

Dec 10, 2022 | MINUTES

Meeting date | time Dec. 10, 2022 | 5 pm CT | Meeting location Zoom virtual meeting

Meeting called by	Angela White @ 6:05 pm	Participants	William Augustine
Type of meeting	Bi-Monthly Meeting		Marquetta Cheeks
Facilitator	Angela White		Rhea Kiper
Note taker	Marquetta Cheeks		Kashi Sherman
Timekeeper	NA		Sheila V Sims
			Ann R. White
			Angela D White
			Sylvia Winder

AGENDA TOPICS

Time allotted | 5-10 minutes | Agenda topic Meeting Minutes | Presenter Angela White

Discussion Meeting minutes (June, Aug, November) were emailed to SHPOA members (where email addresses are available) and posted on SHPOABR.com (on the Meeting Calendar webpage under the Membership menu) on Dec 10, 2022. It was suggested that the approval of these meeting minutes be deferred to allow members the opportunity to review them. Moved by Sheila Sims to defer approval to the next meeting. Seconded by Kashi Sherman. Motion approved by majority vote.

Conclusion Meeting minutes approval for June, Aug, November) deferred to next neighborhood wide meeting

Action items

Person responsible Deadline

Add June, Aug, November and December meeting minute approval to next meeting agenda	Marquetta Cheeks	TBD
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Time allotted | Time | Agenda topic Financial Statements Review | Presenter Sheila Sims

Discussion Sheila reviewed the financial reports for June – September 2022. Deposits were noted. Expenditures for period included bereavement baskets and July newsletter copies. Ending cash on hand for Sept 2022 was \$4,764.84. Reports for Oct 2022-Nov 2022 were not given due to November printing issues at Southern Teachers & Parents Credit Union. Motion to accept/approve June – September 2022 financial report by Angela White. Seconded by Kashi Sherman. Motion approved by majority vote.

Conclusion NA

Meeting minutes submitted by Marquetta Cheeks, Corresponding Secretary

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Oct – Dec 2022 financial report and the annual financial report will be made at our next meeting.	Sheila V Sims	TBD
Financial accounts will be moved in order to use automated payment methods for members	Sheila V Sims	Dec 2022

Time allotted | Time | Agenda topic 2022 Budget Updates & Approval | Presenter Angela White & Sheila Sims

Discussion Budget for 2022 was not approved in our prior meetings due to guest speakers talking past time allocation. The 2022 summary budget was reviewed in the August meeting where members to revisit the detailed budget before an approval discussion. Detailed budget was reviewed including updates of 2022 debits (deposits) and credits (expenditures). Motion to approve the 2022 made by Ann White. Seconded by William Augustine. Motion carried by majority vote.

Conclusion 2022 Budget approved.

Time allotted | Time | Agenda topic Covenants, Codes & Restrictions (CCRs) Revisions Draft Review & Feedback | Presenter Angela White

Discussion Southern Heights CCRs were issued with each filing in SH but have not been revised since 1952. Officers reviewed and created a 1st draft of CCRs revisions. CCRs are very important because they are rules & regulations tied to the land in Southern Heights. They govern the neighborhood in addition to city law.

The document was reviewed at the August meeting. It was emailed to members (as part of the August meeting minutes) and placed on the SHPOABR.com (on Governing Documents webpage under About US submenu).

SH property owners are encouraged to review and submit their comments to the document including submitting additional needs. Once compiled, the final CCRs Document will be provided to the neighborhood.

Demonstration:

- How to access the Draft CCRs document on our website ([SHPOABR.com](https://shpoabr.com)) to review online or print the documents.
 - Go the About US menu and go to Governing Documents OR Use this link=><https://shpoabr.com/about-us/governing-documents/>.
 - Scroll down to **Next Steps for CCRs Draft**. Click [CCRs Revisions \(Draft\)](#) to open the document. You can review the document or use the printer icon to print it.
- How to submit comments using the CCRs Draft feedback form.

- o Scroll down SHPOABR.com and enter your comments, feedback on Draft CCRs OR to propose any additional recommended covenants. Click the SUBMIT button to forward your comments.

Question: Do the CCRs address investors/property management/rental property owners in the neighborhood and the maintenance of rental property in Southern Heights?

Answer: Yes, specific language has been added to govern rental property including outlining the owner’s responsibilities for their tenant & tenant behavior, rental property maintenance as well restricting the ability for investors to buy and flip property. It also includes language restricting short-term rentals (Airbnb) in the neighborhood. If we want to keep SH a family-oriented neighborhood, the CCRs are important. NOTE: CCRs are tied to the land so they are binding once approved.

