

Minutes
OCA Board Meeting
March 1, 2010
Home of Linda Ford

Present: LaDonnah Roberts, (Pres.), Kelly Fitts (VP), Linda Albritton, (Sec.), Edward Guy (Treas.), Robert Reynolds (Chairman), Jimmy Cochrane (Audubon) Melanie Danner, Cindy Denny, Ted Miller (Druid City), Wes Hollowel, (College Park), Kelly Horwitz (School Board), Robin Reyas (Linda Ford (7th St.), Lee Foster (Alaca), Robin Anne Nelson (University Circle), Kelly Reinhart (Sherwood Dr.), Evan Corder (SGA) Guests: John McConnell, Brendan Moore (Planning Department), Tera Wyatt (TDOT) Officer Carey Branscome, Assistant Chief Dunn, Captain Rodney Gilliam (TPD)

The February minutes were approved.

Old Business:

School Board

Kelly Horwitz reported that stimulus 0% interest money and a county tax would pay for the new TCT facility. There has been good input from the business community supporting this project. This group states that there will be a continuing need for technical skills from a high percent of the work force. There has been an open work session held for the purpose of developing an evaluation protocol for the superintendent. The board has looked at models from other school systems. The board is being informed by the State Department of Education.

There are new state mandated requirements for graduation. The new state requirements are designed to comply with the request from the federal government for systems to have more uniformity.

The new requirements could result in a temporary drop in the graduation rate. Mentors are needed for middle school students.

There was a question about school zones. Kelly stated that she sees no change. Kelly also reported that she has observed that there is more common ground among board members than is being reported.

Tuscaloosa Historic Preservation Commission

Jonathan McLelland has resigned from the Historic Preservation Commission because of mixed messages about "conflict of interests" issues. There will be other positions to be filled on this board this spring.

Standing Committees

Social

Jeannie Guthrie has set the date for the spring picnic, it will be April 25.

Long Range Plannig

Kelly Fitts is working on a membership form to distribute to each Historic District.

SGA

Evan Corder reported that the SGA sponsored Gubernatorial Debate to be held in he fall will be broadcast statewide.

Planning Commission

Robert Reynolds reported that the Planning Commission did not meet in February as there were no projects presented. The Planning Commission is working on city zoning ordinances to propose to the City Council. Smart Code will be utilized. There will be simple language. Planned Units of Development will be the exception rather than the rule for developments. Narrow streets, medians, traffic circles and retainers for run off will be expected under the new code. Density in developments will be based overall square footage.

Druid City Historic District Petition

Ted Miller presented the petition from Druid City residents, requesting relief from car and pedestrian traffic coming through the neighborhood particularly at night. The petition also requested that no new bars be permitted to be located in that area. There was a long discussion about these issues. City officials were at the meeting to listen to complaints and offer information about what can be done to alleviate the problem and pointing out what is not feasible to be done. It was pointed out that the opening of 21st. Ave. may alleviate some of the problems as that street is designed to be the major north/south artery for this area.

Robert may a motion to adopt a Resolution addressing these problems. The motion was seconded by Lee Foster. The motion passed.

The Original City Association acknowledges the receipt of a petition to the city from the Druid City Historic District residents requesting that no more liquor licenses be approved for the area around the new Federal Courthouse. Residents of the Druid City Neighborhood Association are concerned about quality of life issues that have recently impacted the area with the advent of businesses with liquor licenses in close proximity to this Historic District. The Original City Association is sympathetic to the concerns of residents in this fringe area.

The Original City Association urges the city to modify zoning in the Downtown Overlay Plan to enhance and protect residential Historic Districts, particularly from liquor/lounge licensing.

The Original City Association also urges the TDOT to direct commercial traffic away from the Historic Districts.

New Business:

Traffic Circles

Mickey Ursic urges the city to improve maintenance and visibility of the circles.

Treasurer's Report

Edward Guy reported that 10 people paid dues in February

The next meeting will be at the home of Rocky Ciciatello, 5 Sherwood on April 5

