

FSJNA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – November 2015

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

I. The meeting was held at Bricolage Academy (formerly Holy Rosary School) and called to order by President Steve Mardon at 7:03 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

NOPD Quality of Life Officers – Sergeant Hawkins and Officer Stokes: The officers discussed vehicle burglaries in the area and reminded neighbors to lock their vehicles. Based on the suspicion that tow trucks are being used for auto thefts, NOPD is stopping tow trucks at night to verify if they have the correct paperwork for the vehicle. They were asked if there had been any arrests in the Soprano's shooting and the officers said they would give Jim Danner an update.

Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Captain Scott: Captain Scott went over crime statistics for the area patrolled by the Fairgrounds Patrol. He distributed a 4-page handout showing crime statistics for a 30-day period covering 10/1/2015 - 10/31/2015, and compared our numbers to the city as a whole. Seven canoes were picked up on the bayou. Captain Scott talked to the Mid-City patrols about crime cameras. Mid-City had a grant to purchase crime cameras and they have the location of every camera in their patrol area. Captain Scott is looking at gaps in FSJ and said more cameras are needed on main streets and businesses. He has basic prices for cameras and he will work with Rocky Seydel on prices and possible locations of cameras for FSJ. He was asked about adding GPS to the Fairgrounds Patrol cars. A GPS system would cost \$12,000 per car. Access to the vehicle location system used by NOPD is given by the Superintendent, and only two people in NOPD have access to the system.

Kitchen Witch Cookbooks –Debbie Lindsey: Debbie Lindsey has opened a new business at 1452 N. Broad at the corner of Esplanade and Bayou Road. She sells cookbooks, spices, and will host book signing events. For more information go to the Kitchen-Witch-Cookbooks page on Facebook or <http://kwcookbooks.com/aboutus.html>

NOPD Quality of Life Officer –Officer Gill: Officer Gill reminded neighbors that he handles abandoned cars, street lights, noise, barking dogs, trash, etc. He can be reached at kgill@nola.gov or 658-2141. He was asked for a follow-up on cars and school buses at City Park Academy that are blocking traffic and Officer Gill said he would talk to parking enforcement. He distributed a letter from Commander Sandifer asking for assistance in their annual toy and bicycle Christmas giveaway for needy children in the 1st District. Their goal is to give a new bicycle to each Pre-K and Kindergarten child. The bicycles cost about \$50 each.

Plans for The Garage Bar – Sarah Stogner: Sarah Stogner is in negotiation for a lease for a daiquiri bar at 2606 St. Louis (the old Tulane Laundry building). The property is owned by Green Coast Properties and will have retail on the ground floor and apartments upstairs. She will start the permitting process soon, but anticipates zoning issues because the property is along the Lafitte Greenway.

McDonogh 31 Building Update – Shana Sassoon: Steve Mardon gave a brief status update on the McDonogh 31 Building: the *McDonogh 31 Neighbors* don't want any more than 30 units and CCNO Development wants 35 units. CCNO doesn't want to sign a good neighbor agreement and has requested a list of the members of the *McDonogh 31 Neighbors*. Shana Sassoon said that CCNO still needs a zoning change. She distributed a 5-page handout from the *McDonogh 31 Neighbors/Neighbors for Responsible Development* that outlined their concerns with an inconsistency between the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and the Master Plan's Land Use Plan. They would like to create a new multi-family zoning category for low-density neighborhoods like FSJ by adding a text amendment to the CZO. Ms. Sassoon said they will hold a press conference November 12 at 10:00 am.

2801 St. Ann Street Zoning Variance Request – William Stoudt, YRNO: Mr. Stoudt, Executive Director of *Youth Rebuilding New Orleans* distributed a sketch of the proposed renovation at 2801 St. Ann Street, located at the corner of St. Ann and N. White Streets. The property was formerly a corner store. YRNO wants to renovate the building, using 400 square feet for a commercial business, specifically a neighborhood coffee shop, and use the rest of the building as residential/training. They surveyed the neighbors and the neighbors wanted a commercial business at that location. The property is currently zoned RD3 and YRNO will need a zoning change to commercial zoning. They will go before the City in early December. The YRNO Board hasn't decided if they will run the coffee shop or if someone else will run it. There was some concern from the FSJNA members about the future of the property, should the coffee shop fail. Some members would prefer YRNO to focus on housing stock and not commercial properties. The residential portion of the property would have 2 bedrooms with 3 to 4 18-22 year olds living together; the residents would be in a training program to learn how to run the coffee shop. FSJNA Board members took no formal position on the proposal.

History of the FSJNA eGroup – Conrad Abadie: In response to discussions at the last few Board meetings, Conrad Abadie gave a brief history of the e-group. He spends about 5 hours per week working on the e-group. As new members join FSJNA, Conrad contacts the new members to join the e-group. He also sends all new neighbors listed in the property sales an invitation to join FSJNA and the e-group. Renters are welcome to join. The only requirement is to join FSJNA at a cost of \$10.00/year. He noted other options, including Next Door which is free and open; information available at fsjna.org; and residents could start a new e-group. Conrad stated for the record that he will not maintain an open e-group.

V. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's report is on file. Matt Amoss reminded residents that online membership is available.

VI. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

Nominating Committee- President Mardon reported that Jimmy Farenholtz and Tommy Lewis chose not to serve on the 2016 FSJNA Board.

Motion made by Jim Danner, second by Linda Landesberg: To approve the Nominating Committee's slate of Board Members and Officers, with the exception of Jimmy Farenholtz. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Membership Committee – Brenda London reminded members that in order to vote for Board members you must be a FSJNA member two weeks before the election on December 1, 2015.

Events Committee – Linda Landesberg reported that Bounty on the Bayou costs less than budgeted because of the rain on Halloween night. She also gave an update on Desmare stating that the plans are at NORD for review. She was contacted by NOPD 1st District and they need \$600.00 for portable battery jump starters for police cars, printer ink, and car wash supplies.

Motion made by Linda Landesberg, second by Rocky Seydel: To purchase supplies for the NOPD 1st Police District, not to exceed \$600.00. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Landscape Committee- Robert Thompson reported that plans are moving slowly because he is working with Parks and Parkways and securing their approval before proceeding. He has added soil at Capdeville Park where the soil had eroded and added some plantings at DeSoto Park.

Public Safety – no update

Zoning Committee – Board members agreed that the Zoning Committee should do a survey of neighbors surrounding 2801 St. Ann Street to see if they are in favor of a Zoning Variance Request for a coffee shop at that location. Sarah Stogner affirmed that Fairzone cannot sell alcohol and can only appeal that decision to the State Supreme Court.

VII. Old Business – Steve Mardon made a motion to approve the minutes from the October Executive Board Meeting. Rocky Seydel made the second and the motion passed.

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Gloria Martin. Jim Danner made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.