

HISTORIC SPANISH TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

April 13, 2008

6:00 p.m.

The Lobdell House, 711 N. 6th Street, Baton Rouge, La.

Board members present: Bill Good, *Chairman*, Shawn O'Brien, David Brown, Melissa Eastin, Peggy Good, Holley Vaughn, Shannon Markward

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and adopted on a motion made by Shawn and seconded by Melissa.

Treasurer's Report

The board reviewed the financial report as presented by treasurer Peggy Good. She reported a balance of \$16,184 after withdrawals for security patrols in the total amount of \$1,525.

Melissa moved that the report be accepted, Shannon seconded, and the reported was accepted by the board.

DDD Update

The DDD Update was deferred in the absence of Derrell Cohoon.

Chairman's Report

a) Bill reported that he had met with the Beauregard Town Civic Association and was asked about the process of attaining an historic district designation. Members said they would support Spanish Town in its effort to complete the process. He was also asked about start-up of a private security patrol.

Relative to the ongoing parking permit project, Bill has completed a 16-photo survey of parking patterns in the neighborhood and delivered same to Mr. Partenheimer (DPW).

Bill has drafted a letter to the commissioner of administration asking that Spanish Town be included in discussions about the possible closure of a portion of St. Capitol Drive in conjunction with future development of the insurance

building site. The board suggested waiting until the outcome of the historic district designation process and also that we ask for a traffic study before any decision is made about street closure.

b) The next and final step in the historic district designation process will be approval by the Metro Council at its April 16, 2008 meeting.

c) The SPLP grant for 2007, which the board had dedicated toward historic markers, has been awarded. It was recently learned that city-parish approval is needed before markers can be installed, and Bill will seek such approval. Due to the delay, the board suggested holding the dedication ceremony for the Shiloh Baptist Church in June to coincide with Juneteenth celebrations.

Other Business

Peggy stated that September 20, 2008 is the only open September date in the LSU football schedule and the board suggested scheduling the annual membership meeting at that time. The board discussed holding the function at Avoyelles Cafe or the space above the Little Village restaurant to avoid the cost of having the party at the State Museum. Alternatively, Bill will ask SPLP for approval to use the 2008 grant to continue renting the State Museum space.

Holley proposed that the board undertake discussion and planning of a Spanish Town Arts Festival under a new law (Act 298 or the 2007 R.S.) promoted by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. The new law grants tax exemptions and credits intended to encourage development of "cultural clusters" due to recognition of their importance to the overall economy of the state. She noted that Spanish Town would be a natural fit as part of such a cluster, which by definition includes various arts as well as historic preservation. She said she will provide more information on the new law to the board.

The next meeting will be held on May 18th due to Mother's Day falling on the regular second Sunday of the month.