

FSJNA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – February 2015

AGENDA

Monday, February 9, 2015

- I. The meeting was held at the Holy Rosary Cafeteria 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

Fairgrounds Patrol - Captain Scott: Captain Scott went over crime statistics for the area patrolled by the Fairgrounds Patrol. He distributed a 13-page handout showing crime statistics for a 90-day period covering 10/31/2014 - 1/31/2015, and compared our numbers to the city as a whole. Three of the four robberies were cleared by arrest. Of the 20 burglaries in our area, 15 of those occurred in November.

Brian Kelly – Gentilly Food Mart: Mr. Kelly represents Mario Hizaj, the operator of the Gentilly Food Mart, in his effort to secure a beer license. Mr. Kelly stated that the facility is 300' from the playground, but there are variances allowing stores to sell beer. A copy of Sec. 10-237 of the City Code regarding regulations was provided at the meeting. The variances include limiting the amount of liquor that can be sold, cannot advertise package liquor outside of the business, and re-registering each year. Mr. Hizaj is proposing that 7% of his store will be dedicated to beer and he will provide a monthly donation to the park. The store has closed-circuit TV and he doesn't allow loitering.

Katie Williams – 1113 Broad Street: Ms. Williams has bought a vacant lot on Broad Street, fenced the lot in, and wants to re-subdivide the property to build two homes that will face Bellechasse Street. Her hearing at the City Planning Commission is on March 9, 2015.

Laura Mellem – Mayor's Liaison: Ms. Mellem is a Neighborhood Liaison representing Council District A for the Mayor's Neighborhood Engagement Office. She also serves on the NORDC Advisory Team. She can provide information on blight, capital projects, zoning and the Neighborhood Participation Plan. Ms. Mellem was asked about the neighborhood parking passes, and she said the program is being revamped within the next month or two. You will be able to re-apply online and the process will be more streamlined. She was also asked about extending the 1st District to include Verna and the portion of Moss Street that is in the 3rd District. Her email is: lamellem@nola.gov

NOPD Quality of Life Officers Update – Officer Lavigne and Sgt. Hawkins: The officers addressed neighbors' concerns about ongoing quality of life issues in the neighborhood. S'Express high-content alcohol license has been revoked; after February 19, 2015, summons will be issued if they are selling high-content alcohol. In the 3100 block of St. Ann a summons was issued to a neighbor working on cars in the street.

Monica Rowan – Global Green: Ms. Rowan, with Global Green USA, presented information and handouts about the Energy Smart and Water Wise NOLA programs. The Energy Smart program will be revamped at the end of March. Before March 31, if your hot water heater breaks you can receive discounts on a new hot water heater. Green Light New Orleans will replace incandescent light bulbs with CFLs for free. Water Wise NOLA offers workshops on managing rain water that falls on your lot, including rain barrels and rain gardens.

V. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

Membership Outreach Committee – Brenda London and Linda Landesberg announced that the Membership Committee and Events Committee will be split into two separate committees. The Feed the First event during Mardi Gras needs volunteers and donations. 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.

Landscape Committee- President Mardon thanked the volunteers for the clean-up day at Fortier Park.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's report is on file. Matt Amoss announced that Tommy Lewis and Charlie London had secured a \$10,000 donation for Desmare Playground.

Public Safety – Jim Danner attended the City Public Safety meeting. New Orleans Fire Department has a program to install smoke detectors in your home. FSJNA has \$3500 for crime cameras. ProjectNOLA now charges a fee of \$9.00/month. SafeCam NOLA is a NOPD initiative that allows homeowners to register their cameras with NOPD to help fight crime.

A motion was made by Jim Danner: Security cameras that are either purchased through ProjectNOLA or purchased independently and registered with SafeCam NOLA will be eligible for FSJNA's \$100.00 grant program. Linda Landesberg made the second and the motion passed.

Zoning Committee – Thea Morgan mentioned that starting February 20, 2015, S'Express will not be allowed to sell hard liquor. A survey was distributed to neighbors surrounding the Gentilly Food Mart concerning an alcohol permit: 14 were opposed, 10 supported, and 1 was undecided. The Fairgrounds Triangle Neighborhood Association is opposed to the permit. The FSJNA Zoning Committee is opposed.

A motion was made by Sarah Stogner: Move to oppose the request to sell any alcohol at Gentilly Food Mart. Linda Landesberg made the second and the motion passed.

The Zoning Committee recommended moving the meeting to the first Tuesday of the month so that FSJNA board meetings precede city meetings. Jim Danner said he would talk to Holy Rosary to see if the building would be available on the first Tuesday, starting in April. Linda Landesberg will speak to the Fairgrounds to see if the BlackGold room would be available on the first Tuesday.

A motion was made by Seth Levine: Subject to availability all FSJNA meetings will be the first Tuesday of the month. Sarah Stogner made the second and the motion passed.

VI. Old Business – A motion was made by President Mardon to approve the January Board minutes. Linda Landesberg made the second and the motion passed.

VII. New Business - Stacy Head's proposal on short-term rentals. It was decided the topic should be brought before the General Membership meeting. Sarah Stogner made the suggestion that we create a survey and pass it out at the General Meeting for member input. Issues of safety of the neighborhood, liability to homeowners, and enforcement of the proposal were discussed.

VIII. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Brenda London. Eric Caulfield made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.