

# HISTORIC SPANISH TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MINUTES

**Sunday, March 13, 2011**

6:30 p.m.

The Basler House

845 N. Eighth Street, Baton Rouge, LA

Board Members Present: Jeff Duhe', *Chair*; Stephen Carroll; Terri McKinney, *Recording Secretary*; Travis Moore, June Pulliam, John Sykes and Allan Williams.

Members/Guests: John Smith and Jason \_\_\_\_\_.

Chair *Jeff Duhe'* called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Historic Spanish Town Civic Association to order. With the presence of seven (7) board members, a quorum was declared, and the meeting commenced.

### **Approval of Minutes**

*Terri McKinney* handed out the *Minutes* from the January meeting.

**A motion was made by *John Sykes* that the January *Minutes* be approved, as amended.**

*Stephen Carroll* seconded the motion; and the Board approved unanimously.

### **Beautification Committee Report**

*Travis Moore*, Chair of the Beautification Committee, noted that The Great American Clean Up would take place on March 26, 2011. All interested parties should meet at Capital Grocery at 8:00 a.m. The targeted area will be Spanish Town Road between 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. The clean up efforts will be concentrated on addressing plants/trees that hinder stop signs & historical markers. Also, an effort would be made to clear trash and debris from the Arsenal Park Lakes.

It was further noted that collection cans distributed at the Spanish Town Mardi Gras Parade rendered between \$200.00 & \$300.00. *Fr. Howard Hall* will forward the funds to *Gene Ransome*, Treasurer.

The next Beautification Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 5:30 at the Biggar House.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

*Gene Ransome*, Treasurer, was not present at the meeting. A full report will be made at the next meeting.

### **New Location of Live After Five**

Due to the reconfiguration of Galvez Plaza & North Boulevard, John Smith of the Down Town Business Association, advised that the event "Live After Five" would now take place at the A.Z. Young Park at the intersections of Lafayette, Third Streets & Spanish Town Road. *Allan Williams* voiced his concerns that due to the large influx of people, the Spanish Town community would become a public parking area. Mr. Smith stated that parking would be made available in the Welcome Center garage, as well as near the Shaw Center. Shuttles would be made available to transport the attendees to and from the event, and he believed that this should alleviate any concerns regarding overflow parking in Spanish Town. *Allan Williams* reiterated that it would, indeed, cause a problem for the neighborhood, and suggested a road closure at N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Spanish Town Road. *Jeff Duhe* suggested that Mr. Smith, in the media messages and announcements, stress the free parking in the garages, and also stress that it is illegal to park on Spanish Town streets, if not a resident. Mr. Smith stated that he would like for us to possibly survey the Spanish Town residents to hear their thoughts on street closures. Resident, Jason \_\_\_\_\_ felt a road closure would not be necessary.

**A motion was made by *Allan Williams* that N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Spanish Town Road be closed from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. to alleviate the problem of overflow parking in Spanish Town in connection with the Live After Five event.**

The Motion was not seconded, and was removed from the floor.

It was decided that this issue would be revisited after a few of the events have occurred, and thereafter, we could assess the impact of the influx of people, if any, would have on our neighborhood. Mr. Smith assured the Board that he would be willing to work with us, and would begin research on the process of road closures, so that if necessary, it could be an immediate "go."

### **Security**

*Jeff Duhe* reported that while Darryl Gissell donated \$150.00 to our security efforts, and that T-shirt sales at the Main Street Market resulted in an additional \$1,000.00, our security funds are extremely low. He further reported that past

due monies were owed to our security officers. He asked for suggestions on how we should proceed re security.

**A motion was made by Travis Moore that the Historic Civic Association suspend all expenses until we have money in hand to pay for any and all services requested.**

*John Sykes* seconded the motion; and the Board approved unanimously.

A discussion then ensued regarding our dwindling security funds, and what plan of action we should take to rectify this situation.

June Pulliam suggested that we urge our representative to introduce a bill to the Louisiana Legislature to designate Spanish Town as a crime prevention district. Jeff Duhe agreed, and further suggested that we run with this idea, and recruit Yvonne Dorsey and Patricia Hayes Smith to support our efforts. If the bill were passed, everyone in the neighborhood (renters included) would be able to vote on the proposed legislation. Discussion ensued re the explanation of how the monies would be expended in the proposal, and it was decided that the disbursement of the funds should not be written too specifically, i.e. not a good idea to limit the funds to “security patrols only.” It would need to be written more broadly, i.e. funding for “all necessary security measures.”

**A motion was made by Travis Moore that an effort be made to draft/revise the language for the Spanish Town Security District proposal, and to submit the same to the Louisiana Legislature, as soon as possible.**

*Stephen Carroll* seconded the motion; and the Board approved unanimously.

Travis Moore then suggested that security officers should patrol during the peak hours for criminal activity, i.e. between 11:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. He also suggested that the officers needed to complete time sheets, so that we would know exactly what we are paying for. He further voiced his support for a signed Grant Agreement with the Downtown Development District (a quarterly donation of \$5,000.00). Lastly, he proposed that we approach SPLL for a donation, although noted that \$700.00 of the SPLL money should be set aside for Beautification Committee purposes.

Jeff Duhe agreed that we need a new plan of action re security wherein the officers show proof of patrol, i.e. possibly a cooperative agreement with the officers to spend “X” amount of money for patrol. He further stated that our next business at hand would be to allocate the budget.

**With no further business, a motion was made by *June Pulliam* to adjourn the meeting.**

The motion was seconded by *Stephen Carroll*; and the Board approved it unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terri L. McKinney*  
HSTCA Board *Recording Secretary*