

Minutes
OCA Annual Meeting
October 1, 2007
Jemison Van de Graaf Mansion

Year in Review

Robert Reynolds opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests. He thanked officers and board members for the work during the previous year. He made note that OCA members serve on governmental boards in our city and expressed appreciation to the Mayor and Council for these appointments. Robert pointed out that we are now seeing changes in our area with the density in rental units being decreased in the Historic Districts and density increasing near campus with new units being built with required parking in the rear of structures. This is particularly noticeable on 13th St. A maintenance code is being enforced in the Historic Districts resulting in better maintained properties. The Planning Commission is continuing to work on a proposed ban for front yard parking in our city which is already banned in the Historic Districts. There has been an increase in cooperation with the University of Alabama and our neighborhoods. Currently the SGA is working on issues of safety and quality of housing in our neighborhoods.

Special Reports

Bryan Chandler our School Board Representative from District 4 stated that he will serve with honesty and fairness and welcomes questions and suggestions from residents in our district. He will continue to work to preserve the current school zones for children in District 4 and work for a strong public school system for all children in Tuscaloosa.

The Mayor updated members on the status of downtown urban renewal projects. Over a 3 year period, there will be dramatic changes in a 16 block area. In January construction will begin on a parking deck behind the City Hall complex with green space adjacent. This should be an attractive park area for Tuscaloosa citizens to enjoy. The federal courthouse and plaza should be completed in 2010. There will be streetscaping projects, and much infrastructure work that will include sewer and drainage improvements. The Mayor reported that there are 275 phone calls a day to the new 311 number for city services.

Councilman Lee Garrison reported that the Bryant Dr. project is in the bid process. Federal, city and University funds will be used for this project. Sewer lines in our area will be updated and aesthetic improvements such as signage and lighting will also appearing in our area. The Shelby Park playground has been installed

Britney Mitchell from SGA thanked OCA for allowing SGA to participate in the organization. She reported that SGA will be organizing meet and greet socials for students and residents in our area. Other SGA projects are:

- Crimson Watch, similar to Neighborhood Watch
- Programs on how to be a better neighbor
- Good citizen awards
- Safety projects such as “lock it up”

A University police officer is patrolling our area. If you have concerns to report to the University police, contact Andy Liles, allies@uapd.ua.edu.

Alabama Power Company representatives discussed tree cutting with the membership and listed neighborhoods where they would be working. It was suggested that we look at Mobile's tree ordinance.

Jonathan McLelland gave the nominating committee report to reelect the current slate of officers. Robert Reynolds, President

Carl Ferguson, Vice President

Linda Albritton, Secretary

John Sheffield, Treasurer

LaDonnah Roberts made a motion for the slate to be accepted, the motion was seconded by Britney Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously.

Bylaw Changes

Robert explained the requested bylaws changes.

Wording for immediate past president was changed to Chairman.

Chairman of the Heritage Commission serving as an ex-officio member of the OCA Board is deleted.

Dues change from 20 to \$25 per household.

Rose Marie Childress made a motion to adopt the bylaw changes, LaDonnah Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passes unanimously.

Finance Statement

John Sheffied reported that there will be a formal financial report at the November board meeting. Currently there is \$498.08 in checking and \$4,851.00 in savings.

The meeting was adjourned.