

FSJNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES – June2016

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

I. The meeting was held in the Black Gold Room at the Fair Grounds and called to order by President Steve Mardon at 6:38 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. Current Topics/Speakers

NOPD Update – Chief Noel: NOPD Deputy Chief Noel of the Field Operations Bureau introduced himself; he oversees all NOPD Districts in the city and the Special Operations Division. He reported that there is an increase in armed robberies across the city but the 1stDistrict has solved 3 times the number of armed robberies than they did last year. He was asked about curfew hours and he said for summer hours no juvenile 16 or under, not supervised by a parent or guardian, should be outside after 10:00 pm Sunday through Thursday and after 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday.

Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Commander Scott: CommanderScott went over crime statistics for the area patrolled by the Fairgrounds Patrol. He distributed a 3-page handout showing crime statistics for a 31-day period covering 5/1/2016 - 5/31/2016. He gave a brief report on the armed robbery on the 2700 block of OnzagaStreet on June 2, 2016. He also reported that he has received numerous calls about a homeless man sleeping on porches in the neighborhood. Jim Danner asked that neighbors call him if they see the homeless man. Commander Scott mentioned that I-Phones are being stolen and he is still working on a camera program with FSJNA.

Big Easy Budget Game – Keith Twitchell, President, Committee for a Better New Orleans (CBNO): Keith Twitchell presented the Big Easy Budget Game, an interactive website that allows you to create your own version of the city budget. It takes about ten minutes and you can learn about the New Orleans city budget. The results of the “People’s Budget” will be presented to the mayor and the City Council. The link is www.bigeasybudgetgame.com.

McDonogh #31 Update – Jenny Bagert/Linda Landesberg: Jenny Bagert was unable to attend the meeting but prepared a statement for Linda Landesberg to read to the Board and members. A copy of the statement is on file with the minutes. The text amendment to the CZO, to create a new multi-family zoning category, was voted on by the City Council. The vote was tied so it did not pass. CCNO developers will need a zoning change or planned development to move forward. They thanked Susan Guidry for her support.

Lafitte Greenway Development Project – Billy Good: Billy Good, developer of Camp Bow Wow on Jeff Davis, and Herb Dyer, owner of Velvet Cactus, The Bulldog and Lagers, presented their proposal for a bar/food-truck eatery along the Lafitte Greenway. They distributed a 7-page handout to members detailing their proposal. A copy of the handout is filed with the minutes. The development would be adjacent to Bayou Bicycle Shop at the Doerr Furniture Warehouse. They plan to renovate the warehouse and add landscaping, a bike repair station, a bocce court and public bathrooms. It will be modeled after the Truck Yard Beer Garden in Dallas, Texas. It would include 4 pads for food-truck hook-ups, which will provide food for the facility. They are leasing the land from Sidney Torres and American Can is their closest residential neighbors. They are seeking a letter of no objection from FSJNA. Asked if a conditional use was needed, they answered no because it is currently zoned as mix-use. When asked about their hours, they stated approximate hours would be from 11:00 am to midnight.

Zulu on the Bayou Follow-up – Clarence Becknell: Clarence Becknell with Zulu, thanked FSJNA and neighbors for their support. He said the Mother's Day event was very successful. Several residents informed Mr. Becknell that they observed a disregard for the parking laws, including parking on the bayou levee. Mr. Becknell stated that NOPD was present and parking tickets were issued on Orleans Avenue. He said he would take the information back to Zulu headquarters. It was suggested that if the event takes place next year they could use barricades or park at the Deutches Haus lot and use shuttles to the event.

City Council Update – Leatrice Dupre: Susan Guidry was unable to attend the meeting. Her liaison Leatrice Dupre (ldupre@...) reported that there is not much movement on the Magnolia Bridge as plans are still under review. LADOT will bring the plans back to the city within several weeks. She will forward any new information concerning the Magnolia and Dumaine bridges to Steve Mardon for distribution to FSJNA.

V. Treasurer's Report –The Treasurer's statements for April and May are on file. Matt Amoss reported that the profits from the Bayou Boogaloo Daiquiri Tent will tie us over and we should have a slight profit for the end of the year. The Bayou Boogaloo funds will be on the July financial report. Since we have cut back on the number of fund-raising events, he is concerned about all of FSJNA's funding coming from one event. He recommended that in the future, FSJNA should "self-restrict" funds after the event has taken place. He stated that if you tell people the event is for something specific, then the funds are restricted and can't go into the general fund.

VI. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

Membership Committee – Brenda London reminded members that they can renew online at fsjna.org and click on the Membership tab. Some auto-renewals are not working because of old credit/debit card numbers. The membership committee is considering another mailing to remind neighbors to join or renew their membership. She also wanted to thank the Bayou Boogaloo volunteers.

Events Committee – Linda Landesberg reported that we need a new date for the 5th Annual Porch Crawl. One date being considered is October 9, 2016. She also announced that FSJNA will sponsor “Bounty on the Bayou” on Halloween night this year.

Landscape Committee - no update

Public Safety – no update

Zoning Committee – Sarah Stogner reported that 1544 Gentilly is going before the BZA on June 13, 2016.

VII. Old Business – Graffiti removal is continuing in the neighborhood thanks to Ron Brink and Steve Mardon.

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