

FSJNA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2014 at 7pm

I. Call to Order:

President Jeanfreau called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. A quorum was present.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was not taken in lieu of sign-in sheets.

III. Explanation of Meeting Rules

Meeting rules were printed on the agenda.

IV. Guests:

Quality of Life Officer Kristy Lavigne spoke about a rash of burglaries in Mid-City, but didn't have any numbers for FSJ. Attendees voiced concerns about burglaries on Fortin Street and Desoto Street. A "Lock It or Lose It" flyer was circulated. Officer Lavigne stated that residents should call the police if they see anything that doesn't seem right. Attendees asked about the situation at 3100 St. Ann St and noted that cars are often parked on the sidewalk on Lopez St and people are working under the hood of cars. Officer Lavigne has tagged a few cars in that area. She will check out the area again. Attendees asked about drug surveillance. Officer Lavigne suggested that they call the police station for more information. Officer Lavigne suggested that people download the "Neighbor Next Door" app, where she posts crime prevention tips. Officer Lavigne can be reached at kmcarr@nola.gov.

Captain Jimmy Scott, Fairgrounds Patrol, couldn't make the meeting.

CAR2GO – Mike Debonville spoke about an initiative to bring Car2Go to New Orleans. This is a car rental service where you can pick up a Smart car; rent it for 41 cents per minute and the drop the car anywhere within the designated area. The designated area will be 30 square miles of the city. The 41 cents per minute includes gas, parking at a meter, maintenance and insurance. They are operational in about 12 other US cities (Austin, San Diego, Portland, Denver, Brooklyn, etc.) and in other countries. A one-time membership fee is \$35 and that allows you to rent cars when visiting other cities. They will use local cleaning and maintenance crews. They need some legislative changes to be able to operate in the city, but are hoping to be running by spring 2015.

S-Express – The owner, Sandy, and her attorney, Ed Washington, came to speak about their upcoming hearing to revoke their permit to sell high content alcohol, which was issued by the city in error. The city erroneously issued this permit in August 2013 and it has since been renewed; however when FSJNA was made aware, they immediately contacted the city. The city acknowledged the permit was issued in error, but has allowed S-Express to maintain the permit until the issue could be heard by the ABO Board. The initial meeting happened in October, but was deferred until November 18th at 1pm in City Council Chambers. They are currently selling beer, wine and hard liquor and would like to continue to do so. They are zoned for multi-family use, which does not allow sales of low and high content alcohol. They are allowed to maintain their low content alcohol permit (only beer) because it is grandfathered in. Sandy and Mr. Washington asked for concerns of the neighborhood. Since having the high content alcohol permit, she has made more money and has been able to remodel and landscape. Sandy does not own the building, but has a long-term lease. Attendees reported loitering and other problems that have been ongoing. When asked if they would be willing to cease selling high content alcohol until the issue

has been heard by the city, they declined citing that they are making more money and they have inventory. Attendees suggested adding crime cameras to the building. Everyone was encouraged to attend the hearing on Tuesday, November 18th at 1:00pm in City Council Chambers.

Sarah Newell Usdin, our School Board representative, spoke about the School Building Millage that will be on the ballot on December 6th. This is an existing voter approved millage that will be repurposed after the current bond debt is paid off. Funds will be dedicated to building repair and preservation. All public school buildings are included. She encouraged everyone to vote Yes. Sarah also offered to take anyone on a tour of a school.

Janet Ahern is in the run-off for Domestic Section 2 on December 6th. She spoke to the group about her qualifications.

V. Approval of October 2014 Executive Minutes

Motion by M. Cohn – To approve the October 2014 Executive Meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by K. Tully. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Committee Updates

Membership/Outreach Committee:

Rocky Seydel spoke about the Voodoo on the Bayou event that was held on October 25th. It was the most financially successful year ever. All net proceeds were dedicated to Desmare Playground. The auction alone raised almost \$9,000, which was a record. Ticket sales were average as there was lots of competition that night. We had 2 sponsors – The Fairgrounds, which donated \$3,500 and Harrah's which donated \$500. Net proceeds were almost \$12,000 and the neighborhood got a lot of press. President Jeanfreau acknowledged Rocky and Med Seydel for their leadership of this event for the past 25 years.

