

**Minutes**  
**OCA Board Meeting**  
**April 9, 2008**  
**Home of Emily Baker**

**Present:** Robert Reynolds (Pres.), La Donnah Roberts (VP), Linda Abritton (Sec.), John Sheffield Treas.), Emily Baker (Druid City), Amy Halladay (Oakwood Ct.), Mary Ann and Stewart Hampton (Caplewood), Mark Hicks (University Circle), Jon McClelland (Alaca), Ted Miller (druid City), Mickey Ursic ((College Park), Casey Kirby and Richard Byrd (SGA), Councilman Lee Garrison

The meeting was called to order, minutes of the March board meeting were approved.

**Old Business**

Historic Preservation Commission Report

Robert Reynolds encouraged HP Commission to adopt a standard for post/chain barriers for front yards so that landlords could easily add these to rental properties. Jon McClelland expressed concern that there are no city standards for backyard parking. He suggested that standards be formulated and adopted since we now have new developments that entail backyard parking.

There have been questions about property being re-subdivided to enable a developers to fit certain projects on certain lots. Under Alabama law, this request cannot be denied if the project complies with the current zoning for the property.

Standing Committees

Social Committee

Plans are underway for the spring picnic on May 18<sup>th</sup> on Monnish Dr. at 5:00 PM.

Long Range Planning

La Donnah Roberts discussed plans for a quarterly newsletter, with designated mailings going to all residents in the historic district neighborhoods that OCA represents.

A proposal for a night-time railroad crossing quiet zone was discussed. There are other cities that have such an ordinance, Decatur is the first in Alabama.

Councilman Garrison suggested grant money could be found for this project since safety and security at crossings would be improved.

LaDonnah Roberts is researching the costs of a formatted email alert system to use for important messages to our email list.

City Council Report

Councilman Garrison reported on many positive projects for our city.

Alleys in the campus area being upgraded with pavement and lighting make them safe for access for back yard parking.

Traffic tables are appearing in different areas. Contact Lee if your neighborhood would like to pursue having one.

Garbage carts in the historic districts must be pulled behind the front line of the house. This information will be added to the friendly reminder list which can be downloaded from the OCA website.

The garbage rate has been increased by 30 cents. Garbage carts are now owned by the city. If you need a new one call 311 and make that request.

Proposals for Sherwood Dr. and Guild's Wood to be closed with only one way in and out on Jack Warner Parkway are moving forward.

Guild's Wood is moving forward on becoming an historic district.

Funding has been found for the amphitheater public facility. There will be 4,000 fixed seats and 4,000 lawn seats.

Plans are moving forward for our river market/farmer's market to be modeled after Pepper Place in Birmingham and the River Market in Little Rock.

Decorative signage for all historic districts will be a two year project.

A new parking ordinance, which includes visitor parking for multifamily dwellings in the downtown area, should facilitate loft apartment development.

One project currently being developed is adjacent to DePalmas.

University buses will pick up students at the new Hargrove Rd. student development as well as the Water Works student development in an effort to reduce traffic.

#### SGA Report

Casey Kirby, the new SGA President reported that information about new ordinances such as front yard parking ban and garbage cart removal from the front of properties will be in the new SGA student packets for off campus housing. SGA representatives will be a participants in a District 4 Advisory Council. The new SGA administration plans to continue SGA's partnership with OCA.

#### ZBA Issues

The Zoning Board of Adjustment voted to deny parking rights in the front yard to a resident on Caplewood. The decision was appealed to Circuit Court. The city's legal department is not defending the ZBA's position. The board voted to allocate \$250 for legal expenses to Mary Ann Hampton who brought this issue to the ZBA. She is requesting the legal department to reconsider its position.

#### Other New Business

There is interest in closing Queen City Ave, to traffic at 13<sup>th</sup> and Dearing forcing traffic to use 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. as the major north/south artery. In this area.

The board voted to ask Lee Garrison to take appropriate steps to do this.

A resolution was unanimously passed to oppose the relocation for the river walk to the south side of a proposed condo/restaurant development on Jack Warner Parkway across from Guild's Wood. Linda Albritton made the motion and was seconded by Ted Miller. A copy of the resolution will be sent to the Mayor.

#### Nominating Committee

A nominating committee will be appointed at the May meeting.

