

FSJNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES – September 2015

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

- I. The meeting was held at the Fair Grounds Black Gold Room 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

NOPD Community Affairs Coordinator – Sergeant Hawkins: Sgt. Hawkins said there was a decrease in vehicle burglaries and that residents should continue to lock their automobiles and secure their key fobs.

Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Captain Scott: Captain Scott went over crime statistics for the area patrolled by the Fairgrounds Patrol. He distributed an 8-page handout showing crime statistics for a 30-day period covering 8/1/2015 - 8/31/2015, and compared our numbers to the city as a whole. Crime maps can also be viewed at cityofneworleans.com. There were two armed robberies in that time period and he reminded residents to comply with the robbers, i.e. don't throw keys on the ground. He warned females to never get in the car with an armed robber.

District A City Councilmember –Susan Guidry:

- Katrina 10 events – She attended many of the events related to the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and inequality in recovery is something she will be focusing on.
- The 3rd online adjudicated property auction will be held on September 2, 2015, more information at civicsource.com. The 4th auction will be held on October 7, 2015.
- Budget meetings with the Mayor – Most residents that attended the budget meetings with the Mayor wanted the city to focus on streets, crime and infrastructure. Hearings through November on the 2016 budget, with a vote by 12/1/2015.
- Magnolia Bridge update – She met with the State and the State is looking at final approval right now. The contract should be let out early next year with construction beginning in early March and completion in early June.
- Issues on the bayou on July 4th - The Krewe of Kolossus Boat Parade is advertised as an event from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, but in recent years the bayou has become a destination for July 4th picnicking. She is working on what the City can do to plan for July 4, 2016. The banks are public but the City could provide port-o-lets and clean-up. She was asked if bayou residents could be part of the discussion, neighbors have complained of fireworks until 1 a.m.
- New CZO in effect – Go to property.nola.gov to view new zoning ordinance. She mentioned the storm water management for commercial properties and restricted uses of small corner commercial buildings.
- Lafitte Greenway – The Greenway is 5% from being complete. By the middle of next year, a management structure, fund raising, and programming will be in place.

- Violent Crimes in the neighborhood – The city is doing “everything we can”, including raises, no domicile rule, and “massaged” education requirements. The attrition rate is down.

McDonogh 31 Updates –Jenny Bagert (Neighbors group)/Pierre Walker (CCNO Development): Each group was given 15 minutes, 10 minutes to present an update and 5 minutes for questions.

- Jenny Bagert and Shana Sassoon represented the Neighbors of McDonogh 31 group. They restated their position that they are not opposed to the development but want a moderate reduction in density. They also want increased communication with CCNO to express their concerns about a reasonable density for the project, quality of life issues, and infrastructure.
- Councilmember Guidry spoke to the CZO amendment and CPC staff recommendations.
- Pierre Walker gave a brief history of the project and said that since April the plans for the single-family homes have been deferred by the City Planning Commission – at CCNO’s request. He stated that the project must meet the needs of the community and be a business enterprise that will survive.
- President Steve Mardon suggested the neighbors and CCNO continue to meet, and the FSJNA board could assist in the discussions.

V. Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer’s report is on file.

VI. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions

Membership Committee – Members can renew online at fsjna.org

Events Committee – Linda Landesberg reported that there will not be a “Voodoo on the Bayou” event in 2015. The committee is looking for suggestions for the children’s event “Bounty on the Bayou”. The committee is looking for ways to best serve the children in the neighborhood on Halloween. Parents with small children can email their suggestions to president@fsjna.org.

Desmare Playground swings should be in place by the end of the year. The CEA has been signed and there is money for Phase I. There will be 26 trees and plants installed, and COYPU is donating \$11,000 for the plantings. A local artist will be selected to create a “thank-you” sign. A website is being developed.

Landscape Committee- Bike racks are being installed in Fortier Park.

Public Safety –You can contact Jim Danner at safety@fsjna.org.

Zoning Committee – Sarah Stogner gave an update on the Fair Zone and S’Express appeals.

VII. Old Business - none

VIII. New Business – Keith Twitchell asked the Board to consider offering the Listserv free to anyone in the neighborhood. Since this would require the Board to change the current policy the discussion was tabled until the Executive Board meeting. The MCNO policy and the use of “Next Door” were brought up in the discussion.

IX. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Brenda London. Gloria Martin made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.