

FSJNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – March 2015

AGENDA

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

I. The meeting was held in the Black Gold Room at the Fair Grounds and called to order by President Steve Mardon at 6:40 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. Guests

Commander Sandifer - 1st District NOPD: Commander Sandifer expressed his gratitude to FSJNA and the Deutches Haus for feeding the 1st District police officers during Mardi Gras 2015. He presented a glass sculpture engraved with the NOPD symbol and the words: “In Appreciation to - The Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association - For your generous support of the NOPD 1st District during Mardi Gras 2015”. Steve Mardon, Linda Landesberg and Brenda London accepted the award.

Fairgrounds Patrol - Captain Scott: Captain Scott went over crime statistics for the area patrolled by the Fairgrounds Patrol. He distributed a 2-page handout showing crime statistics for a 30-day period covering 2/7/2015 - 3/7/2015, and compared our numbers to the city as a whole. There were 450 crimes committed in the City and 1 in our area. Recently the Fairgrounds Patrol has mixed marked cars with unmarked cars. Four shifts were missed in the 30-day period.

Claudia Riegel – Director of New Orleans Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control Board: Dr. Riegel stated that there will be more mosquito-spray trials this mosquito season, and residents should expect low-flying airplanes before daybreak. Dr. Riegel also wanted to inform neighbors about the presence of coyotes in City Park, especially around Wisner and Robert E. Lee. There has been no survey, so they don't know how many coyotes are in the park, but coyotes are very common in the urban landscape. Their main diet is rodents and fruits (especially mulberry). Her advice was to keep garbage covered, pick up fallen fruit from trees, compost correctly, feed pets inside, clean up after chickens, and follow the leash laws with your dog. If you encounter a coyote make the animal as uncomfortable as possible by yelling, waving, installing light sensors in yard etc. Call 311 if you see a coyote to document their sightings. If they are out at night, that is normal and level 1; if they are out night and day that is considered a level 2 problem; missing pets are level 3; and bold with humans is level 4. Dr. Riegel distributed two handouts: “Tips & Reminders Urban Coyotes” and information on the City of New Orleans Urban Wildlife Workshop on March 18, 2015.

Rodney Smith – Mid-City Library: The City Council has approved placing a proposition on the May 2, 2015, ballot asking voters if they support an increase in the amount of taxpayer funding the library receives. If the new millage passes it would mean a 30% increase in hours of operation, open 7 days a week at 6 libraries and 6 days a week at 9 libraries (all branches now close on Friday), and re-opening a library in the 7th Ward. If it doesn't pass it would mean a 35% decrease in hours of operation and closing 7 of 14 libraries. In 2016 the

Library will exhaust all of its reserve funds and will be unable to maintain the current level of service. Early voting is April 18-25. More information at neworleanspubliclibrary.org.

Benjamin Morris – St. Peter’s Presbyterian Church: Mr. Morris represents St. Peter’s Presbyterian Church, the Mid-City/Bayou St. John Church Plant of Redeemer Presbyterian Church. The congregation of St. Peter’s Presbyterian moved to Mid-City two months ago. They are currently meeting in the minister’s home but are working on a space-sharing agreement with a church in Mid-City. They are committed to community service and want to work with FSJNA on service projects, i.e. Desmare Playground. More information is available on their Facebook page: St. Peters Presbyterian Church New Orleans or their parent church, RedeemerNola.com

Theresa Galli – 1000 Figs Restaurant: Ms. Galli, with 1000 Figs at 3141 Ponce De Leon Street plans to seek an alcohol permit for the restaurant. She will need a Conditional Use permit to serve beer, wine and hard liquor in a 300 sq. ft restaurant. She held a neighborhood participation meeting, submitted her application, and goes before the City Planning Commission on April 14, 2015.

