

Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Associations

Sherwood Forest Civic Association is a member of the Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Associations. The Federation was formed in the early 1970's as an umbrella organization of member homeowner associations throughout East Baton Rouge Parish. This was the first organization of its kind in the United States and the idea has spread in recent years to other areas of the country. The Federation is a volunteer driven 501(C) (3) organization that has helped to improve the quality of life of the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish through education and representation for over 30 years. As community needs have grown and changed, and where such opportunities exist, the Federation has succeeded in establishing relationships and partnerships with other organizations to accomplish specific goals, all to the betterment of East Baton Rouge Parish. Our careful utilization of limited financial and volunteer resources has allowed the Federation to continue to achieve its mission into its fourth decade of existence.

The FGBRCA is comprised of dues paying neighborhood homeowner associations and represents the interest of East Baton Rouge Parish residents on issues that affect the citizens and their neighborhoods. The Federation monitors zoning throughout East Baton Rouge Parish and seeks to maintain the character and integrity of the various neighborhoods. It serves in matters, streets and drainage, sewer, police protection and city planning. The Federation conducts and participates in forums designed to educate the citizenry about matters of common interest. The Federation also communicates the needs and concerns of the individual neighborhoods to local government officials and assists those neighborhoods in problem resolution.

The Federation helps individual neighborhood homeowner associations organize for the benefit of their communities. It provides assistance, speakers, advice, contracts and literature to these neighborhood associations in their effort to maintain and improve the quality of life in their areas. The Federation conducts forums in which the member organizations can share their experiences regarding neighborhood activities, social events, and neighborhood improvement or beautification projects. The Federation conducts forums in which the members to hear discussions of issues of public interest to the City and the Parish and to hear the views of candidates running for public office. It provides a monthly forum for discussion and solutions of problems that can affect all neighborhoods, including deed restrictions and violations, zoning, neighborhood security, drainage, noise, organization and by-laws, corporation annual reports, legal proceedings, etc. It provides advice and assistance to member organizations on issues such as planning and zoning procedures. The Federation provides a Resource Center with information on community issues important to its membership, such as grants and smart growth.

Members of the Federation serve on numerous committees working with the Mayor's Office, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Metro-Council, the City-Parish Planning Office, the Baton Rouge Police Department and the Sheriff's Office. The Federation was instrumental in the original development of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which subsequently became known as the Horizon Plan and was passed on by vote of the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish. The Federation was instrumental in and provided funding for televising of Planning and Zoning Commission meetings. Federation representatives participated in the rewrite of the Uniform Development Code, and development of the Billboard Ordinance, the Portable Storage Building Ordinance and the Landscape Ordinance. Representatives of the Federation serve, both past and present, on Metro-1, Metro-3, and Metro-9, the Tree and Landscape Commission, the Crime Prevention Housing Coalition, the LSU Campus-Community Coalition for Change, the Sanitary Sewer Citizens Advisory Committee, Smart Growth, CAN DO, the City-Parish Zoning Committee, the Central Community Alliance, the Litter Prevention Coalition, the Traffic Impact Fee Task Force, and the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan Advisory committee, among others. Federation representatives are providing input on development of a new lighting ordinance and a new zoning notification ordinance. During major election years, the Federation sponsors community-wide candidate forums to educate the public on views and issues important to the electorate. The Federation participates in and provides speakers for various educational seminars and forums on a multitude of community issues. The Federation participates in various community and member organization social events, to include the Kenilworth 4th of July parade. The Federation continues to collaborate and partner with other community organizations in achieving common goals for the betterment of the community.