

## FSJNA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – August 2015

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

I. The meeting was held at Bricolage Academy (formerly Holy Rosary School) - upstairs class room and called to order by President Steve Mardon at 7:03 pm.

II. The attendees are noted on the sign-in sheets. A quorum was present.

III. The Meeting Rules included in the Agenda were noted.

IV. Guests

**NOPD– Lieutenant Jones:** Lt. Jones addressed the recent shooting incidents on Gentilly Blvd. Homicide is investigating the fatality at Gentilly and Ponce De Leon. The shots fired at Gentilly and Maurepas are also under investigation, video footage is available. Lt. Jones was asked about the vehicle taken at gunpoint in the 3100 block of St. Phillip and about adding additional lighting in the play area at Stallings Playground.

**NOPD Community Affairs Coordinator – Sergeant Hawkins:** Sgt. Hawkins reminded members to lock their automobiles and secure their key fobs. She invited all members to attend the NONPACC meetings; the next meeting is August 18, 2015. Sgt. Hawkins was asked to check on the gate at 1660 Gentilly, a blighted property with an unsecured gate.

**Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Captain Scott:** Captain Scott was unable to attend. Tommy Lewis attended the Fair Grounds Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting on August 4, 2015, at 4:00 pm. At the meeting, the Fair Grounds Patrol Cars were discussed. There will be 2 new patrol cars purchased in August. The handouts Mr. Lewis provided from the CAC meeting are on file.

**District A City Councilmember –Susan Guidry:**

- Councilwoman Guidry acknowledged the hard work that FSJNA did at Stallings Playground post-Katrina. She said the playground had a problem with crime, but now there is a Booster Club at the playground and “it’s coming together.” She also noted that Stallings is in District D, not District A.
- She discussed the issues on the bayou on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Krewe of Kolossus Boat Parade is advertised as an event from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, but in recent years the bayou has become a destination for July 4<sup>th</sup> picnicking, the Krewe is not responsible for people who come to picnic and shoot fireworks. She is having a meeting next week with the Administration and with Sanitation to determine how to deal with this in the future.
- She mentioned the bicycle fatality at Broad and Canal. There will be a Pedestrian and Bike Safety Advisory Committee meeting at noon on August 21, 2015, in Chambers to look at safety of bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists.
- Boats left in the bayou have been stickered by Mosquito Control and they did have mosquitoes in them.
- There was a District A budget meeting with the Mayor on July 30, 2015, to discuss budget priorities. Attendees were interested in infrastructure (streets) and crime.

- Katrina 10 events – For a list of events related to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Katrina go to [Katrina10.org](http://Katrina10.org)
- Councilmember Guidry is Chair of the Council’s Criminal Justice committee and they are looking at reducing the jail population and timing of the judge’s moving cases.
- The murder rate is high this year, up 37.3% from last year; but the number of shootings is down 13% from last year. The number of separations from NOPD is down. Officers just received the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 pay raises.
- Councilmember Guidry was asked about street repairs in the city. She said street repair cost is \$7 million/mile. Large street repair costs are matched by the State and/or Federal government, but small street repair costs come from the city’s general fund or bond issues. The City is responsible for drainage pipes, not the S&WB, and there is no money for drainage pipes. FEMA just reassessed very neighborhood and is committing money to small streets and drainage pipe. Visit the Recovery Roads site at [nola.gov](http://nola.gov) to see the status of street repair in our neighborhood: <http://recoveryroads.nola.gov/>
- When asked about the status of the bridge repairs she said to email her office and she would respond with the status.
- When asked about the removal of monuments she said the conversation was ongoing. There will be 2 public meetings on August 13, 2015, with the HDLC at 1:00 pm and with the Human Relations Commission at 6:00 pm.

**Broad Community Connections (BCC) – Jeff Schwartz:** Jeff Schwartz discussed plans for development on the property at Broad and Bienville. The proposed development is across from the ReFresh Project (Whole Foods) and close to the Lafitte Greenway. The property is currently 5 vacant lots covering 20,000 sq ft in a C-1A district with an ICUC overlay. The current owners are proposing a Taco Bell at that corner. The BCC has concerns from a land use, design, and community development perspective. BCC sees it as a missed opportunity for local businesses and pedestrian-friendly businesses. They talked to the owners about developing a mixed-use project on the site, and offered to buy the property from the current owners, but the owners were not onboard. A fast-food restaurant is a conditional use for the site, so it will have to go in front of the CPC. Councilmember Cantrell supports better use of the site. BCC is reaching out to neighborhood associations that border on Broad and encouraging individuals to write to their councilmembers with their opinion on the proposed development.

Jeff also mentioned that BCC met with the Regional Planning Commission to discuss the restriping of Broad to make Broad safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

#### V. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

Landscape Committee- The clean-up at Fortier Park was a success, about 30 people showed up to help. Bike racks are being considered for Fortier Park. Robert Thompson is looking for volunteers to help with planting in Capdeville Park, and Gloria Martin volunteered to contact Parks and Parkways concerning Parkway Partners.

Membership Committee – no update

Events Committee – no update

Rebridge – no update

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's report is on file.

Public Safety – Jim Danner reminded neighbors about locking their automobiles. You can contact him at [safety@fsjna.org](mailto:safety@fsjna.org).

Zoning Committee – Sarah Stogner reminded members about the trial August 5, 2015, at 9:00 am to repeal the sale of high-content alcohol at S'Express.

VI. Old Business – Sarah Stogner made a motion to approve the minutes from the July Executive Board Meeting. Gloria Martin made the second and the motion passed.

VII. New Business

- **Linda Landesberg – Desmare/NORDC CEA:** Desmare Funds are now \$87,700 (Phase 1). COPU Fund transferred \$11,050 for all planting and trees. Dana Brown started construction documents. Sarah Stogner reviewed the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) and it has gone back to NORDC with slight changes. We'll wait for it to come back and then we can sign it.
- **Sarah Stogner – New Business:** In the interest of being open and transparent, Sarah Stogner disclosed her intent to open a bar on the Lafitte Greenway. The matter was discussed and the Executive Board determined that there was no conflict of interest.
- **Cynthia Scott – Proposed Amendments to the CZO:** Cynthia Scott briefly summarized Nadine Ramsey's proposed amendments to the CZO and a letter put together by the Preservation Resource Center (PRC) Neighbor Council opposing the proposed amendments. The letter and the amendments were discussed.

**Seth Levine made a motion to support Item 1 and 2 in the PRC letter, which read as follows:**

- 1. Amendments were not properly vetted in a public process where community input was garnered which is contrary to the years of planning to produce CZO language.**
- 2. Amendments shall be withdrawn until a public meeting, separate and apart from the regularly scheduled council meeting, be held to have to a meaningful dialogue on the impact of these amendments Citywide.**

**Sarah Stogner made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. A copy of the Preservation Resource letter, dated July 30, 2015, is filed with the minutes.**

VIII. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Jeanfreu. Gloria Martin made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.