

Historic Spanish Town Civic Association

Minutes, December 10, 2006

**DRAFT**

6:00 p.m.

The Lobdell House

711 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, La.

*Board members present:* Bill Good, *Chairman*; Shawn O'Brien, Peggy Good, Shannon Markward, Pat Melancon

*Also present:* Jean Carter, Office Kyle Callihan

Chairman Bill Good called the meeting of the HSTCA Board of Directors to order and recognized the presence of five members and a quorum, whereupon the meeting commenced.

### **Old Minutes**

Minutes of the November 12, 2006 meeting were reviewed and adopted with no corrections noted. Shawn O'Brien moved to adopt the minutes, Shannon Markward seconded the motion, and the board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Discussion of the treasurer's report was deferred in the absence of the treasurer.

### **DDD Update**

There was no update on DDD activity in the absence of Derrell Cohoon, the neighborhood's DDD representative.

### **Security**

Officer Kyle Callihan, who as of last month heads up the neighborhood's private security patrol and is a member of the downtown police bicycle patrol, was introduced to board members and reported to the board on recent activity. He stated that following the downtown Christmas Parade the night before, two armed men attempted a hold-up at 5<sup>th</sup> and North Streets in front of the DEQ building but were thwarted by an officer who was on his way to begin his Spanish Town security patrol shift and were caught; the two also confessed to other unspecified incidents in the downtown vicinity.

Relative to a recent report by property owners of a series of car break-ins in the area of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and State Capitol Drive on the night of December 5, 2006, in which the property owners believed the overgrown condition of the vacant lot at Whitaker Avenue to be a factor in the perpetrators' continued ability to avoid detection, Officer Callihan stated that he would make it a point to have the area deemed a safety hazard under the local blighted property ordinance by reporting it to the appropriate person at DPW (Connie, last name unknown) who would have the area cleared, as well as lit, as soon as possible if the owner of the vacant lot does not comply with an order to clear the property. The chairman pointed out that DPW has recognized that Whitaker Avenue is a public right of way, and as such, is subject to public maintenance and should be accessible by car. Officer Callihan stated that he would follow up on the police report of December 5, 2006 to ascertain whether the perpetrators had been detained, citing some conflict in reports he had read.

Officer Callihan reported that the Beauregard Town neighborhood is also initiating private security patrols using his off-duty personnel and that the two neighborhoods can be patrolled together making the patrols more efficient and cost-effective. Beauregard Town will furnish the patrol detail with a pager which can be accessed by residents of both neighborhoods as early as January, 2007.

Board members commended Officer Callihan for his knowledge of and devotion to the needs of downtown residents relative to fighting criminal activity. He was invited to attend the supper club/Christmas party to be held on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> in order to meet Spanish Town residents.

Bill Good announced that he had formally terminated the contract with Vinson Security and written to the DDD explaining recent invoices for security patrols. The board agreed that Spanish Town stands to benefit more from its new relationship with Officer Callihan and the downtown police detail than from any previous private security contractor.

#### **2007 Mardi Gras T-Shirt Fundraiser (Spanish Town Parade is 2/17/07)**

On Shawn O'Brien's motion and Shannon Markward's second, the board agreed to adopt Jean Carter's conceptual t-shirt design showing Capitol Grocery which Mr. Carter had previously sent to members via email for their review and comments. Shawn O'Brien, Jean Carter, Shannon Markward, and Pat Melancon will serve on a subcommittee to get the project underway by soliciting sponsors and ascertaining production costs.

Relative to cost of sponsorship of the t-shirt, Shawn O'Brien moved to increase such cost from \$150 to \$175. Shannon Markward seconded the motion and the board adopted it by unanimous vote.

Peggy Good said she would ascertain dates at which association members could sell t-shirts at the Saturday Red Stick Farmer's Market leading up to Mardi Gras weekend.

#### **Newsletter**

Bill Good sought the board's informal approval to put out a neighborhood newsletter early in 2007, to which the board agreed.

#### **Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the HSTCA Board will be on January 14, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. The chairman asked board members to plan for a meeting longer than the usual one hour so that 2007 goals can be discussed and any necessary t-shirt project details can be addressed.

There being no further business, the chairman dismissed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shawn O'Brien, Vice Chairman and acting secretary