Councilmember Susan Guidry – City Council District A: Ms. Guidry addressed the alcohol sales at S’Express and said the issue is going to court. She discussed the proposed changes for the Residential Parking Permit Program. The changes include a fee increase from \$55 to \$100/permit (with exceptions for > 65 years of age and students); increased enforcement (City will hire 20 more parking control officers with 9 dedicated to the residential parking program); online renewal (including entering visitor’s license plate); allowing up to 5 permits per residence (visitor part of the 5 permits). This information generated many questions and comments. She was asked to consider opposing the changes or to consider a new model for neighborhoods like FSJ that are primarily affected during events. Councilmember Guidry said if the program isn’t working for our neighborhood we can collapse the program or change the time of enforcement.

She touched on several issues of interest to FSJ, including: the Lafitte Greenway is 75% complete; the draft CZO will be voted on by the end of April; the developers of the old Home Depot on Carrollton have asked for a permit to demolish but the Friends of the Lafitte Corridor requested a deferment to discuss changes with the developer; she will talk to Public Safety about an updated traffic study, including a traffic light at Conti and N. Carrollton; she met with the folks that want to develop the lots behind Rouses into “The Village” that would include residential, commercial and recreational space; the old Morris Jeff School development by CCNO is moving forward; a micro-brewery has been proposed along the Lafitte Greenway (in District D); the new movie theatre on N. Broad is moving forward; two new websites are roadwork.nola.gov and civicsource.com; there will be a NORA auction on March 28 (hillcorealestate.com/NORA); the smoke-free initiative is continuing; and UBERX will provide insurance for their cars.

V. Treasurer’s Report - The Treasurer’s Report is provided as an Attachment to the Minutes.

VI. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

Membership Committee – Brenda London reminded neighbors that dues are \$10/year for individuals and are for the calendar year.

Events Committee –Linda Landesberg announced that the “Terranova’s 90 Years in Business” event is in Fortier Park on April 18. Bayou Boogaloo is May 15-17, and volunteers will be needed to help operate the Daiquiri booth. All profits will go toward Desmare Playground. The Porch Crawl is scheduled for May 30. The Trick-or-Treating event for children, “Bounty on the Bayou”, may not be possible this year due to difficulties closing Grand Rte St John Street due to GRSJ resident fatigue and hiring 4 police officers on a Saturday night. A new chair for Voodoo on the Bayou is needed. Rocky Seydel is retiring after 25 years of organizing Voodoo on the Bayou.

Landscape Committee- Nothing to report this month.

Public Safety – Jim Danner reminded neighbors that FSJNA has \$3400 for crime cameras, allowing each resident a \$100 grant to either go through ProjectNOLA or SafeCam NOLA. Brenda London asked about re-establishing recognition of the “Officer of the Month” at the 1st District. In the past FSJNA has donated a gift card from Terranova’s or Canseco. Ronnie Brink volunteered to deliver and present the gift cards to the 1st District.

Jim also announced that FSJNA Executive Board meetings have been moved to the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, beginning April 7. President Mardon thanked Jim Danner and Linda Landesberg for contacting Our Lady of the Rosary and The Fair Grounds and requesting a change in meeting dates.

Zoning Committee – Thea Morgan mentioned that the request for a variance at 1113 N. Broad has been withdrawn. The committee received 2 more surveys concerning the alcohol permit for Gentilly Food Mart, now there are 16 neighbors opposed, 10 supporting, and 1 undecided. At last month’s FSJNA Executive meeting a motion passed opposing the request to sell any alcohol at Gentilly Food Mart. The owners of 2751/2753 St. Ann want to move a shotgun house to the corner lot and a variance will be needed. Sarah Stogner gave a brief summary of why S’Express is still allowed to sell hard liquor and the actions FSJNA is taking.

VI. Old Business – None.

VII. New Business – Robert Thompson asked the Executive Board to consider a donation to City Park Academy on Esplanade Avenue to support the ladies basketball team.

VIII. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Charlie London. Jim Danner made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.