

## FSJNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES – March 2016

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

I. The meeting was held in the Black Gold Room at the Fair Grounds 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 present.

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

### IV. Current Topics/Speakers

**NOPD Update – Commander Ganthier:** NOPD First District Commander Ganthier introduced himself and his staff, Lieutenant Octave Baldasard, Sgt. Gary Lewis, Sgt. Kenny Temple and Detective DeCynda Chambers. He reported that overall crime is down 7% from this time last year. He reminded neighbors to lock car doors and not leave valuables in cars. He was asked about restoring a Quality of Life Officer and he said there are no plans to fill this position due to staff shortages. He was also asked about police presence on the neighborhood streets during Jazz Fest and he said he anticipated the same number of officers as last year.

**Jazzfest 2016 – Jimmy Fahrenholtz:** Jimmy Fahrenholtz asked neighbors to report streetlight outages, potholes and illegally parked cars prior to Jazz Fest. This year they will try to solve the problem of illegal vendors on the streets leading to the Fairgrounds. The Parking Permit placards will be more tightly controlled this year. The zone requiring parking permits is from the Fairgrounds to Esplanade. This year the placards will be dated for one day and distributed on a limited basis. Jimmy will be available on his cell phone throughout the Festival and he will send that information out in an email blast to the yahoo group. The NAT line will be the same number as last year. He was asked about street bands and he said nothing can be done because there is no ordinance against them.

**GRSJ Stop Sign/Residential Parking Program – Cheryn Robles (Community Outreach Manager of the Department of Public Works) and Lt. Col. Mark Jernigan (Director of the Department of Public Works):** Ms. Robles reported that there have been a number of revisions/changes to the Residential Parking Program. One of the changes is the ability to renew online. They have increased the fees for the permits and for citations; the new fees will pay for more officers to enforce the program. Ms. Robles went over the requirements to purchase a permit and the different kinds of permits available. She stated that the program was intended to benefit the neighbors, but if 80% of the residents on each side of each block want to opt out of the program, then they can submit the paperwork to the Department of Public Works (DPW).

DPW conducted a traffic count and observations at Grand Route St. John and North White to determine if a stop sign should be erected. They removed 4 palm trees, trimmed 2 magnolias, and proposed increasing the “No Parking” zone from the current 20’ to 140’ at the corners to increase visibility at the intersection. Ms. Robles said the traffic counts didn’t meet the national standards for a stop sign at that intersection. The count is based on the number of vehicles/hour/day. The landscaping and proposed no-parking zone would do nothing to stop speeders on Grand Route but “solved the line of sight” problem.

The discussion that followed included several neighbors contending that taking existing parking away instead of erecting a stop sign was not what the residents were requesting. DPW was asked if it was a question of money, and DPW responded that it was not cost-based, but they followed national guidelines. DPW was shown photos of a recently erected stop sign on an abandoned street and questioned DPW on how that intersection passed the traffic count study. They stated that it probably had a stop sign there when it was not abandoned and it was just being replaced. DPW was asked why a stop sign couldn't be used as a safety measure; the number of young children in the neighborhood and the multiple accidents at that intersection were brought up as examples. Lt. Jernigan asked if we were interested in traffic safety cameras (speed cameras). Lt. Jernigan asked if the line of sight was adequate after the removal of plantings and the neighbors agreed that it was. He also asked if we wanted DPW to go forward with the restricted parking proposal and the neighbors said no. Lt. Jernigan said he could go to NOPD and get an accident count. Conrad Abadie said he would document the accidents he is aware of and give it to DPW. It was unclear who FSJNA could appeal the decision to.

**City Council Update – Councilmember Susan Guidry:** Susan Guidry introduced her new liason Leatrice Dupre ([ldupre@nola.gov](mailto:ldupre@nola.gov)). She said she would look into the stop sign at GRSJ and N. White. As chair of the Criminal Justice Committee she has a resolution to ask the DA to use a more comprehensive screening process when transferring juveniles (15-16 years old) to the adult court system. She is backing an ordinance to reduce the possession of marijuana to a misdemeanor and a fine – not a jail sentence. The council vote is March 17, 2016. The Mid-City Market expansion at Bienville is nearing completion and all tenants are local. Loubat is moving back to New Orleans. 400 N. Carrollton (old Home Depot) doesn't need variance, working with CPC, but information is not forthcoming and she hasn't heard of local tenants there. Behind 400 N. Carrollton, the group of Torres, Jaeger, etc talked to Councilmember Guidry last week and told her they are keeping 1/3 of the property closest to the bayou and greenway. They are holding on to it to increase the value and will develop it themselves. Someone else will develop the rest. Comments will be returned on March 24 on Magnolia Bridge, the design plans were missing some things, probably past June before bids are let out, work will probably not start in 2016. She recommended the China lights at City Park. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a test closure of the water leak at GRSJ and N. White, call 529-2837 if you are impacted. She spoke on gun responsibility; 89 guns were stolen from cars in Gentilly, Lakeview and Mid-City. She was asked about the cones at the crossing on the Lafitte Greenway at Carrollton Avenue and she said she would check on it.

**Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Captain Scott:** No report this month.

**V. New Business – Motion made by Linda Landesberg, second by Gloria Martin: To amend FSJNA bylaws to allow annual renewal of membership based on date of joining by payment of dues. 15 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed.**

After the vote, Conrad Abadie stated that people are not paying their dues currently and it could be difficult to maintain the Yahoo group with the new membership policy.

**VI. Treasurer's Report** –The Treasurer's statements are on file.

## VII. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

**Membership Committee** – no update.

**Events Committee** – Linda Landesberg reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Porch Crawl will take place this year. Brenda London thanked the “Feed the First District” volunteers and contributors.

**Landscape Committee** - Robert Thompson said that he is organizing volunteers for mowing and maintenance at DeSoto Park and Capdeveille Park. Linda Landesberg is working with Dana Brown & Associates to see if they would provide a vision plan.

**Public Safety** – no update

**Zoning Committee** – Fair Zone needs a variance, after the fact, for a setback between him and his neighbor. He hired a lawyer and an urban planner. He is going to City Council but it is unlikely they will make him change the building now.

VIII. **Old Business** – no old business.

IX. **Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn was made by Brenda London. Linda Landesberg made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

FSJNA EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES – March 2016

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

I. The meeting was held in the Black Gold Room at the Fair Grounds and called to order by President Steve Mardon at 8:40 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. **Approval of February 2016 Executive Meeting Minutes:** Linda Landesberg made a motion to approve the minutes from the February Executive Board Meeting. Greg Jeanfreau made the second and the motion passed.

V. **Old Business** – none

VI. **New Business** –The Treasurer’s proposed 2016 budget was presented. A discussion on increasing funds by operating two daiquiri booths at Bayou Boogaloo was mentioned. The Unrestricted fund for Parks/Gardens was also discussed.

**Motion made by Kerry Tully, second by Gloria Martin: To accept the FSJNA 2016 Budget as presented, with the stipulation of adding a Restricted Fund for Capdeveille Park. All in favor. Motion passed.**

VII. **Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Shepard. Linda Landesberg made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.