

Minutes
OCA Board Meeting
January 11, 2010
Red Forge

Present: LaDonnah Roberts (President), Kelly Fitts (VP), Linda Albritton (Secretary), Edward Guy (Treasurer), Linda Ford (7th St.), Kelly Horwitz (School Board), Robert Reynolds (Chairman), Mickey Ursic (College Park)

Minutes were approved with one correction.

Old Business

School Board

Kelly Horwitz reported reminded us that half of the School Board are new members. There is concern about finances as we are in the third year of pro ration. There is money for “shovel ready projects”.

Replacement of Tuscaloosa Center for Technology could come under this.

Replacement of this facility has been on the Five Year Strategic Plan for the city school system. There are some local funds dedicated to facilities that could also be used for this structure. There will be public meetings to discuss this project as well as its location.

The drop out rate in our system is a continuing concern. There is a task force meeting to discuss plans for addressing this issue.

Tuscaloosa Historic Preservation Commission

The city’s legal department wants clarification from the State Ethics Commission about the state’s “revolving door” law. Does it pertain to those serving on volunteer boards in our city? There are continuing questions from this department about work that architects do in the Historic Districts who serve on the HPC.

Standing Committees

Social

Jeannie Guthrie was praised for the outstanding job she did on the Walk About in December. It was well attended. Santa threw more presents than ever!

Long Range Planning

Membership was discussed. Kelly Fitts will work on a flyer that neighborhood reps could distribute, stating the benefits of belonging to OCA. It was suggested that OCA work more closely with the Preservation Society.

ZBA

The owner of a house in the Thirteenth St. Historic District is petitioning the ZBA to have more than 2 unrelated to live in the house

Planning Commission

Robert Reynolds reported that requests for permits continue to lag in our city, which is a reflection of the economy. Projects have been approved but are held up because of lack of financing. The Commission is currently rewriting subdivision regulations. Issues to be addressed are drainage, erosions, green space/trees and sidewalks the Planned Unit Development as a planning model may be discontinued. Robert is chairing this committee. The condo restaurant on River Road is coming up for renewal. No progress has been made on the approved project at this time.

New Business:

ZBA.

The board voted to make a statement from OCA at the ZBA meeting stating our preference to maintain the density ordinance of 2 unrelated in an Historic District Robert Reynolds went to the meeting to read the statement.

Drish House

The Drish House, owned by the Preservation Society has been stabilized. The adjacent church has been torn down. The house was not damaged in the demolition. The Preservation Society has no funds to do other than maintain the property at this time.

Board Member Attendance

Our bylaws state that board members not attending can be removed. Linda Albritton and Linda Ford will work on a plan to address neighborhood reps to determine their continuing interests.

Board Meeting Dates

It was agreed that we will continue to meet on the first Monday of the month. Councilman Garrison will not be able to attend on Monday evenings. It was suggested that the executive board could meet with him prior to the first Monday meetings. Wednesday evenings were also suggested as a meeting time.

Announcements

Rob and Jeannie Guthrie have had a new baby girl! Congratulations to the happy family!

Finance

Edward Guy announced that we had to go into our savings to pay all of the bills for the Walk About. It seems that the cancellation of the spring picnic because of rain has affected our dues collection. This is an event attended by many and has been the traditional time that many in our organization pay dues. The board voted to change the fiscal year of the organization, January to January and to solicit dues with an email attachment encouraging members to send dues to the PO Box. Other ways of "dues collection" were discussed and will be explored.

Edward suggested that we “watch our expenses” until we build up our financial base. Michey Ursic expressed the need to build up our funds in order to plan for campaign contributions that may be needed in the future. Edward prepared a spread sheet, and time was spent going over the document.

The next meeting of the OCA Board will be at 5:30 February 1 at Linda Albritton’s home, 1610 Bryant Dr.