

Dixieland Neighborhood Association (DNA) Meeting on May 17th, 2016

Location: 730 S. Florida ave. 10 Members were present along with 3 LPD officers.

Meeting started at 6:30 PM.

David Whitcomb gave an update on the 5th Dixieland Art Fest. It was a major success with 96 vendors present out of 106 who had signed-up. He also remarked that the LPD officers and explorers present at the event were of great help. He reminded residents that National Night Out is Tuesday August 2nd, and the location of the event has not been selected at this time.

Angie Ellis, from the LPD gave an update on crime in the neighborhood, which included 11 suspicious incidents, 3 unoccupied vehicle burglaries, 4 occupied vehicle burglaries, 1 business burglary, and 12 trespass incidents. She said that up to 90% of all vehicle burglaries involve an unlock vehicle. She reminded residents to make sure their cars are locked at all times. You may contact Angie with any questions at 863-834-6900.

Mary Smith gave a brief summary of the independent feasibility study to make Florida Ave safer from Pine St to Ariana St. Many alternatives are being considered by the study including narrowing the avenue to one lane in each direction with a central turning lane. This would allow a widening of the sidewalks, and allow for safer pedestrian traffic. She encouraged residents to attend a briefing on the study at the Polk Museum of Art on Friday 20th at 6 PM. Mary also announced that Lakeland approved a Landlord Registry which will facilitate contacting absentee landlords.

David communicated that nurse practitioner (ARNP) Caroline Nelson, from the new Lakeland Regional Health Dixieland Campus located at 811 S Lakeside Avenue, could not make it to the meeting. This campus is an Urgent Care open from 8 AM - 5 PM Monday through Friday. There is usually no wait time, and they accept most insurances and cash pay as well. For more information please contact them at 863-284-5000.

Shawn McDonough, owner of vacant lot on 631 W Park St, was invited to speak regarding his plans for the property. A two story single family attached home will be build on the site. He plans to keep the property and rent it. He expects rents to be between \$1250 and \$1350 which should attract a better class of residents. He explained that lot prices are low enough where it is attractive for developers to construct in Historic Districts. The property will not have an attached garage as originally planned, but a paved parking lot in the rear facing the alley. He is also required to build fences on the sides of the building.

The meeting ended at 7:20 PM.