

Minutes
OCA Board Meeting
January 5th, 2008
Home of David and Linda Ford

Present: Robert Reynolds (Pres.), LaDonnah Roberts (VP), Linda Albritton (Sec.), Mike Dodson (SGA), Linda Ford (7th St.), Lee Garrison (City Councilman), Edward Guy (Pineurst), Robin Ann Nelson (University Circle)

Corrections were made to the minutes and they were approved.

Old Business

City Council: Lee Garrison reported

Trees are planted on Bryant Dr. and are guaranteed by the landscaping firm for one year after planting.

Bryant Dr. is closed for infrastructure work by the stadium. There is a high probability that this area will be closed for a two year period for stadium expansion.

New lighting and decorative signs are coming to Historic Districts, costs are being considered at the present time.

Alleys on 12th and 13th will be paved and well lit by summer, which should encourage parking in the rear on those two streets.

The University's acquisition of the Bryce property will enable the University to have more room to expand.

The new Police Chief will conduct a Citizen's Police Academy, which will meet on Monday evenings from February 2 through March 23.

Lee was commended for the informative newsletter that goes to all residents in the district. This is one way to reach our student population with information about our city.

School Board

There are two more information sessions about the Magnet School, which will open in August, January 20, 5:30 at Rock Quarry and January 26th, 5:30 at Southview/Tuscaloosa Middle School Campus.

Applications for this K-8th grade school are due at the end of January.

Historic Preservation Commission

Linda Albritton reported that Brendan Moore is a full time staff member of the Planning Department whose duties deal only with issues relating to the Historic Districts. It was suggested that he gather information about other college communities about barriers they use to prohibit parking in yards and on city green spaces.

The OCA has petitioned the Historic Preservation Commission to have the property on the Southeast corner of University Blvd. and Queen City Ave. in the College Park Historic District. This property is between two Historic Districts.

Linda Ford made a motion seconded by Mike Dodson for OCA to pay for the mailing costs and advertising costs of this process. The motion passed with Linda Albritton abstaining. LaDonnah Roberts will execute these documents.

Standing Committees

Social

Jeannie Guthrie was commended for the outstanding job on the Walk About. Peyton Cockrane was commended for his great job as Santa. The two carriages facilitated more people being able to ride.

Long Range Planning

LaDonnah Roberts reported on the progress of the Railroad Quiet Zone. Work is commencing on a more comprehensive plan. Six crossing may be included. A proposal will now go to the Finance Committee of the City Council.

Student Government Association

With the new semester beginning Mike Dodson will organize Crimson Watch meetings in student neighborhoods. SGA will work on campus programs about Civil Rights and the Civil War. OCA will again give financial support to the "Give and Go" program which sets up stations for donations as well as dumpsters for student discards.

Planning Commission

With requests coming from landlords to convert rental units into condos, the Planning Commission has asked the legal department to define safety standard guidelines for these units.

New Business

There was discussion of sending notices with envelopes for dues once a year rather than relying on collecting dues at our picnics. It was also suggested that we put our finances into a more formal accounting system to be shared with our members. Also discussed was membership recruitment by each neighborhood.

The next meeting will be on February 2 at Emily Baker's home at 1104 16th Ave.