Brenda London spoke about Bounty on the Bayou, which was held on October 31st. Approximately 600-800 kids attended. There was a DJ in Fortier Park and trick-or-treating along Grand Route St. John. Caulfield Consulting Group donated coloring books for all of the kids.

Thanks to Linda Landesberg for taking care of all of the permitting for both events. And thanks to Susan Guidry's office for waiving the permitting fees for both events.

Membership – It was stated by B. London to join now to be able to vote in the election held at the next General Meeting on Tuesday, December 9th.

Landscape Committee:

Bobbie Wozniak was not present. There are plans to coordinate some clean-up events sometime soon.

Treasurer's Report:

Michael Cohn provided handouts of the current standings. It is on file.

Re-Bridge:

President Jeanfreau gave an update. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement is stalled in the Department of Public Works. He is working with Susan Guidry's office to get this moving again.

Public Safety:

Jim Danner spoke about the burglaries on Desoto Street and Rendon Street in the last month or so. Call 911 if you see anything that doesn't seem right. The \$100 grant for crime cameras is still available. Jim warned of armed robberies that tend to increase in December. If you are within the boundaries of the Fairgrounds Patrol, they will come to your house and watch you enter. Their number is 251-0111 or 251-0276. Jim can be reached at safety@fsjna.org or 504-858-5962.

Zoning Committee:

Steve Mardon gave an update about five issues.

1. S-Express – the neighborhood will oppose the retention of the high-content alcohol permit since it was issued by the city in error. The hearing is November 18th at 1:00pm in City Council Chambers. Everyone is encouraged to attend and speak.
2. Motown Coney Island – they are seeking an alcohol permit and are going through the process. It is not on an agenda to be heard at this time. The Zoning Committee completed the matrix and received responses to the survey, with 8 opposed and 5 in support. Their neighbors don't sell alcohol, but this is in a commercial corridor and the owners have followed the NPP process. The Zoning Committee recommends that the neighborhood take no position. Motion by Jim – That the FSJNA take no position on the alcohol request by Motown Coney Island. The motion was seconded by Jimmy F. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. Gentilly Food Mart – their representatives spoke at the last board meeting about obtaining an alcohol permit. The Zoning Committee did not complete a matrix because of current laws that limit packaged liquor sales near a playground. The Gentilly Food Mart is across the street from Stallings Playground. The neighborhood has been active at preventing FairZone from obtaining a permit to sell alcohol because of their proximity to Stallings Playground. Motion by M. Cohn – That FSJNA opposes alcohol sales at Gentilly Food Mart due to its location near a playground. The motion was seconded by J. Danner. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. 3027 Ponce de Leon – the owner of this property of seeking a waiver from the city to allow 2 main uses on a single lot. The main house has 2 electrical meters and has been used in the past as two residences, front and rear. The lot fronts Ponce de Leon and extends through to Maurepas. There is an accessory structure at the rear of the lot (Maurepas side) that the owner would like to use as a separate apartment. The BZA's Staff report recommends denial. The owner, Terry Ibert, maintains that this accessory structure has been continually used as a separate apartment with separate meter. Mr. Ibert needs a permit for another electrical meter. He has polled most of the surrounding neighbors and they have given support. When asked what he intends to do with the rear accessory structure/apartment, he says that he intends to keep it in the family. When asked about using the meter from the main structure to power the accessory structure, he said he doesn't want to do that and wants to maintain his options. The power line would either have to go underground or above the yard. The BZA Staff is recommending denial for several reasons (the report will be circulated via email) and the Zoning Committee noted that Mr. Ibert began this work without a permit. When asked why he started working without a permit, he responded that he feared that it would not get approved. The next BZA meeting is December 8th, the day before our next FSJNA meeting. Motion by J. Danner – To table the issue at 3027 Ponce de Leon until board members have been provided additional information and the Zoning Committee has provided a recommendation. The motion was seconded by K. Tully. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. The blight hearing on 1311 Vignaud Street will be held on Thursday, November 13th at 10:45am at 1340 Poydras Street on the 11th floor.

VII. Old Business

President Jeanfreau asked if anyone wanted to nominate someone for the Executive or Advisory Board for next year. Motion by J. Danner – To accept the nomination committee recommendations for the 2015 slate of officers and board members. The motion was seconded by B. London. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. New Business

Joan Ellen announced the “Bye Bye Hurricane Party” will be held Saturday, November 15th from 12pm-6pm in Armstrong Park.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by M. Cohn – To adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.