

# Gentilly Terrace & Gardens Improvement Association

## Meeting Minutes

### January 12, 2011

President **Lisa Kamuf** started the meeting at 7:05 pm

Treasurer **Kim Schaefer** reported that the organization has \$911.74 in the account. She reminded everyone that there still are Gentilly Terrace history books for sale for \$5 each and that voluntary dues are \$20 per year.

#### **David Ozmore, CEO of the YMCA of Greater N.O.**

- The YMCA plans to build 3 YMCAs in Orleans Parish in the next few years.
  - In Gretna, one is being built as part of the Federal City at the site of the old Naval Support Activity. That one is under construction.
  - In partnership with the Bayou District Foundation, a YMCA is planned at Columbia Parc (the site of the old St. Bernard Housing Development). They are still seeking donations to help pay for this new location.
  - One is planned for the old Coca-Cola site on Jeff David Pkwy. This one is still under study/feasibility.
- The YMCA has 3 main focuses
  - Be a safe haven for kids with after school programs, etc.
  - Be a leader in healthy living (exercise and also preventative programs such as their diabetes program in partnership with United Healthcare)
  - Be socially responsible (illiteracy program helping people learn to read).
    - 60% of New Orleans adults read below a 9<sup>th</sup> grade level.
- There is no financial barrier to their programs. If you make less than \$50,000, there is a sliding scale so that you can participate in their programs.
- They will partner with other non-profits and provide space for them at their locations.
- They will soon be doing a phone survey of all of Orleans Parish (in conjunction with Four Square Research), 600 people will be called. They want to determine the area's needs. Please participate if called.

#### **Dan Falk -- Neighborhood Watch signs**

- 30 Neighborhood Watch signs were installed on December 1st by Sheriff Gusman's office. They might be hard to see at night since they are not reflective like speed limit signs are.
- Our initial Neighborhood Watch training was back in the summer of 2008. Dan will refresh/inform the members of some of the info from that training on a regular basis throughout the year. **He mentioned that one important idea from the training is that everyone should know the addresses of their neighbors. If you must call the police, you can't tell them that there is a problem at "Joe's" house, you must give them an exact address.**
- **Dan** is working on signs which show our **website address**. They will be attached to our wrought iron neighborhood signs. **Peter Ventress** made the signs initially and painted the background color white. **Jane Fandrich** painted the black lettering on one. It was decided to change the background color to tan and to use a block lettering style. We hope to have some finished by next meeting.

#### **Community Outreach Coordinator for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Sgt. Christopher D. Prochaska**

- Sgt. Prochaska also mentioned the need to know your neighbor's address and also stressed that **you must make sure that your address is easily readable from the street**. If it is hard to see, it slows down response time.
- He gave out several copies of the crime maps from the last 60 days. John Lyon mentioned that a link to the maps is available on our website.
- Email: [cprochaska@cityofno.com](mailto:cprochaska@cityofno.com) Cell: 504-239-0334
- Our Quality of Life Officer, Officer Patrick Smith, is now working 5 days a week in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Email: [pmsmith@nola.gov](mailto:pmsmith@nola.gov) Phone: 504-444-7514

### **St James Play Spot**

- The new Kaboom playground was built in December. 230 volunteers helped. It looks fantastic.

### **The Gentilly Merchants and Property Owners Association**

- Lisa Kamuf mentioned that this new association has been formed (in association with The Louisiana Weekly and Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations).
- Some of the members are: Chinese Tea Garden, Sweet Savor's Bakery. The association has stated that there is a need for better lighting.
- The association will be modeled on the Freret Business and Property Owner Association.

### **Tina Metoyer -- Neighborhood and Constituent Services Rep for Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge-Morrell**

- The **Wendy's** at Elysian Fields and Robert E. Lee received its building permit on January 6.
- **Kohls** is looking to locate in New Orleans.
- The old Sonic on Gentilly will be come a **Taco Bell**
- **IHOP** is opening a restaurant at Louisa and I-10 across the street from the fire station.
- **Milne Boys Home** – the roof has been fixed. The caretaker's cottage and the chapel will be demolished. No finalized plans for the property.
- **Al Hardouin** mentioned that the new Noise Ordinance will be finished soon.

### **Kelly Butler -- Blight Committee report**

- Kelly showed the latest blight maps.
- We have 1796 properties in the neighborhood
  - 76.39% are occupied
  - 7 have not been gutted
  - 81 are owned by the Louisiana Land Trust
- A total of 789 properties took Option 1 with the Road Home and should have been rebuilt.
  - 666 are occupied
  - 50 are in-progress
  - 50 are not habitable
  - 18 have been demolished

**Lisa** called for members to sign up for various committees which are being formed:

Blight / Code Enforcement  
Membership  
Newsletters  
Public Safety and Quality of Life  
Community Garden / Orchard  
Neighborhood Conservation District  
Neighborhood Signs and Seasonal Decorating & Landscaping  
Youth Involvement and St. James Playspot

There was info at the end of the printed agenda which was not mentioned:

The Sanitation Dept. has announced a Household Hazardous Waste Day on January 29th. The event will be held at 2829 Elysian Fields Ave. (the Florida Ave. Transfer Station). Residents can bring batteries, propane tanks, TVs, computers, and other hazardous waste.

Citizens can put up to 4 tires out on the curb for pickup on the 2nd pickup day. The service is part of the garbage contract.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Bob Bredberg. He won \$20.

The meeting ended at 8:15 pm