

TARA CRIME PREVENTION AND NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Monday, January 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm
Goodwood Library - 7111 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La.

On Monday, January 28, 2019 a quorum of the Board of Commissioners of the Tara Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District ("Board") met at the Goodwood Library for the first meeting of 2019.

The following commissioners (new and outgoing) were present:

Bill Kipf
Lisa Catalanatto
Estelle Rome
Fred Gwin
Ross DeNicola
Dale Songy
Gary Patureau
Trey Monsour (arrived 7:35pm)

Absent: Duke Williams
Melanie Sawyer

The meeting was called to order by Dale Songy. In opening, Dale noted he would forward a list of the new commissioners coming on the board as well as those rolling off. Dale then announced the first order of business was the election of new officers and opened the floor for nominations.

Estelle Rome nominated Gary Patureau for President. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously. At this point Dale presented the gavel to Gary to assume control of the meeting. Gary thanked Dale for his service and accomplishments and then announced that Melanie Sawyer will be assuming the office of Treasurer to take the place of retiring member Lisa Catalanatto.

Gary Patureau noted the balance of the officers will be elected at the next Board meeting. To certify the selection of Melanie Sawyer as Treasurer, Gary asked for an official nomination. Estelle Rome nominated Melanie which was seconded by Fred Gwin and the vote for approval was unanimous.

Fred Gwin asked for clarification of Gary's status to hold office as he owns a house in both Sherwood Forest and Tara. Dale and Gary both noted they had checked on the laws and by-laws regarding this issue and Gary's current status as homeowner and resident meets the criteria to serve as a board member.

Gary Patureau asked for approval of the meeting minutes from December, 2018. Ross DeNicola moved to accept the minutes; Fred Gwin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Gary then asked Lisa to review the budget.

Budget Report:

Lisa provided information regarding some small payments at the end of the year and noted there have been no changes to the budget since the last meeting. The bill from Saia Electric has been paid for installation of the electrical service to the three new camera locations, but she has not yet received the bill from Custom Security for the equipment at these locations, but is not expected to receive an invoice until the cameras are actually up and running. The current bank balance is roughly \$76,000 (as of the end of December).

Dale noted one invoice that has not yet been received is for the boring at the site of the LaSalle camera site.

Lisa noted new signature cards will be necessary for the bank account. Gary asked for a motion to approve the changing of the signature card and Ross DiNicola officially motioned that all paperwork necessary to change accounts and signatures be approved by the Board. The motion was seconded by Estelle and passed unanimously.

Lisa provided an overview of the 2019 budget with projections of approximately \$68,000 anticipated in revenue. \$3,000 is budgeted for legal expenses; approximately \$400 for accounting firm expenses; D & O insurance policy which will renew this Summer. The beautification expense includes a monthly amount of \$485 payable to Angello's for maintenance of the Boulevard. The big budget item is \$38,000 for security patrols, which will vary from month-to-month as needed; \$2,500 is budgeted for camera repair items.

Discussion followed regarding the practice of including a small reserve for fluctuations in security and the wrap-up of the three new camera installations.

A motion was made by Fred to accept the preliminary budget; Ross DeNicola seconded the motion and the motioned carried unanimously.

Security:

Incident Report:

Ross DeNicola summarized from the December meeting:

- October: there were 8 alarms and no residential burglaries, no vehicle burglaries and one theft of lawn equipment on Bon Durant
- November: 8 alarms and no burglaries or thefts
- December: no alarms and no burglaries, but one theft on Wakefield involving tools taken from a carport.

Gary related he has a Top Ten Crime Prevention List which we should include on our website as part of our ongoing education to our residents.

Other Business:

*Gary Patureau referenced the Board's earlier discussions involving the initiation of a Block-Watch program and introduced Theresa Harrelson, Jim Murray and Tom Harrelson who are all involved in the Block-Watch program in Sherwood Forest Subdivision.

Gary noted the Block-Watch program involves more than just crime watch, but also serves as an informational conduit within the neighborhood to assist in keeping residents informed on other activities in the neighborhood such as the development of Group Homes, etc.

Theresa gave a brief overview on the structure and activities of the Neighborhood Watch program in Sherwood Forest and answered some questions from the Commissioners.

Gary proposed that the first meeting for the Tara Neighborhood Watch program would be scheduled within the next couple of months.

*Gary reported on the Neighborhood Improvement Campaign activities that include Phase I with the new street signs installed on Tara Boulevard and with the new signage at the entrances being worked on by the Tara Civic Association. Coordination with the Civic Association in Phase II will include updating the 46 street light poles along the Boulevard. Gary mentioned that Entergy may not replace the poles at no expense, but he would propose a plan to coordinate with Entergy on the cost and installation in conjunction with a strategy with the Civic Association to fund the upgrades. The idea of a Capital Improvement campaign was discussed as well as the use of potential reserves from the budgets of both the Civic Association and Crime Prevention District.

*Gary noted we may need to address the attendance issue in the by-laws for instances in which a commissioner should miss an excessive number of meetings. This can be addressed in the next meeting.

*Gary suggested future meetings be held at St. Paul's Church as it is physically in the neighborhood and would be able to accommodate a larger group. As the initiation of a Neighborhood Watch Program would require a larger meeting space, the St Paul's facility would be more suitable. The proximity to the subdivision is also an attribute. St. Paul reports they have availability on Tuesday or Thursday evening. Gary announced that, if there is no objection, the next meeting would be held at St. Paul's Church.

*Gary noted that the next meeting will involve the election of a Vice-President and Secretary.

*Gary asked for thoughts and future discussion involving more frequent meetings and/or separate meetings involving the Neighborhood Watch Program.

There being no further business, a motion was made at 8:40pm by Estelle Rome to adjourn. Trey Monsour seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.