

GMBAC PLANNING COMMITTEE EVENT

July 20, 2013
West Oaks Mall

Present:

Dianne Williams, Committee Chair, Wingate HOA, GMBAC
Donna Kinerd, Clayton HOA, GMBAC,
Wayne Thompson, Kingsbridge Place HOA, GMBAC
Tina Thompson, Kingsbridge Place, Resident
Dawn Kempthorne, Mission Bend North HOA, GMBAC
Winetta Billings, Mission Bend HOA, GMBAC
Linda Mason, Timbergate HOA, GMBAC
Rhonda Robinson, Kingsbridge Village HOA, GMBAC
Michilla Cade, Mission Bend HOA, GMBAC

General Discussion:

Dianne set the tone of the meeting by saying that we need to show our membership that they are getting value for their membership and for the dues they pay. She recommended setting a five year plan and a short range plan. She hopes to the plans completed by August, 2013. Volunteers will be needed and the hope is that people will find things that interest them and that they will enjoy doing.

After Dianne's introduction, started the meeting with each person saying a little something about themselves and what each person felt was a priority to them or to his/her HOA. Linda Mason, who is somewhat new to GMBAC, is the Timbergate HOA representative to GMBAC. She was formerly on Timbergate's board, in the position of secretary, until her term expired.

Several GMBAC directors (Rhonda Robinson, Bob Hedger, and Donna Kinerd) prepared suggestions, prior to the meeting, in writing, which were discussed. Thanks to all who took the time to do this!!! There were many good ideas and they are attached to these minutes.

The general focus of the meeting was to find ways to:

- Increase GMBAC's visibility
- Increase community service
- Broaden our interaction with the community including residents, businesses, and service organizations
- Maintaining our current GMBAC membership
- Growing our HOA membership
- Strong focus on developing business and service organization relationships and encouraging them to join GMBAC

Problems identified that we felt are important to start addressing:

Litter, businesses that are not maintaining their property, graffiti, health hazards
Crime
Need for business and service organization recruitment
Need to build relationships with the school districts and our youth
Fundraising
Business discounts, group pricing
GMBAC's lack of visibility in the community and among the businesses

Ideas that had traction:

Clean Up Day – trash pickup by GMBAC and any organizations we can recruit to help (Boy Scouts, National Honor Society Students for example)

Develop a plan to deal with the graffiti

A drawing, award, grant, or gift of some type to a business that will agree to improve the appearance of its property.

Group discounts for member HOA's and their residents. Consider starting with the power companies to help with the cost of the street lights.

Resume GMBAC newsletter. Discuss with Kathy Mangum her offer to produce a newsletter. Michilla has experience in this area and offered her help.

Coupons and discounts from area businesses in exchange for advertising on the GMBAC website and newsletter to attract new customers for the businesses. Include a GMBAC Special Deals Corner on the website.

Advertising along with GMBAC, for any events businesses help us sponsor.

Business Directory

Schedule a meeting with well-known businesses and middle level businesses thought to be key to the business community to share ideas. See what they would like to see us get involved in and see how they might help. Ask GMBAC board directors for input on businesses in their areas to target.

Crime – see if there are any grants that we could apply for that would help pay for additional crime protection.

Community Events – food drive, toy drive, back to school event, street festival.

School Liaison – Winetta and Mike are community representatives in the community outreach program initiated by Alief ISD. We need to set up something up to include a liaison with Ft. Bend ISD. Winetta agreed to be a go to person with Alief ISD when coordinating events, student volunteers or other matters that might come up.

Purchase GMBAC t-shirts for the directors with GMBAC clearly displayed on them to wear in the community to increase visibility and interest in GMBAC.

Fundraising – Michilla has experience and success with this and discussed the procedures involved with soliciting funds from Kroger, Chic-Fil-A, First Community Credit Union and Wal-Mart. See what is involved with grant applications. On the Harris County side, they have a department for this. No information about Ft. Bend at this time.

Set up committees for the project areas identified and once approved by the GMBAC board, send out a newsletter regarding the ideas under consideration as well as to solicit community ideas and volunteers.

Set up committee e-mail links on the website to make it easy to communicate with the committees. You would be able to click on the committee link and forward your ideas to them; no need to keep up with who is on what committee.

Keep in contact with the commissioners of Fort Bend and Harris counties. Keep a close eye on the development of the expansion of Bellaire and Beechnut out to FM 1464 and advise county officials as needed.

Remind ourselves that input and endeavors need to include both counties as we set up the events and recruitment.

In an effort to stay focused and attend to as much business as possible, and given that our secretary, Veronica, is ill, Michilla and Winetta will work on an agenda for the next monthly GMBAC meeting and have it ready to send to Mike for review before the August meeting.

Priorities identified by the group:

Meeting with Businesses – in September
Service Event – Clean-up day in October

Event next year:

Street Festival

Committees Recommended and Those Interested in Those Committees:

Beautification – Dawn and Linda volunteered to work on a Clean-up Day and graffiti.

Business and Service Organization Recruitment – Michilla and Rhonda

Group discounts for HOA's and Homeowners – Donna and Dianne

Event Committee

Awareness Campaign

Fundraising – Michilla

Crime

We hope to solidify the committees and additional interested people at the next GMBAC meeting.

Once the minutes have been approved for distribution, send them out to the GMBAC directors before the next meeting in August.

Submitted by W. Billings