

Minutes
OCA Board Meeting
June 1, 2009
Home of Ruth and Robert Reynolds

Present: Robert Reynolds (Pres.), LaDonnah Roberts (VP), Linda Albritton (Sec.), Donald and Hannah Brown (Dearing), John Sheffield (Treas.), Jimmy Cochrane (Audubon), Lee Foster, (Alaca), Kelly Howritz (College Park), Ted Major (Guild's Wood), Robin Anne Nelson (University Circle), Councilman Lee Garrison, Steven Oliver and James Fowler SGA

The May minutes were approved.

Old Business:

City Council

Lee Garrison invited members to attend the City Council meeting to view a power point presentation of the proposed amphitheater. Funds have been secured for this project. Site preparation is underway. The river walk will be extended to reach this structure. This venue with 7, 500 seats should be in operation in August 2010.

There is significant repaving in the campus area, including alleys. This should be completed by August.

Thee City Council is working on guidelines for posts/chain design to be used on the city right of way to deter front yard parking.

School Board Report

The Board is meeting to discuss the plans for MLK replacing teachers who were "pink slipped". It seems the salary incentive to attract well-qualified teachers was not well received in the community. A meeting open to the community is being held to discuss options for the school and its faculty.

Standing Committees

Social Committee

An August picnic was discussed that could be an occasion to meet candidates running for office. Board members will communicate about this suggestion.

Long Range Planning

LaDonnah Roberts is continuing to pursue the railroad quiet zone for our city. She is expanding the scope of the project to include most of Tuscaloosa in the project.

SGA

James Fowler presented an ambitious agenda for SGA.

The Crimson Watch neighborhood safety program will have 3 sections and 4 sub sections around the University. There will be scheduled meetings for captains.

UAPD signs will give a "presence to the program.

Safe places to walk around the campus other than the quad will be identified by SGA.

By calling 348 RIDE, students can access van service from where they live to various destinations around campus as well as a return home. This will extend transportation from the designated bus routes.

Tuscaloosa College Council has been formed to reach to Shelton and Stillman students for open communication and joint projects between the three campuses. The Mayor's Advisory Council will have city officials working with this group. SGA will work with students to help them find jobs on and off campus. The Chamber of Commerce is involved in this endeavor. Robert Reynolds recommended that a call be made to the Bar Association to extend the network as many law firms hire "runners".

The Bama Cash ID process has been streamlined to make the program more user friendly for businesses in the community.

The Governmental Affairs Committee is planning a candidates' forum on Aug. 25 and later a televised debate for candidates running for governor.

The External Affairs Committee is working on the Stop Drop and Donate program during the August transition for students.

Historic Preservation Commission

Two new members have joined the Historic Preservation Commission, Chase Adcox and David Nelson. They are replacing John Murdock and Roscoe Shamblin.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

This board passed a variance request for height for a proposed condo development across from the stadium. Another developer whose project has been approved objected to this variance. John Sheffield voted no on the issue as it seemed to conflict with what had been approved for the other project.

Planning Commission

Robert reported that the Master Plan for separate parts of the city should be ready to go to the City Council in August. A sidewalk ordinance for subdivisions will be included in this plan. The agenda for this commission continues to be short which is a reflection of the economy at this time.

Political Contributions

The Board voted to make the following contributions to political campaigns: \$500 to Walt Maddox for his reelection bid for Mayor and \$250 to Councilman Garrison and Councilman Bobby Howard for their reelection to the City Council.

Treasurer's Report

There is \$216.39 in the checking account and \$5,628.50 in the savings account.

The next OCA Board Meeting will be on August 3, at 5:30 PM at Robin Anne Nelson's home in University Circle.

