

FSJNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – June 2015

AGENDA

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

I. The meeting was held in the Black Gold Room at the Fair Grounds and called to order by President Steve Mardon at 6:37 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

Candidate for State Senate - Erich Caulfield : Erich Caulfield announced his candidacy for the State Senate representing District 4. Mr. Caulfield briefly discussed his background and experience. The election will be held on October 24, 2015.

No Waste NOLA – Max Ciolino: Mr. Ciolino provided information about the environmental organization No Waste NOLA. One of their main goals is to discourage the single-use plastic shopping bag. He circulated a petition to support a local ordinance in New Orleans mandating the elimination of single-use plastic bags in retail stores. Leaflets with contact information were distributed. For more information:

<http://www.nowastenola.org>

Jazzfest Wrap-Up – Steve Mardon: Steve Mardon asked if anyone would like to provide feedback on Jazzfest, and there were no comments. Neighbors were reminded that they could also email comments to

jazzfest@fsjna.org

Anti-Graffiti Initiative – Steve Mardon: Steve Mardon has started an initiative to clean-up graffiti in the FSJ neighborhood. He assembled 3 anti-graffiti “kits” containing a can of Goof-Off and a scrubber. Three members volunteered to take the kits and remove unwanted graffiti. Neighbors can report graffiti by emailing graffiti@fsjna.org.

CZO Update – Cynthia Scott: Cynthia Scott attended the City Council vote on adoption of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. She referred to her listserv posts on the FSJNA website that summarize some of the amendments that would affect the FSJ neighborhood: the permitted use of all restaurants who offer food for take-out to also sell alcohol for take-out; height of fences from 7’ to 8’; the permitted use of new structures in regional parks including country clubs, restaurants and music venues; permitted use of all restaurants to serve alcoholic beverages and have live music. Some of the amendments were deferred and sent to the City Planning Commission for vetting. The deadline for public comments is June 15, 2015.

Matt Fraser, staff for Councilmember Guidry, was asked to respond to Ms. Scott’s comments. He stated that 90% of what was passed had been vetted by the public.

Quality of Life Officers Update – Officer Lavigne: Officer Lavigne distributed “Home Security – Invest it in Now”, “Keeping your Wheels” and “Lock it or Lose it” flyers. She reported that a new way criminals are breaking into

cars is by using amplifiers to capture the signal from a key fob and unlocking the car. She mentioned that one possible way to prevent this is to wrap your key fob in aluminum. She also reminded neighbors to lock car doors and leave nothing of value in the car. Officer Lavigne will be attending the ABO hearing on June 16 for high-content alcohol at S'Express. She issued a 2nd summons to the resident in the 3100 block of St. Ann that is working on cars and had a sofa removed from the sidewalk.

Neighbors reported an Airbnb rental located in the 2300 block of Ponce de Leon and she said she would contact code enforcement and ask for an inspection of the property. Illegal rentals can be reported to her at kmcarr@nola.gov or 504-658-6371. Neighbors also reported large parties on the Magnolia Bridge that last into early morning hours. Some of the parties have about 60 people attending and include port-a-potties, crawfish boil, and amplified music. Police did not respond when called. Officer Lavigne said she would talk to the Commander and the Mid-City Patrol.

District A Councilmember - Susan Guidry: Unable to attend meeting.

Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Captain Scott: Unable to attend meeting.

V. Treasurer's Report – Mat Amoss provided the Treasurer's Report. He was asked about the balance of the Nutria Fund. Brenda London stated that some of the money was to be used for repairs and plantings along the bayou, but everything is on hold until we hear from Bobby Wozniak. The Treasurer's Report is on file with the Minutes.

VI. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

Membership Committee – Brenda London mentioned that residents will be able to update and pay for membership online.

Events Committee –Linda Landesberg announced the Porch Crawl is now scheduled for September or October. There will be no Voodoo on the Bayou event this year. The Trick-or-Treating event for children, "Bounty on the Bayou", may not occur this year due to difficulties with hiring 4 police officers on a Saturday night. Linda was asked about using Civil Sheriff officers instead of NOPD, and she agreed to look into it. The Bastille Day Event on Ponce de Leon is July 11, 2015, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Brenda London thanked everyone that volunteered at the Daiquiri Booth during Bayou Boogaloo. FSJNA booth sold over \$20,000 in daiquiris and she will have the net income for FSJNA at the next meeting.

Desmare Playground Update - Linda Landesberg presented a budget for the Desmare Playground: Phase 1. On June 3, 2015, FSJNA is presenting the plan for Desmare Playground to the City Planning Commission Design Advisory Committee. A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement will be signed to maintain and budget for the improvements to the playground. FSJNA will need to seek approximately \$11,000 in individual donations and \$8000 in corporate sponsors.

A motion was made by Linda Landesberg: To accept the estimated cost breakdown and funding as presented in the Desmare Playground: Phase 1 document. Sarah Stogner made the second. Twelve votes in favor of the motion and none opposed. Motion carried.

Landscape Committee- Bobby Wozniak was not present but Gary Granata, chair of Slow Food New Orleans, gave an update on green space along the Lafitte Greenway.

ReBridge Committee - Steve Mardon reported that there will be a meeting on June 3, 2015, with all government entities involved in the CEA and we have a better idea of the status of the project after that meeting.

Public Safety – Jim Danner reported there has been an uptick in crime in the neighborhood, especially auto and home burglaries. Year-to-date there has been a 33% increase in murders in the city compared to last year. There has been a slight increase in 1st District police officers up from 71 to 79. He reminded neighbors that hurricane season started on June 1 and that FSJNA has money in the budget for crime cameras.

Zoning Committee – Thea Morgan mentioned that there will be an ABO hearing on June 23, 2015, for the alcohol permit for Gentilly Food Mart. Sarah Stogner gave an update on the S'Express legal dispute with the City. There will be a hearing before Judge Cates on June 5, 2015. S'Express is challenging the ABO decision last November concerning selling hard liquor. Sarah will represent FSJNA at that hearing. There will be another ABO hearing on June 30, 2015, to look at S'Express low-alcohol permit.

VII. Old Business – None.

VIII. New Business – Kayak-iti-yat is using the banks of the bayou at Esplanade and Moss to set-up kayak rentals. And a large water slide was placed in the bayou during JazzFest. No action was taken.

IX. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Stogner. Linda Landesberg made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.