

## FSJNA GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – December 2015

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

I. The meeting was held at the Black & Gold Room at the Fairgrounds and called to order by President Steve Mardon at 6:35 pm.

II. The attendees are noted on the sign-in sheets. A quorum was not present.

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

IV. Guests

**Council Member – Susan Guidry:** Cm. Guidry gave highlights from the recently passed budget by the City Council. An additional \$1M will be provided for training and support for our EMS/Police/Fire operators. All operators will be cross-trained. Additional funding will be provided for the public defender's office. The council funded raises for police officers, approved \$11M in overtime and will fund 5 recruit classes (150 officers). The council also funded a Department of Public Works repair crew in each district 5 days per week. In addition, a street light maintenance program and Lafitte Greenway maintenance program were also funded.

Parking meter effective times were discussed. The mayor would like them to be in effect until 10pm and Cm. Guidry expressed an interest in keeping it as is (until 6pm), but increasing the fines for violators. The reporting structure between the Independent Police Monitor and Division of Inspector General was discussed. Changes are being proposed and voters will decide in an election next year. The Wisner Bridge will be rebuilt with a bike lane. Construction will start on December 10, 2015 and is expected to conclude in March 2017. The Neighborhood Participation Program (NPP) has been in effect for a few years and the council is seeking feedback. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm when citizens can give input. 500 N. Carrollton Ave (former Home Depot site) is under design review with the new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. The CVS is under construction. No new tenants have been announced. Cm. Guidry has been meeting with the developers and neighbors surrounding McDonough 31. The neighbors have proposed a text amendment to change the zoning law so that the zoning law and the master plan are not conflicting. The City Planning Commission will review and make a recommendation to the Council. Cm. Guidry has proposed a reusable bag ordinance and the first reading was last week. The ordinance would require consumers to pay for single use plastic bags or bring their own bag. The free newspapers from the Advocate and TP that litter the neighborhood were discussed. Cm. Guidry will check with the law department to see if delivery can be stopped.

**NOPD Quality of Life Officer – Sergeant Hawkins:** The officer provided handouts with holiday safety tips. There has been an uptick in crimes recently, but overall crime is down 4% in the first district. They recently arrested someone linked to several armed robberies in the first district.

**Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Captain Scott:** Captain Scott went over crime statistics for the area patrolled by the Fairgrounds Patrol. He distributed a 5-page handout showing crime statistics for a 30-day period covering 11/1/2015 - 11/30/2015, and compared our numbers to the city as a whole. In November, there were no armed robberies, 2 burglaries, 2 auto break-ins, no sex crimes and no auto thefts in the patrol area. He reminded

everyone that December statistically has more armed robberies than any other month. Be aware of your surroundings and don't leave valuables (Christmas gifts) in your car.

**New Movie Theatre on N. Broad St –Brian Knighten**: Brian Knighten will soon open a movie theatre at 636 N. Broad St near Orleans Ave. It will have 4 screens, food, wine, beer and liquor. It will focus on Hollywood and Independent films.

**Friend of Lafitte Greenway, Bike and Bash Event – Sidney Doyle**: The Lafitte Greenway officially opened on November 6<sup>th</sup>. A Bike and Bash event will be held on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-6:30pm. It will start in Lemann Park (628 N. Claiborne Ave) with arts & crafts and a safety talk. Then everyone will walk or bike to Parkway Bakery for a party. They hope to host monthly events for health and wellness. There was discussion about additional signage at the intersections of the Greenway with major streets, such as N. Broad.

#### V. Elections for 2016 Executive Board

President Mardon opened the floor for nominations for additional Executive Board members. No nominations were offered. An official vote could not be taken because a quorum was not present. However, since there was no opposition and no new nominations offered, the Executive Board was approved by acclamation.

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

#### VII. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

**Membership Committee** – Brenda London reminded everyone that membership can be renewed online and encouraged members to tell their neighbors. FSJNA members get in free at Le Marche des Fetes at the Pitot House this Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. You can become an FSJNA member at this event.

**Events Committee** – President Mardon asked for volunteers to work the sign-in table at Le Marche des Fetes at the Pitot House this Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for one hour shifts.

**Desmare Playground** – no update

**ReBridge** – no update

**Landscape Committee**- Robert Thompson gave an update. There have been a few planting and more are planned. President Mardon will ask for volunteers for the next round of plantings.

**Public Safety** – no update

**Zoning Committee** – The owners of 2801 St. Ann have applied for a Zoning Variance Request for a proposed coffee shop at that location. The Zoning Committee gave out over 200 surveys to surrounding neighbors and completed the zoning matrix. There were 8 responses in favor of the zoning variance. The Zoning Committee

recommends no opposition to the request. An official vote of the board could not take place because a quorum was not present. This will be heard at the City Planning Commission meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

VIII. Old Business – no old business

IX. New Business – no new business

IX. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Rocky Seydel. Steve Mardon made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.