

## Minutes of Barkley Area Neighborhood Association Bi-Annual Meeting January 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order with President John Krupsky presiding. Ralph McMahon delivered an invocation. A few minutes were spent allowing all present the opportunity to introduce themselves. Some 21 members and guests were present as the meeting began. The meeting agenda was distributed, and the meetings business began with a reading of the minutes for the meeting from the previous July.

After the minutes were accepted, Treasurer Frank Richardson read his report. During the second half of 2017, the beginning balance was \$5,960.10. \$725 dollars in dues were collected. Expenditures amounted to \$954.67, leaving a balance as of January 28 of \$5,730.43. A recently introduced expenditure is for the maintenance of the entrances to the neighborhood (e.g. grass cutting).

Following the reading of the reports, we began discussing old business. Rodney Young asked Mary Fontenot for a clarification on issues of blight and parking issues. Mary indicated that were two vehicle issues, which should be reported in specific fashion: *Inoperable vehicles* can be reported via '311' and goes to blight court; Cars parked all over the yard or street should be reported to the sheriff's office. Rodney also expressed concern about information being withheld by authorities about actions at the group home on Shireburk, which required the dispatch of a large contingent from the Sheriff's office. When Aubrey Jones inquired about what was going on (at the house next door to his own) he was told "That's none of your business." In response to a follow up question about blight, Mary reminded us that for junk, trash and debris or for overgrown grass, it can be reported via '311' or "you can call me." Thanks, Mary! In the case of disrepair, it can be reported to 311 as needing to be condemned. There is an inspector who will review such properties to determine if this is the case. Unfortunately, to be condemned a property usually must be deemed 'beyond hope of repair.' Even abandoned houses tend to be tolerated as long as the taxes are paid, unless they are unsecured and thus become a danger to the community. Mary also pointed out that ordinances related to zoning issues are available through [brgov.com](http://brgov.com), and that she is also available to address any questions we have in regard to them.

John then opened the floor for the district representatives to deliver any reports they might have from their districts.

Rodney Young (District 4) reported an incident of auto theft. We should take note to lock our vehicles, to not leave personal property in view, and certainly not to leave the keys in. Be told. Rodney also reported that his next-door neighbor 'Gilda Jones' had passed away, and Sou Hayes reported that Mr. Lee (of Charing Cross) had passed after a fall just before Christmas. Larry Hudson reported that Leslie Payne Glynn (of Barkley drive) had also passed recently. Duke reported on new memberships in District 7 and pointed out the usefulness of the free *Southside Advocate* which you may occasionally find in your driveway. In particular, the crime blotter has useful information: we are in 'sector 7.'

John then reported on progress on the refurbishment of the main entrance sign, particularly with regard to what Aubrey Jones is doing on our behalf. He referred attendees to a presentation about the sign which has been posted on the [barkleyplace.org](http://barkleyplace.org) site.

John next reported on the sewerage improvements, and the problem with the road cut that was made and remains as a dip in Barkley drive. The contractor has promised to reexamine the issue after warm weather returns. John will follow up on this.

John then requested that someone step up and become a representative for District 6. Lorraine Woods tentatively accepted the challenge. In a related matter, a brief discussion of the need for a map with all seven districts followed. John spoke for a bit about some of the maintenance needs around the sign at the entrance, and related caretaking issues around the entrances were discussed. Rodney Young brought up drainage issues, and the continuing problem of slow flow in some of the ditches.

The floor was opened for new business, and John Krupsky brought up the matter of a sign for Siegen Village. Various issues such as placement were discussed in some detail. A permit from the city-parish may be required to ensure compliance with line-of-sight requirements. Obviously, permission from the landowner is required, and servitudes and rights-of-way must be avoided. After this, John introduced a discussion of getting the bylaws officially approved, and then of completing articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State. Tommie London suggested we contact the Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Associations about the process and benefits. Mary Fontenot pointed out that the organization meets monthly, and that we would be welcome to attend meetings before joining. Each meeting usually features a speaker on a topic (ordinances, flooding, etc.) relevant to the member organizations. John then discussed the [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) site and offered to create a BANA specific group. A wide-ranging discussion ensued, and cats were spotted but none were actually rescued (See Duke Rivet for details).

Finally, the floor was opened for new business. John was prompted to discuss his work with LSU on the bi-annual reception to welcome international students. The [Cajun Dance Association](#) and the [International Hospitality Foundation](#) were also discussed.

Duke Rivet pointed out that the new Neighborhood Watch signs at the entrances have been installed, and we may want to remove the three old faded ones in the interior of the neighborhood. Canal erosion problems were also discussed.

Frank discussed membership (Average per year is about 35, current as of January meeting was 22) and the need for increasing participation. He called on members and district reps to encourage the participation of their neighbors.

The meeting ended with drawings for the four gift card door prizes.

The date of the next general meeting was set for July 29th, 2018.