

FSJNA GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – November 2017

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

- I. The meeting was held at Holy Rosary on Moss and called to order by Vice President Jim Danner at 7:05 p.m.
- 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/Topics

NOPD – Sgt. Lewis described four similar armed robberies that police believe were committed by the same man. These incidents occurred on 8/14, 9/23, 10/10, and 11/3 on or near Esplanade Avenue (including on DeSoto, N. Gayoso, and N. Dupre) between 5 and 10:15 p.m. There were no injuries.

In all four cases, the perpetrator was riding an older, light-color bicycle and showed a gun while robbing or attempting to rob the victims. Police describe him as a light-skinned black male age 20-25. Police believe he rides up Esplanade from the Broad side. In the earlier robberies he had a beard and in the later ones he was clean-shaven.

All 4 victims were of Indian descent. Victims included 2 cab drivers and people leaving the Hare Krishna temple. Police do not think these are hate crimes but suspect the perpetrator is targeting this area and population because he believes the victims are likely to be carrying cash.

Lewis also said that on the night of October 17 there was a shooting on Crete Street near Ursuline. Based on witness accounts and the nature of the injury, police suspected the wound was self-inflicted. The victim ultimately admitted her own gun had gone off accidentally. She suffered a serious arm injury from the gunshot.

“Corner Stores” documentary – Director Julia Elizabeth Evans discussed a documentary she is making about the Discount Market at Orleans and Dupre. She hopes to raise \$6,000 to fund it via Kickstarter. For more info, call (301) 503-5022.

Havana Place Neighborhood Association -- Stosh Kozlowski of the Havana Place Neighborhood Association introduced himself and described his organization, which is located in the area between Broad St., St. Bernard Ave., and Florida Ave. He can be reached at: stoshkozl@yahoo.com.

Neighborhood Summit – Ross Hunter of the Mayor’s office encouraged participation in the Dec. 2 Neighborhood Summit event at University Medical Center. More info is available at nola.gov/summit.

Red Beans Parade – Devin Meyers of the Red Beans Marching Krewe described a new parade that will walk along Bayou St. John on Lundi Gras at 2 p.m. The group will make sure to clean up any litter left behind, he said. More info is available at: <http://www.redbeansparade.com>.

V. Treasurer’s Report: Linda Landesberg provided the Treasurer’s report.

VI. FSJNA Updates:

--Membership chair Brenda London reported that the association now has 292 members.

--Linda Landesberg reported that this year's Bounty on the Bayou event was a success, with about 750 children attending. The total cost was about \$2700. We received about \$1,000 in donations to offset part of that cost.

--The Board approved the slate of Executive Board and Advisory Board candidates for 2018. The Executive Board slate follows:

Linda Landesberg – President

Beaux Jones – VP

Brenda London – Treasurer

Joan Ellen Young – secretary

Jim Danner, Steve Mardon, Greg Jeanfreau, Seth Levine, Gloria Martin, Pushpa Ramaiah, Rocky Seydel, Nancy Shepherd, Bruce Hamilton, Robert Senior, Jeanie Donovan

The Advisory Board slate follows:

Conrad Abadie, Josh Barbee, Jane Bartlett, Ronnie Brink, Richard Cahn, Anthony Favre, Winter Jeanfreau, Bonnie Lee, Charlie London, Thea Morgan, Cynthia Scott, Sarah Stogner, Matthew Amoss, Leonard Harman, Kerry Tully, Erich Caulfield, George Bartlett

VII. Old Business

Fairground Hours Extension – Board member Rocky Seydel provided an update on the Fairgrounds interest in extending the hours of slot machines. Currently, they close at midnight and would like to stay open until 3 a.m. Seydel noted that the Fairgrounds is required to do the city's Neighborhood Participation Program (NPP), which includes holding a public meeting to discuss residents' concerns. Bruce Hamilton, an FSJNA Advisory Board Member who lives on Fortin Street and leads a group of concerned residents who live near the Fairgrounds, reiterated the group's concerns about the proposed change and their opposition to it. Several board members suggested it would be a good idea for the Fortin Street to meet directly with Fairgrounds representatives to discuss their concerns, and Linda and Rocky agreed to help organize this meeting.

VIII. New Business

--Charlie London reported that he added a new layer of security to the FSJNA website to prevent fraud. The cost was \$197. Charlie asked FSJNA to reimburse him for this cost, and the Board unanimously voted to approve this expense.

--Jim read an update on an application Beaux Jones prepared for a \$1500 grant from America Walks to improve signage on Esplanade Avenue near Grand Route St. John. The Board unanimously approved the language in the proposal.

IX. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Brenda London, which passed by unanimous consent.