



**FAIR GROUNDS**  
**RACE COURSE & SLOTS**  
A Churchill Downs Company

Fair Grounds Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday February 2, 2016

**Attendance:**

Tim Bryant  
Bishop Ryan Warner  
Wayne Benjamin  
Virgil Duplessis  
Oliver Wise  
Emilee Margiotta  
Capt. Jimmy Scott  
Mary B. Cunningham  
Sherry Watters  
Sidney Fauria  
Rocky Seydel  
Ronald Brink

**Representing:**

Fair Grounds Race Course  
Councilmember Head  
Councilmember Guidry  
Fair Grounds Race Course  
Mayor Landrieu  
Fair Grounds Race Course  
Fair Grounds Patrol/NOPD  
Councilmember Guidry  
Councilmember Guidry  
Councilmember Brossett  
Councilmember Clarkson  
Neighborhood Member

Meeting is called to order at 4:10pm by Chairperson Bishop Warner.

Bishop Warner thanked everyone for their service and ability to come to the meeting. Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Bishop Warner asked for a motion to approve last meetings minutes, everyone had received the minutes and motion was approved by Benjamin Wayne and Oliver Wise\

Welcome Mary B. Cunningham as the new appointee for Councilmember Guidry's office.

- ❖ Mary was presented with a copy of provisios.

**Old Business:**

- Thoroughbred Meet
  - Meet has gone relatively well

- Came off of the turf course more than we would have liked due to weather
- Thanksgiving was a very large crowd, great weather and great vibe.
  - Our Clubhouse dining area was completely full
- Road to Derby Kickoff
  - Gayle Benson's stable won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Lecomte Stakes
    - MO Tom and Tom's Ready
- Smoking Ban
  - Having a clear impact on our Slot's Floor
  - Declined revenue
  - OTBs outside of Orleans Parish are making up the revenue
  - Working on Take and Play technology which will allow customers to use a tablet to finish their game while able to smoke on the outdoor patio
    - Currently moving forward with Marketing Plan
    - Invested money in new slots products
    - Conducting focus groups
  - Parimutuels have bucked the industry trend thru December. Entire industry was down while we were up.

### **Neighborhood Update:**

Captain Jimmy Scott gave out detail reports on burglaries, auto theft and armed robberies that have occurred in the patrol area in the last quarter. (Distributed maps) He informed everyone that they can go to Nola.com to review crime trends.

### **New Business:**

- Road to the Derby – Feb 20<sup>th</sup>
  - LA Derby Prep races on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>
    - Expecting a good sized general admission crowd due to Gayle Benson's horses performing 1 and 2 in the Lecomte Stakes
- Starlight Racing Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Had to cancel Jan. Starlight racing due to weather. Had a great turn out in the Clubhouse.
- Weiner Dog Racing – March 5th
  - Very popular and draws a very large crowd
- Fundraisers
  - Golf Tournament – March 16<sup>th</sup>
    - Will benefit our backside and backside workers
  - Cochon de Lait – March 9<sup>th</sup>
    - Will benefit Pediatric Brain Cancer research, Angels Grove Ranch and Wounded Warriors Equestrian Program
  - Derby Day – March 26<sup>th</sup>
    - End of meet will be March 27<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday

- Misc.
  - Will be running Mardi Gras Day, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>
- Jazz Fest
  - Will take over at the end of the meet, full facility take over.
- Copy of statute to be sent to group with list of groups. Allocated funds have not been distributed.

Bishop Warner thanked everyone and asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Sherry Watters and Sidney Fauria

Bishop Warner informed the committee the next meeting would be on Tuesday, May 10th at 4:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42pm.