The Policy & Procedures Committee is responsible for handling owner feedback and making CCR recommendations. Policy & Procedures Committee volunteers include: Frances Crocram, Tonita Franklin, Ever Jarreau, Irvin Jones, Roslyn Walker, Byron Washington and Angela White.

Conclusion Draft of CCRs Revisions will be actively developed in 2023.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Review CCRs Draft and submit any comments, questions or concerns	SH Property Owners	Ongoing
Compile feedback and make CCR recommendations	Policy & Procedures Committee (names listed in discussion section)	TBD

Time allotted | *Time* | **Agenda topic** *Garbage & Trash Collection Proposed Changes* | **Presenter** *Angela White*

Discussion The proposed garbage and trash collection contract was reviewed. Contract details were reviewed as informational only since the Metro Council had not discussed nor voted on the contract. Baton Rouge provides “Cadillac Service” with collections more than once a week with 6 days p/week. Proposed changes are outlined below.

- Republic will handle garbage and recycling collection. Richards Disposal will handle out-of-cart items.
- Garbage / recycling price increase goes into effect on March 1, 2023
 - o Proposed change to move from twice per week garbage collection to once per week (\$5 increase) to provide a lower price increase. If twice per week collections continue, prices will raise by \$10 per month. Collections will occur for only 5 days per week

- Extra carts for garbage or recycling will be charged at \$7 each per month.
- Limits on out-of-cart volumes and charges for excessive items goes into effect on June 1, 2023
 - No more than (3) types of out-of-cart items per week.
 - Bulky Items (furniture, carpet, etc.); Woody Waste – limbs & branches; Bagged Leaves & Grass; Bulky Receivables (appliances, tires).
 - Woody waste cannot exceed 5 feet of debris and not exceed 40 lbs.
 - Bagged Leaves & Grass should not exceed 35 lbs. per bag.
 - No more than 10 bags of Bagged Leaves & Grass will be picked up per week.
 - Excessive out-of-cart items will be photographed and not picked up until residents have paid additional fees for removal. Contract says each resident will have to negotiate their fees for excessive items.

Question: Do they want us to limit what we put out for pick up? Are they expecting us to get dumpsters? Are they expecting us to take our out-of-cart items to the landfill? Will we be charged for extra carts on an ongoing monthly basis or only when placed at the roadside?

Answer: Unknown.

What made me furious was the contract states each resident must negotiate the price for extra out-of-cart items. I think it will be unfair to ask us to negotiate the fees. How do we know if we are being charged fairly and at the same rate as the vendor's buddy in Riverbend? Sounds like another debacle like the St

Federation recommended that we wait to see if the Metro Council reads the contract and raises the concern that a rate fee for overage on out-of-cart items is not defined. If not action is taken, then the Federation will raise the issue on the behalf of neighborhoods.

Conclusion Proposed changes were informational only. Specific impacts to residents were discussed. Watch the newspaper for garbage/recycling/out-of-cart items contract changes that may occur once the contract goes before Metro Council. We will monitor the excessive out-of-cart item fee issue.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
As Federation member, we have raised an issue that an excessive fee list should be established upfront AND should not be negotiable for each resident in EBR. We will continue to raise the issue.	Angela White	TBD
Watch the newspaper for garbage/recycling/out-of-cart items contract changes that may occur once the contract goes before Metro Council.	SH residents	TBD

Time allotted | Time | Agenda topic *Crime & Safety Updates* | Presenter *Angela White*

Discussion Per police, Persons in vehicles are canvassing neighborhoods during the day and going back at night to commit crimes.

- If you see unknown vehicles & people repeatedly in neighborhood, get their tags and vehicle/person descriptions and notify police & CPID
 - Notify police at 225-389-2000 or the BRPD website. Remember to leave your phone number for follow-up and to prioritize call.
 - Notify CPID using the [Safety/Crime Submission form](#) on SHPOABR.com (under Safety & Crime Prevention menu).
- Car Thefts are spiking across the country
 - **Tips that may help** – Lock your car and, if possible, set your side mirrors to recess when locked; Park car in your garage, close your garage door immediately before exiting the car; For non-garages, Park your car nose first to make it harder for thieves to move your car; Watch for bump & robs (someone hits your car in order to steal it when you get out due to an accident) – lock your doors and call 911 w/o getting out of the car; Keep
- Discussed typical Holiday reminders
- **Remember to** Notify CPID using the [Safety/Crime Submission form](#) on SHPOABR.com (under Safety & Crime Prevention menu).
- Two neighbors had property damage when a car ran into their yards – uprooted plants, tore down a brick wall and damaged an electric gate. The crime is being addressed by BRPD Hit & Run
- Remember to use the [Vacation Surveillance Request](#) form to notify our CPID to watch your property while you are away from home.

