

FSJNA GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – January 2016

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

I. The meeting was held at 2nd Floor Conference Room at Bricolage and called to order by President Steve Mardon at 7:05 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

First District Police and Quality of Life Officers: Jim Danner introduced the new commander of the 1st district, Hans Ganthier. Commander Ganthier has been with NOPD for 18 years and gave details on his background. He will be concentrating on Armed Robberies and Response Times in the 1st district. Officer Kenny Gill is available for QoL issues and can be reached at 658-2141 or kgill@nola.gov. He can help with trees that are covering street lights, clogged catch basins, pot holes, blighted property, abandoned vehicles and broken street lights. Officer Gill will also provide recommendations for securing your home or office. He reminded everyone to keep their porch light on, keep vehicles locked and remove valuables from your vehicles. Sergeant Hawkins reminded everyone that thieves have amplifiers to unlock your car using the signal from your remote. If you have one of these, she suggested wrapping your keys in foil or putting keys in the microwave while you are home. If your home is struck by a stray bullet, please notify the police. It may help with another case they are working. Officer Gill reported that 29 bikes were given to kids for Christmas and thanked those who donated to the cause.

Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Captain Scott: Captain Scott was not in attendance, but Linda Landesberg gave his report. She distributed a 4-page handout showing crime statistics for a 30-day period covering 12/1/2015 - 12/31/2015, and compared our numbers to the city as a whole. In December, there were 2 armed robberies, 2 burglaries and 3 auto thefts in the patrol area. If you have any questions, text Linda at 54-609-9670 and she will get the messages to Captain Scott.

Sewerage & Water Board – Jennifer Roberts: Jennifer spoke about storm drains and water leaks. Anything that goes in to a storm drain eventually ends up in Lake Pontchartrain. If you see a water leak call 52-WATER (529-2837). They will put it on the list and prioritize emergencies. Call 311 if you see a clogged storm drain. There will be a storm drain cleaning program on 1/21/16 from City Park down Esplanade Ave. If you would like to help, please contact Jennifer at 942-3856 or jroberts@swbno.org. Or you can show up at NOMA on 1/21 at 10am. The Port of New Orleans and the Arts Council are identifying storm drains that can be painted to raise awareness that storm drains should only have rain water (no dumping).

Taco Bell on Broad – Jeff Schwartz: Jeff is the Director of Broad Community Connections and he provided a handout and gave an update on the Taco Bell proposal. See attached. The conditional use request goes to the City Planning Commission on January 26th. If you would like to give comments, you can email cpcinfo@nola.gov and Council Member Cantrell lcantrell@nola.gov by January 18th.

Councilmember Guidry's Representative – Leatrice Dupre: President Mardon introduced Leatrice Dupre, the new community liaison for Councilmember Guidry's office. She can be contacted at ldupre@nola.gov or 658-1012. Also, Mary Cunningham replaced Enrico Sterling.

V. Selection of 2016 Advisory Board

President Mardon opened the floor for nominations for additional Executive Board members. There were four nominations from the floor – Josh Barbee, Bruce Hamilton, Gary Grenata and Jenny Bagert. Ballots were distributed to board members. Brenda London collected and tallied the votes.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Matt was not in attendance, but is working on a preliminary budget that will be presented at the February meeting.

VII. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

Membership Committee – Brenda London reminded everyone that membership can be renewed online. Several people joined at the Le Marche des Fetes event at the Pitot House on Saturday, December 5th.

Events Committee – This is the 5th year for Feed the First. Hot breakfast and lunch will be provided to officers Feb 6-9. The committee is seeking donations to off-set the costs. They will be seeking volunteers to work the Daiquiri Booth at Bayou Boogaloo in May.

Landscape Committee- Robert Thompson reported that there will be new planting at Desoto Park in the spring and there have been water improvements at Capdeville Park.

ReBridge – Work is supposed to start in March. President Mardon thanked Kerry Tully for her help selecting paint colors.

Public Safety – Jim Danner and Rocky Seydel are working with Captain Scott on crime cameras for the neighborhood. More details to follow.

Zoning Committee – nothing new to report

VIII. Old Business

Linda Landesberg made a motion to approve November and December meeting minutes. Greg Jeanfreau made the second and it passed by unanimous consent.

IX. New Business – President Mardon asked if FSJNA should take an official position on Taco Bell. There was discussion. It was decided that President Mardon will write a letter expressing concerns, but FSJNA would not officially take a position. Others were encouraged to send in comments before January 18th.

IX. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Danner. Greg Jeanfreau made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.