

FSJNA GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – December 2017

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

- I. The meeting was held at the Fairgrounds.
- 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 – Commander Scott and Sgt. Lewis provided an update on the series of armed robberies along Esplanade they briefed us on at the November meeting. Since then, there were 3 more similar robberies or robbery attempts in the area, with all of the victims being cabdrivers of Indian descent. Police have been frequently patrolling the area in marked and unmarked cars. They have a good description of the robber and are optimistic that an arrest will be made soon. Other crimes in the neighborhood in November included two car thefts, a burglary, and a shooting in the 2200 block of Orleans.

Book on Bayou St. John – Author Cassie Pruyn said her book, “Bayou St. John: A Brief History,” is now available. She will be doing book signings at Octavia Books on December 10 at 2 p.m. and at Fair Grinds on December 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Fortier Park – Several residents reported a resumption in disorderly behavior at Fortier Park, which has made it so neighborhood residents no longer feel comfortable using the park. A group of men congregate daily, purchase alcohol at nearby supermarkets, and get intoxicated. They urinate in the bushes, smoke marijuana, are loud and rude to passersby, and leave trash behind. About half of the men work in the Fairgrounds, they said. Residents are working together to address this issue, with strategies including frequently calling NOPD, cleaning up the park often, and confronting the men. Suggestions from FSJNA board members included filing sworn complaints with NOPD and reporting the men who work in the Fairgrounds to the Fairgrounds.

Short-term rentals – Jeannette Hardy reported on her frustrations living next door to a house being used for short-term rentals at 2901 Lepage St. Up to 10 rooms of the house are used for rentals on Air B&B, effectively converting the residence into a hotel. Conrad Abadie said the large number of renters makes the house a potential fire hazard. The owner, Wayne James, was recently fined \$3,000 by the City Planning Commission for advertising the house as having 14 rooms available for rental. Hardy believes STRs change the quality of the neighborhood for the worse, and she encourages residents to oppose whole house short-term rentals and urge the incoming City Council to tighten regulations.

V. Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Matt Amoss did not attend. Linda Landesberg provided an updated report.

VI. FSJNA Updates:

The membership voted on the Executive Board for 2018. Prior to the vote, R. Erich Caulfield asked to be moved from the Executive Board to the Advisory Board. At the meeting, George Bartlett was nominated to the Executive Board from the floor. Based on the vote, the 2018 Executive Board will be:

Linda Landesberg – President
Beaux Jones – VP
Brenda London – Treasurer
Joan Ellen Young – secretary

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

VII. Old Business

--There was no old business.

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