Time allotted | Time | Agenda topic *SH Updates* | Presenter *Angela White*

Discussion Proposed SH activities for 2023 were reviewed. Volunteers are needed to support the activity list below:

- Christmas Activities including decoration contest
- Membership Drive
- Community Garden
- SH Disaster Response Team – Persons with chainsaws, equipment and skills that can be called upon to resolve downed trees, place tarps on roofs, etc. when a disaster occurs.

Southern Heights has been asked to be a sponsor for the Krewe of Oshun Parade and Festival on Feb 4, 2023.

Conclusion Volunteers are needed for all SH activities and operations.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Develop activities in 2023 for budget review / approval	TBD	TBD
Volunteers are needed.	SH Residents	TBD

Time allotted | Time | Agenda topic 2023-2025 Officer Nominations | Presenter Kashi Sherman

Discussion Reviewed list of persons who submitted nominations for SHPOA office. Nominations submitted were:

- President – Angela D White
- Vice-President – Irvin Jones
- Corresponding Secretary – Marquetta Cheeks
- Financial Secretary – LaTasha W Jones
- Treasurer - Sheila V Sims
- Sergeant-At-Arms – Melvin Kelly
- Chaplain – No candidates
- Parliamentarian – No candidates

Floor was opened for nominations. No additional nominations were received for any offices. It was determined that persons could hold more than one office

- Sheila V Sims nominated Marquetta Cheeks as Chaplain.
- Angela D White nominated Sheila V Sims for Parliamentarian.

Call was made for additional nominations. Motion to close nominations on website and at meeting was made by Angela White. It was seconded by Kashi Sherman. Motion was approved.

Since there were no opposing candidates, the slate of candidates was elected by acclamation.

Conclusion SHPOA Officers for 2023-2025 are:

- President – Angela D White
- Vice-President – Irvin Jones
- Corresponding Secretary & Chaplain – Marquetta Cheeks
- Financial Secretary – LaTasha W Jones
- Treasurer & Parliamentarian - Sheila V Sims
- Sergeant-At-Arms – Melvin Kelly

Time allotted | Time | Agenda topic Open Discussion | Presenter Angela White

Discussion Participants were asked if there were any topics that should be discussed.

St Michael’s Jazz Concert

Question: (Rhea Kiper) St Michael’s held a jazz concert in the past and they were interested in partnering with SH and BREC to execute it again. Should we pursue it? I am interested in partnering with the Activity Committee (Yvette Moody) for 2023.

Answer (Angela White) Good idea. Let's not lose that activity offer and work towards making it happen. If not this, maybe something else. We need opportunities to get together as a community to get to know your new/old neighbors. Some neighborhoods have a garage sale.

SHCPID

Question: (Sheila V Sims) What is the CPID is doing with the \$100 per lot tax being paid annually. Other areas have signs, cameras, etc. This question is being raised by several residents.

Answer: (William Augustine - SHCPID Board member) The majority of the funds are used to pay for officer patrols. There is a desire for security cameras but funds are not available to cover the costs for patrols and cameras. There has been discussion to pursue a grant to help fund cameras.

Question: (Sheila Sims) What about signs? There are signs all over Sherwood Forest and other CPID neighborhoods? Signs are not very costly and would help at our entrances.

Question: (William Augustine) Should signs be funded by SHPOA?

Answer: (Angela White) While security cameras are a "Cadillac solution", signs, activities and other actions are available that are less costly and effective. Signs would be a capital improvement and that should be funded by SHCPID. NOTE: The SHCPID has never met with SH residents or SHPOA Officers to discuss budgets or projects.

Question: Should the SHPOA Officers request a meeting/discussion with the SHCPID to discuss projects and funding?

Answer: (Meeting Participants) Good idea.

Conclusion

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Follow up with St Michael's on partnering to have a Jazz Concert / Festival to bring neighborhood together	Rhea Kiper/Yvette Moody/ St Michael's	TBD
SHPOA Officers will request for meeting and discussion with SHCPID	Angela D White	Jan 2023

Motion to adjourn by Sheila Sims. Seconded by William Augustine. Motion carried and meeting closed at 7:19 pm.

Merry Christmas to ALL!