

HISTORIC SPANISH TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
April 15, 2007

6:00 p.m.
The Lobdell House
711 N. 6th Street, Baton Rouge, La.

Board members present: Bill Good, *Chairman*, Shawn O'Brien, Pat Melancon, Val Lavigne, Marion Johnson, David Brown, Peggy Good

Also present: Derrell Cohoon

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the March meeting were read and adopted, with changes noted therein, on a motion made by Ms. O'Brien and seconded by Ms. Johnson.

Treasurer's Report

The board reviewed the financial report as presented by treasurer Marion Johnson. She reported a balance of \$17,927 after withdrawals for security patrols and made available copies of the bank statement for the months of February and March, 2007.

Mr. Brown moved that the report be accepted, Ms. Lavigne seconded, and the reported was accepted by the board.

DDD Update

Mr. Cohoon announced various items of interest as follows:

- A green space and amphitheater with seating for 3,000 planned for the area currently occupied by the A.Z. Young building near the State Capitol.
- Proposed highrise apartment building near Hollywood casino and additional 10-story parking garage at the Belle of Baton Rouge casino.
- The mayor's Campaign for Unity event at the government building on April 17th at 11:00 a.m.
- Amended plans for downtown library are for a \$24 million signature building to replace the Centroplex Library, in place of main downtown branch proposed earlier. Several avenues of additional funding are being sought, including private partners, bonding, and naming rights.
- A daiquiri shop next to D'Agostino's Restaurant on Third Street
- The Arts and Entertainment District committee is awaiting information from the Planning and Zoning Commission before further action is taken.
- Several upcoming conferences in downtown, including Police Mountain Bike Assn., United Methodist Conference, Neighborhoods USA, Black Mayors' Conference, as well as visits by some Democratic presidential candidates.
- FestForAll, May 5th and 6th.
- Red Stick Animation Festival, an international festival of free films and paid-attendance workshops.

- Earth Day, April 22nd.

Newsletter

Mr. Good presented his draft of the Spring 2007 neighborhood newsletter. Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Melancon offered to help finalize the copy. Ads may be sold for \$25 per quarter page.

SPLL grant for Shiloh Baptist Church marker

The chairman noted that the Society for the Preservation of Lagniappe in Louisiana (SPLL), the organizers of the Spanish Town Mardi Gras Parade, made a grant to the civic association of \$3000 which will be used to purchase a marker commemorating the site of the historic Shiloh Baptist Church. Marion Johnson is handling details of the project. It was determined that she should inquire with DPW for permission to place the marker.

University Walk

Mr. Good advised the board that he had been contacted by DPW in response to a resident's request that the 600 block of University Walk be changed from two-way to one-way. Alternatives were discussed and Mr. Brown volunteered to meet with DPW. Ms. O'Brien suggested that an informal inventory of "no parking here to corner" signs be taken to determine if additional signs are needed to prevent people from parking too close to a corner.

Annual Meeting

The board decided to not hold the 2007 annual meeting at the State Museum due partly to the expense of using the facility. Ms. O'Brien pointed out that the 2005 annual meeting was held there in special recognition of the bicentennial year. Further discussion of planning for the meeting was deferred.

Other Business

David Brown informed the board that he would hold a kick-off party and press conference on April 17th to announce his candidacy to fill the District 67 seat in the La. House of Representatives. The board agreed to give Mr. Brown the "Thanks, Kip" Mardi Gras banner for his use.