

Civic Association Annual Meeting Minutes January 22, 2024

Attendance: 72 neighborhood residents attended

Call to Order, John Pray (Civic Board President)
Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.

Opening Prayer, Jeff Hulett (Jefferson Baptist Church)

Civic Association Reports:

- **John Pray (President)**

John introduced the current board members and their responsibilities: Steve Foster (VP, Secretary, Phone Tree), Darren & Aimee Rasche (Welcome & Publicity), Rick Martin (Social), Steve Long (Treasurer), Alicia Elam (Public Works), Glen Guilbeau, Brendan Rush, and Roy Hill.

John summarized the board's work with Entergy. One of the W-PP neighbors, Linda Butler, asked what we can do to stop the electrical outages in our neighborhood. John arranged a meeting with Entergy and six representatives showed up at our board meeting. Things started moving and Entergy spent four months in W-PP cutting vegetation and replacing poles. Since that time, we have had several storms and no electrical outages.

A few group homes have opened in the neighborhood. There is not much that we can do to stop group homes since they are federally protected.

John is looking to replace the rotting W-PP sign on Drusilla. He is also looking to replace the sprinkling system and landscaping on the Chelsea Boulevard.

- **Brendan Rush (Board Member)**

Brendan is a W-PP neighbor who works with the LA DOTD. Section #1 work is on Jefferson Hwy from Essen to the I-12 onramp. It has started and proceeded fairly well. Section #2 is from the I-12 onramp to Airline Hwy. The first phase of this work will start by the end of January and will go from the I-12 onramp to Bluebonnet Rd. They will close the middle lanes and reduce Jefferson Hwy to one lane in each direction. It will take about three months. Then they will do the same kind of work from Bluebonnet Road to Airline Hwy. Around July, they will come back and do the outside lanes at a slower pace since they have to deal with driveways and utilities. There may be a few weeks along the way that some of the entrances to W-PP will be closed. Finally, a new surface will be put on top of the roadway. The work is estimated to be completed in the fall of 2025. Brendan provided contact information in case people have questions (dotdcs@la.gov). Brendan answered questions from the neighbors. The project is designed to improve the roadways before the state hands the road over to the city parish. (www.511la.org)

Crime Prevention Board Reports

- **David Carnes (President)**

Board members also include John Pray, Larry Johnson, Drew Merrill, and Steve Long.

The Crime Prevention district started in 2010. This was renewed for 10 years in 2020.

David is looking for ways to improve communication to the neighborhood. The W-PP website needs to be updated so that it can be more useful. The Phone Tree is one way to get info to the neighborhood so make sure to sign up if you are not on it. One neighbor suggested that it would be helpful to post the CPB minutes on the website. David and Roy Hill actually went around and put a flyer on every mailbox reminding them of the annual meeting tonight.

- **Larry Johnson (Treasurer)**

Larry presented the 2023 financial report. Finances are submitted to the legislature in accordance with state law. See attached.

There are 586 properties in W-PP which pay the \$125/100 parcel fee. 2023 funds were \$72,513. 80% of the received funds are used for crime prevention. 20% of the funds are used for neighborhood beautification. Each year we generally spend about \$9000 less than we receive. The current CPB balance is \$81,778 which is enough to cover one year's expenses. The CPB pays lawn maintenance for the FEMA lots since the city will only cut them every month or six months. Lawn maintenance is \$9620 for the year to maintain 18 FEMA lots. A neighbor mentioned a fallen tree on one of the FEMA lots. Neighbors were encouraged to report these fallen trees to the city. The more people who report these things, the more likely it will be taken care of.

- **Chad Jones (EBR Deputy)**

W-PP is very fortunate to have very few crime incidents. The installation of license plate readers has helped. There were 181 calls for service last year. 92 of these calls were false alarms. There was only one burglary in the neighborhood. The biggest calls were for theft (stolen bicycles, identity theft, credit card fraud, package theft, etc.). There was one vehicle theft reported but it ended up being a disagreement over ownership. There were 11 calls for medical emergencies.

- **Guest Speaker: Laurie White Adams (BR Councilmember)**

Laurie commended David and John for running the neighborhood so well. She often refers other neighborhoods to them for input and advice. Thankfully there were no natural disasters this past year! Laurie met our new police chief (Thomas Morse) and is very impressed. The city council hired a new parish attorney (Greg Rome) to try to get some more movement on some issues. The city council passed an ordinance to require licensing for massage parlors. There were seven on Jefferson Hwy. Many of them are now closing shop. The council has also been working to hold hotels and motels accountable. Group homes are federally protected. Laurie keeps track of decisions in appellate courts around the nation. Group homes in A-1 neighborhoods will have to apply for an accommodation permit. Laurie is putting together a special task force to work on the group home problems. Many are just boarding houses and not true group homes for those with disabilities. The city continues to work on drainage and flooding issues. The widening of Wards Creek is in design process. This should help with drainage in W-PP. This should take six inches off flooding out of the neighborhood.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

Minutes submitted by Steve Foster