

FSJNA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – February 2016

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

- I. The meeting was held at Bricolage Academy 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. Current Topics/Speakers

Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Captain Scott: Captain Scott went over crime statistics for the area patrolled by the Fairgrounds Patrol. He distributed a 3-page handout showing crime statistics for a 12-week period covering 11/1/2015 - 1/30/2016. Five robbery offenses (simple, armed, carjacking) occurred in our area and four of those were cleared by arrest.

Hike the Lafitte Greenway Event – Sophie Harris (Executive Director Friends of the Lafitte Greenway) and Nellie Catzen (Community Health Program Coordinator-Friends of the Lafitte Greenway): Sophie Harris reported that the Greenway is a success with about 645 people/day on the Greenway in the Galvez area alone. There are new recycling bins on Broad and Jeff Davis, and pocket guides are now available (comments on the pocket guide are welcome). The 10th annual hike will be on March 5, 2016 at 10:00 am. It is the first hike since ground broke in 2013. This will be a celebration of the greenway and will highlight the storm water management features. The hike starts in Armstrong Park and ends at the Second Line Brewing with a Base Camp Block Party from 12:00 to 2:00. They invited FSJNA to have a table at the block party and will coordinate with Steve Mardon.

Parks Enhancement for 2016 – Robert Thompson: Robert Thompson reported that 200 plants were planted at the bus stop area on Esplanade last year, but there is still a lot of work to do. He is requesting funds from FSJNA for lawn work at DeSoto Park, concrete repair at the Esplanade Bus Stop, and plantings and an art installation at Capdeveille Park. The lawn work at DeSoto would be replacement money for what the neighbors were doing: mowing, edging, and fertilizing. At Capdeveille he would like to work with a landscape architect to plant sustainable plants and with a neighborhood artist to design an art installation. He estimated \$3500 for the 1st phase to design the art; and \$5000 to \$7000 for the 2nd phase to fabricate the art – depending on outside funding. Board members suggested starting with Parks and Parkway and possibly the Arts Council. In the interest of time, President Mardon tabled the discussion until the Board heard Committee Reports (see VI. Committee Reports-Landscape Committee).

NOPD Quality of Life Officer –Officer Gill: Officer Gill reported that there will no longer be a dedicated Quality of Life Officer, now every officer will handle quality of life issues. Board members asked Officer Gill who to contact to express concern over the decision and he recommended the City Council, the Mayor, the district commander and the Chief. Officer Gill was asked about the ATM at Chase Bank on Broad Street. It is a dark and secluded spot and he said he would check out the outside cameras/lighting in the parking lot.

V. **Treasurer's Report** – Matt Amoss provided a Balance Sheet and 3 months of Profit and Loss Statements. He has started working on a budget for 2016. In April of 2015 he started using a new accounting system. He

reported that because there were fewer revenue-generating events in 2015 that there was a slight loss for the year. The Treasurer's statements are on file.

VI. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

Membership Committee – Brenda London reported that there will be a Membership Drive at Fortier Park in the future and she reminded residents that online membership is available.

Events Committee – Linda Landesberg reported that the annual "Feed the First District" starts this week-end and the FSJNA volunteers will feed 80 officers for 4 days. It cost FSJNA about \$1500.00 and Brenda London is collecting money from neighbors to help defray the costs to the association. The committee will be asking for volunteers to serve at the daiquiri booth at Bayou Boogaloo. They are going to try to organize a Porch Crawl this year and are looking at ideas for a holiday event. Linda received an email on February 1st from NORDC that plans for Desmare Playground have been approved. She will be meeting with various agencies soon to take care of some outstanding issues.

Landscape Committee- The Board continued the previous discussion concerning funding of improvements at Capdeville and DeSoto Parks. Robert Thompson's proposal is for \$2750 without an art project at the Capdeville circle and \$6250 with an art installation. He reported that to get included in the Joan Mitchell fiscal support for artists in April we would have to show progress on acquiring art. He has spoken to a grass cutter that would cut the grass at DeSoto Park for \$45/visit for mowing and blowing only. There was some discussion about the grass cutting service being licensed, bonded and insured if FSJNA was paying for the service. The service may also need permission from Parks and Parkway. Robert was asked to get bids for this service, and to submit a formalized plan to add maintenance of the parks to the 2016 FSJNA budget. Linda Landesberg said she would talk to Dana Brown & Associates to see if they would provide a vision plan. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting when Matt Amoss submits the 2016 budget for approval. Robert Thompson's landscaping proposal is on file.

Public Safety – no update

Zoning Committee – Steve Mardon reported that NO City Planning Commission members voted to defer a decision on the Taco Bell project on Broad Street until its February meeting.

VII. Old Business – Steve Mardon made a motion to approve the minutes from the January Executive Board Meeting. Gloria Martin made the second and the motion passed.

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Mardon. Gloria Martin made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.