

Dixieland Neighborhood Association (DNA) Meeting on October 18th, 2016

Location: 730 S. Florida ave. 13 Members were present along with 2 LPD officers.

Meeting started at 6:30 PM.

LPD Officer McCain stated that crime was drastically down last month. Only 1 vehicle burglary, 1 stolen vehicle, 28 suspicious persons, 5 trespass, and 30 traffic stops. Officer reiterated to please lock your vehicles and to not leave items on display. Mary Smith asked about the homeless possibly coming from downtown to Dixieland. Office McCain said that the homeless were moving, but not yet into our area. He also advised to contact Code Enforcement if passersby are throwing litter by the Presbyterian Homes construction.

Sarah Powers from Top Buttons then gave a quick presentation regarding the charity that she founded. Top Buttons takes clothing and monetary donations from the community to help at risk youth dress appropriately. Top Buttons thrift shop is open every Saturday from 11-5 PM, and regarding donations, maternity and plus sizes are in great demand. For more information, you may contact Top Buttons at 863-688-0129 or go to <http://topbuttons.org/>.

City Commissioner Don Selvage gave us an update on our city government. He said that a new budget was recently approved with no new taxes, and Lakeland still has the lowest utility rates in Florida. He also said that the City was gathering opinions regarding a possible decriminalization of marijuana as was recently done in Daytona. He gave an update regarding the proposed Rental Registration to hold absentee landlords accountable. Many landlords are contesting the small fee they would pay if the ordinance were to pass. He is working with city lawyers and staff to check what measures could be taken to reform and save the ordinance. Don also informed that the city was still studying the possible narrowing of Florida Avenue with 2 lanes and a turning lane. Bill Haskell asked to widen the sidewalks and signs to inform drivers of parking locations.

A new downtown parking garage and a new Tiger stadium were approved by the city commission.

After suggestions from DNA members, Don Selvage will also be looking into Florida Presbyterian renovating the home on stilts on S New York Avenue.

The meeting ended at 7:35 PM.