

Minutes
OCA Board Meeting
September 8, 2008
Home of Hannah and Donald Brown

Present: Robert Reynolds, (Pres.), LaDonnah Roberts (VP), Linda Albritton (Sec.), Hannah and Donald Brown (Dearing), Jimmy Cockrane, Kelly Fitts (Audubon), Linda Ford and Rebekah Embrey (7h St.), Jeannie Guthrie, Soc. Chair, Edward Guy, (Pinehurst), Ted Miller (Druid City), Randy Salekin (University Circle), Mike Dodson, SGA, Councilman Lee Garrison, Police Chief Ken Swindle, Officer Rodney Gilliam, Officer Carey Branscome, and the incoming chief, Steven Anderson

The August minutes were approved.

Old Business

Historic Preservation Commission Report

Linda Albritton reported that no large projects were coming before the commission this month.

Standing Committees

Social Committee

Jeannie Guthrie suggested the Fall Picnic be on Oct. 26 so as not to conflict with Kentuck. The picnic will be in Pinehurst Park.

Long Range Planning

LaDonnah Roberts will contact Julie Elmore, the director of Housing Residential Community at the U of A and ask her to regularly meet with the OCA Board.

LaDonnah Roberts reported that the City Council has approved a pilot program for the 24 hour Railroad Quiet Zone. After the City does some work on several crossings the information will be sent to the appropriate places and we will enter a 60 day waiting period before it goes into effect.

The

proposal was also supported by Druid City Hospital and the Tuscaloosa City Schools.

City Council Report

Lee Garrison reported that Bryant Dr. is open and will have asphalt in a month. Landscaping is appearing with trees coming later. Most Of the sidewalk s have been completed. There is some new paving on 13th St. All alleys in the R4 U area are being repaved. This will make parking in the rear for student housing more accessible alleviating congested streets.

Shelby Park storm drainage is being addressed by the city. Also more landscaping will be done to screen the University facility on the east side of the park.

Lee will check with TDOT and Almon for a plan to keep cars off the new grass on Bryant Dr.

SGA

Mike Dodson reported that the Crimson Watch meetings have been well attended.

Planning Commission

TNT has proposed changes for the notification process for projects. Their proposal is similar to one in Oregon. Reports about the notification process from The City's Legal Department are going to the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Since we do not have home rule in our state the city cannot legally make some of the changes suggested by TNT. The Legal Department is suggesting the Boards in the city can adopt certain procedures to change the notification process. Currently only adjacent property owners are required to be notified. Ted Miller explained the TNT proposal would require a developer to hold a meeting with residents before going to the Planning Commission. Robert Reynolds from the Planning Commission, Jon McClelland from the Historic Preservation Commission and John Sheffield will meet with the Legal Department and Planning Department on this issue.

The Planning Commission will require sidewalks to be on both sides of the streets in new developments instead of the current requirement of one side.

New Business

Chief Swindle

Robert Reynolds presented retiring Chief Swindle with a Resolution from OCA commending him for the work he has done for the city and the support he has given to our downtown/campus neighborhoods.

Occupancy Compliance

There was a discussion about the enforcement of the occupancy ordinance that defines how many people can live in a house. Officer Gilliam is currently working with the Zoning Officer on an occupancy case. Sufficient evidence must be gathered for it to go forward. Chief Swindle defined the channels one must go through to report violations. In recent years a zoning officer position has been created and an enforcement position has been created to address this continuing problem. The zoning officer addresses the issue and if necessary police assist. It is necessary to fill out a complaint form which is available in the Planning Department and also on the OCA website, (oca-tuscaloosa.org). Robert suggested that residents work through neighborhood associations as they go through this process. Robert is meeting with John McConnell in the Planning Department to get a time line for this process. Chief Swindle suggested that the Fringe Police Officer and the Zoning Officer meet with SGA.

Questions were raised about Game Day illegal parking. Chief Swindle will talk to TDOT about providing officials from that office to give tickets on game days. Robert reminded us to be proactive with student neighbors using the OCA Friendly Reminder Form (also on the website), calling 311 and the police if necessary.

He also reminded us that most students do not cause problems and generally do abide by city ordinances.

Kelly Fitts will chair a committee on occupancy compliance issues.

LaDonnah Roberts, Robert Reynolds and Linda Ford will be on the committee.

Nominating Committee Report

The current officers have been asked to serve another term.

President – Robert Reynolds

Vice President – LaDonnah Roberts

Secretary – Linda Albritton

Treasurer – John Sheffield

Other New Business

Mary Ann Hampton has moved from Caplewood (out of the city) and has asked Robert to follow through with a case she has appealed concerning front yard parking on Caplewood. The board agreed that this is an issue that is pertinent to all of us who live in historic districts.

Finance Report

John Sheffield sent a report stating there is \$311.07 in checking and \$7, 620.68 in savings.

The Annual Meeting will be October 6 at the Jemison van de Graff Mansion. The Board will meet at 5:00 and the general meeting will be at 6:00.