

TARA CRIME PREVENTION AND NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Monday, September 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm
Goodwood Library - 7111 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La.

On Monday, September 24, 2018 a quorum of the Board of Commissioners of the Tara Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District ("Board") met at the Goodwood Library for the third quarterly meeting of 2018.

The following commissioners were present:

Bill Kipf
Lisa Catalanatto
Duke Williams
Estelle Rome
Fred Gwin

Absent:

Ross DeNicola
Dale Songy

The minutes from the June, 2018 meeting were accepted by acclamation.

Security:

Incident Report:

Fred Gwin summarized:

- July: no residential burglaries; 1 vehicle break-in on Tara Blvd.
- August: no residential or vehicle burglaries or break-ins reported.
- September: no residential burglaries; 1 vehicle burglary involving an unlocked car on Trinity.

Fred Gwin commented on the relatively safe status and lower rate of incidents within Tara S/D compared to some nearby neighborhoods, with particular attention to Old Goodwood and the higher degree of incidents experienced in that neighborhood. Fred reminded us to keep in mind – and to spread the word: good preventive practices include lights, alarms, security system, video cameras, gates; and don't leave anything of value in your car within view.

Fred also noted that Custom Security has been approved to install the last three cameras (Thurman near Chevelle; LaSalle near Chevelle; and Roseneath @ Old Hammond).

Fred noted that on advice from legal counsel, an RFP was sent to 3 vendors and we received a response from Custom Security, who agreed to provide the cameras and installation at our three locations. Further, they met with City-Parish officials to ensure their installation would be consistent with City-Parish requirements.

Saia Electrical is in the process of getting power to the three locations, at which time Custom Security will begin the installation of the cameras.

Budget Report:

-Lisa Catalanatto reported that all required forms have been filed with the legislative auditor. The invoice from our CPA for this work was \$400.

Lisa reported the Board has purchased a D&O insurance policy at a cost of \$881 for the annual premium.

Additional incidental expenses over the past quarter include a \$21 invoice from the Morning Advocate for publishing our meeting notices and \$75 for a maintenance issue with the camera. Our largest monthly expense item is allocated to the security patrols, which typically range between 80 to 104 hours per month.

Old Business:

Landscaping:

-Estelle Rome followed up on the bids we previously received for the landscaping businesses for the boulevard entrance planting and maintenance. The submitted bids were outlined as:

- a) Memoes: \$4,377.50
- b) Angelos: \$5,820
- c) Landscape Ideas & Solutions: \$4,704

Lisa noted the budget for beautification is outlined as \$8,000. Additional discussion followed with questions relative to supplemental services and costs attendant to each of the vendors as well as information related to reported experiences with each. It was noted that none of the vendors could provide the maintenance on the Crepe Myrtles that was questioned at the last quarterly Board meeting. After further discussion a motion was made to select Angelo's for the contract. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dues Increase:

-A general discussion involving the review of our past and projected expenses outlined the following pertinent points: 1) the installation of all cameras within this budget year will free up the allocated \$10,000 included in the annual budget for camera acquisition and installation going forward; 2) some small cost for future maintenance of the cameras should be anticipated; 3) some costs for the maintenance of Crepe Myrtles should be anticipated; 4) approximately \$3,500 budgeted for new signage at the boulevard entrance points will essentially be freed up as the Civic Association had anticipated absorbing this expense to defray the Boards cost in expediting the installation of all of the cameras. On balance, the preliminary estimate is that next year's budget should have approximately \$11,500 available that had earlier been "ear-marked" for the acquisition and installation of cameras and other expenses. Accordingly, it was the general consensus of the discussion that an increase in dues is not necessary at the present time and that such increases should be reserved for such time as additional expenses warrant.

New Business:

-Gary Patureau presented a Power-Point outline of the proposed Neighborhood Watch program which would incorporate a joint effort involving the Tara Crime Prevention Board, the Tara Civic Association, and individual residents with training initiated by the Baton Rouge Police and EBR Parish Sheriff departments with a written policy manual to be developed.

The proposed Neighborhood Watch structure would include the recruitment of block-watch captains and volunteers, designation of a coordinator, and establishment of a communication system.

Following the presentation, general discussion followed with favorable comments supportive of the general plan with intentions to outline a committee to advance the plan to a more concrete implementation.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.