities and programs in our community. The city key web site was still under development at the time. She reported that "litter court" is being resurrected as "blight court" with the fines being added to the Sheriff's tax roll for collection with property taxes. Offenses can be reported through the 311 interface. There was some discussion as to the definition of blight. Property cannot be condemned unless it is basically in an irreparable state. Attempts to strengthen the laws against blight can be problematic due to the strong traditions of property rights, although Aubrey Jones reports that Jefferson Parish has achieved Draconian levels in this regard. Sending a letter from the association to the owners of dilapidated properties was discussed as an option. The rules for garbage and trash disposal were also discussed.

Business:

Elections and the status of the executive board assumed their perennially prominent position in the discussion. John Krupsky, who is set to take on the Treasurer's position for the coming year, introduced himself to the membership. Executive leadership, however, remains an issue. Mr. Crosby remains as a prospect, but his absence from the meetings is problematic in that regard.

Drainage ditches and related issues were also discussed, including problem areas in the neighborhood, the nature of servitudes and rights of way, maintenance responsibilities, procedures for reporting and other related issues.

Andrew Eames brought up some maintenance and appearance issues related to the Perkins Road entrance to Barkley Place. In particular, he expressed interest in having the "Children at Play" and "Neighborhood Watch" signs replaced, and mentioned the possibilities of flowers at the front as a possible use for neighborhood funds. The need to trim or remove the bushes near the entrance was discussed as well.

Duke Rivet gave a report on the installation of the Magnolia Chase sign, with details of placement, permitting, and presentation. Duke provided excellent visual aids to highlight his report. Plans for a Siegen Village sign were also discussed as a follow-up task for the association.

Aubrey introduced Ronnie Martin who purchased the house next door to Aubrey Jones, and is renting it as an "Oxford House." Ronnie explained a bit about how the Oxford House works.

Possible neighborhood activities were discussed, with an emphasis on the need for committee participation. Mary pointed out that some neighborhoods held joint yard sales.

Aubrey thanked everyone for their prayers and support during Mercedes' illness and happily reported that she was clear of cancer.

Duke thanked the association for its support of the Magnolia Chase sign project on behalf of district 7.

The date of the next General meeting was announced as Jan 25th, 2015 and the meeting was adjourned.