

FAUBOURG ST. JOHN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2020 Board Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2020

- Board Members Present:

Beaux Jones	Andy Ryan	Antoine Pedeaux
George Bartlett	Jim Danner	Jeanie Donovan
Linda Landesberg	Brenda London	Sally Main
Rocky Seydel	Nancy Shepard	Joan Ellen Young

- Absent Board Members:

Bruce Hamilton	Greg Jeanfreau	Aimee Kramer
Clark Thompson		

OPENING REMARKS

- Call to order by Beaux Jones, President, at 7:03 pm.
- Meeting Rules of courtesy read by Joan Ellen Young
- Beaux Jones thanked Linda Landesberg for her service as President. He asked Board Members to acknowledge themselves and introduced new Board Members Jenny Caerry, Sally Gadin and Antoine Pedeaux (also elected as Treasurer). Beaux introduced the new Vice-President, Andy Ryan. FSJNA is still seeking a volunteer to serve as Secretary.

GUESTS & CURRENT TOPICS

- **Friends of Lafitte Greenway - Brie Bryant**

Ms. Bryant reported that the Friends of Lafitte Greenway are recruiting community members to become Greenway Ambassadors or Streets Team members. They would like to have one Ambassador from each neighborhood. For more information Ms. Bryant can be reached at 504-380-0297 or brie@lafittegreenway.org.

- **District A Councilman Joseph Giarrusso**

Councilman Giarrusso stated that his emails have been recovered after the cyber attack on City Government computers. He reported on the Lakeview shooting that occurred after 3 juveniles were seen pulling car door handles on January 7, 2020. He said this was a city-wide issue and he will be working with the Council and multiple agencies to try and find a solution. There was a 57% increase in car burglaries last year and a 150% increase in the last 5 years. His priorities this year will be crime, S&WB,

and infrastructure. Five mileages are rolling off the books and the City Council will be addressing that issue.

- **NOPD 1st District and Fairgrounds Patrol**

Captain Roberts thanked FSJNA for their support of the 1st District Bike Giveaway. He gave a recap of 2019 crime statistics. His goal for 2020 is to reduce personal property crimes, including auto burglaries (more than 390 auto burglaries in 2019); change staffing; and add new recruits. He has received good emails concerning the police presence in Fortier Park. Captain Roberts can be contacted by email, rroberts@nola.gov or 504-658-8604. Commander Scott, Fairgrounds Patrol, was unable to attend the meeting.

- **Fairgrounds - Virgil Duplessis**

Mr. Duplessis gave a report on upcoming activities at the Fairgrounds, including exotic animal races and Drag Brunch. They are halfway through the race meet. There are 18 horses and 900 people on the property. Mr. Duplessis met with the Leda/Verna Streets Committee prior to the FSJNA Board meeting.

- **FSJNA/Red Beans - Beaux Jones and Devon De Wulf**

Beaux Jones and the FSJNA Transportation and Safety Committee are looking at ways to make our neighborhood a model for transportation safety, especially during special events. He is working with Mr. De Wulf, founder of the Krewe of Red Beans (the sub-Krewe Dead Beans marches through the FSJ neighborhood on Lundi Gras). They reported that the number one transportation issue in our neighborhood is car collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists. The Purple Way is an effort to find pathways to our neighborhood in the safest manner possible. The first FSJNA public meeting is January 18, 10:00 am to 1 pm, at Holy Rosary and neighbors are encouraged to participate and discuss ideas. Tour de Bean, a street “party” and bike event, is scheduled for February 1, 9am-1pm, at Esplanade and Fortier Park. The second public committee meeting will occur on February 18.

Mr. DeWulf was asked to consider the conditions of our streets before developing the pathway; what portion of Esplanade will be closed during the Tour de Bean street event; and trash pickup after the Krewe of Dead Beans march through FSJ. Other comments included the impact on our neighborhood streets during the Voodoo Festival and speeding on Grand Rte Saint John and other neighborhood thoroughfares.

- **House District 97 - Matthew Willard**

Mr. Willard takes office in January 13, 2020. His contact information is mwillard@legis.la.gov and he encourages neighbors to contact him with issues or ideas concerning state bills or policy. Courtney Moran is his legislative assistant.

OTHER/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP

- **Announcements:** On January 14, Reginelli’s Pizza will donate 10% of their sales to Cabrini High School.

OTHER UPDATES

- **Stephen Mosgrove - Mayor’s Neighborhood Engagement Office :** Mr. Mosgrove stated that the next Neighborhood Engagement will be at Nix Library on S. Carrollton

from 10:30-4:00. The applications for the Community Impact Grants are being reviewed. The grants will help bring green infrastructure and beautification to New Orleans neighborhoods; FSJNA submitted two applications. The recipients of the grants will be announced in about 2 weeks. He listed some of the 2019 successes: infrastructure, murder rate down 19%, and they are dealing with car burglaries. Mr. Mosgrove's contact information is stephen.mosgrove@nola.gov.

- **Angelle Bergeron - Leda/Verna Update:** Angelle said the Lena/Verna committee had a great meeting tonight with the Fairgrounds.

BOARD BUSINESS

- **Discussion of meeting format and efficiency - Beaux Jones**

Beaux sent a survey to Board members asking for suggestions to improve meeting efficiency. One suggestion is leveraging the committee structure and holding committee meetings prior to the Board Meeting.

- **Recap 2019 Spending - Brenda London and Antoine Pedeaux**

The biggest expense in 2019 was \$6,500 for Desmare Playground. In 2019 a portion of funds were moved to Certificates of Deposit, earning additional money for FSJNA.

- **Membership Update - George Bartlett**

George is developing a membership recruitment card to pass out to FSJ households. He is requesting photos of neighbors and events to add to the card. FSJNA membership increased from 290 to 390.

- **Motions**

Rocky Seydel made a motion to approve the November 2019 Meeting minutes and the December 2019 Executive and General Membership Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by George Bartlett. The motion was approved by a show of hands

NEXT MEETING: Membership and Board meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 7:00 pm at Deutches Haus.

MOTION To ADJOURN: Andy Ryan made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Linda Landesberg. The motion passed by a show of hands. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.