

Minutes of Barkley Area Neighborhood Association Bi-Annual Meeting

July 28, 2024

The meeting was conducted at the Bluebonnet Branch of the EBR Public Library, with an official start time of 3:00 p.m. President John Krupsky hosted the meeting. More than 35 members and guests attended our summer meeting, including Mayoral candidate Ted James.

After brief introductions, John allowed Mr. James to give his presentation, so as to allow him good use of his time. Mr. James spoke about his personal history, his aspirations for our state and community, and his plans should he be elected as our next mayor. He also addressed questions from the floor. Our neighborhood is grateful for his participation in our meeting.

John then briefly addressed the rezoning request for properties on Perkins Road. The owners requesting the change had initially been scheduled to attend the meeting, but found they were unable to make it. John envisions gathering questions from the community and having a special meeting with the owners at some later date. He also offered to share information he gathered on the zoning code for anyone interested in seeing it.

As the meeting was already running long, we suspended the reading of the minutes for that January meeting, which are already posted on the barkleyplace.org website.

Treasurer Rodney Young presented the most recent financial report, covering items from December 31st, 2023 through July 27th, 2024. After questions and discussion, the treasurer's report was accepted into the record. This report is available on the barkleyplace.org documents page.

Launching into Old Business, John then referenced an article in the May 14th 2024 edition of the Baton Rouge Advocate discussing what would be involved in changing our neighborhood (or any area) from St. George to Baton Rouge. The Louisiana Supreme Court's recent decision determined that areas would have to be first de-annexed from St. George, becoming unincorporated areas, and then petition to be re-annexed into the city of Baton Rouge. Additionally, pending litigation will further delay any changes. Discussion of this and related matters continued for a while.

Another Old Business item was landscaping, and it was noted that any new activities in this area would be deferred until more clement weather prevailed.

In New Business, the refresh of the Magnolia Chase sign was discussed. Quotes have been requested and a decision on the final plan is expected soon. Following that, lighting for the signs was brought up. A set of inexpensive solar powered LED lights has been purchased by Becky to test out. They will be deployed shortly. The question of whether we should, as a neighborhood (and possibly in conjunction with other neighborhoods,) appeal to the city or parish to install sidewalks in our neighborhood, and this included a discussion of likely prerequisites, such as replacing the ditches with culverts. The general consensus seemed to be that we should request a meeting with our representative and relevant experts to determine what is or is not feasible regarding sidewalks for the association neighborhoods.

There were brief reports from the district representatives, no items requiring prompt action were indicated.

Time constraints prevented an elaborate election process, but it was decided to maintain the existing slate of officers and representatives from the even numbered districts for the coming year.

Prior to closing, door prizes were handed out. Then the next meeting was tentatively set for January 26, 2025, and the meeting was adjourned.