



November 10, 2020

7pm via Zoom

Board Members Present: Linda Landesberg, Clark Thompson, Nancy Shepard, Beaux Jones, Jeanie Donovan, Bruce Hamilton, Antoine Pedeaux, Greg Jeanfreau, George Bartlett, Rocky Seydel, Steve Mardon, Sally Main, Jim Danner, Brenda London

Call to order 7:03pm

- I. **Approve October minutes** (Jeanie made motion to approve minutes, Clark seconded, approved without objection)

- II. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - We've spent a lot of money on Fortier Park - the fence, the maintenance, the hurricane repair
 - The NCIS grant - are we allocating to Fortier Park? Beaux, yes, that was the intent
 - Antoine makes motion to use NCIS grant of ~\$1,000 for Fortier Park fund, Linda seconds, passed without opposition.
 - Question from Jeanie - Is there a plan to take fence down and how much does it cost?
Answer: November 23 FSJNA will take fence down, working with parks and parkway, they're in control of re-opening the park, we paid a 6 month fee for fence and we extended it one month.
 - Question from Bruce - did we reimburse a member for the fence for 6 months?
 - Answer: Antoine, yes
 - Question from Bruce: Did we reimburse a board member for \$1,000 in maintenance?
 - Answer: Beaux - we're going to make a motion tonight to reimburse Andy who has footed the cost for some of the maintenance expenses at Fortier park - would come from the dedicated Fortier Park fund.
 - Question from Beaux - what is the total for the landscaping? Antoine - \$550
 - Question from Linda - once the money is earmarked for a certain place, do you need to do a motion for it? Do we not think we should be handling earmarked money that way in the future?
 - Answer: Beaux - historically we have outlined a budget for the parks, Fortier this year has taken more than it's given back, we've been spending money to improve the park.
 - Bruce - I'm not opposed to spending money on the park, but I think we should probably hire a contractor and not reimburse a neighbor. Fortier Park is different from the pocket parks
 - Antoine: we're not paying Andy to do the work, Andy has a contractor that goes in there and it's reimbursement to him. It's not us paying Andy.

- Beaux - it should be open by the end of this month, working with Parks and Parkway. We will defer motion to December meeting on reimbursing for landscaping costs.

III. Guests

A. Office of Economic Development-Jeff Schwartz, Millage Renewal

- Election coming up on Dec 5 - many of the races went to run off and there are also 4 millages on the ballot for rededication; 3 different propositions, all are for fairly critical areas of work in the city. (See attached slidedeck)
- Question from Beaux - What will be the ages that will be eligible for the early childhood slots funded by the millage?
- Answer: Jeff: I think it's 3 and up.
- Question from Jeanie - what is the income criteria for the early childhood slots?
- Answer: Jeff - not sure

B. Public Works- Louis Haywood (10 mins)

- Proposed traffic calming for GRSJ at N White Street- something that has been asked for a lot by the community. Speed control study showed speeding in the 85th percentile, top speed of 40MPH, a little faster in direction toward Gentilly.
- With design we've come up with, the intersection at North White, it's similar to the approach we took on Magazine street- it's a quick build, what we're doing is when you're approaching from Gentilly, we're going to pull back that clear zone and beef it up, so instead of the legally mandated 20 feet, we'll make it 40 ft, it'll be a box with posts on it.
- The center line will shift over just slightly and create a narrowing effect, down to 10 ft, you'll have to slow down in order to not hit the posts. Losing one parking spot on the corner.
- On the opposite side, we'll extend that clear zone a little bit from 20 to 30ft, then approaching from Esplanade, it will be 30 ft clear zone, we don't need it as big, but extending it really for pedestrians to get a better view. Emphasize the intersection, create better views up and down the road, while still allowing all 30ft trucks and trash vehicles to make turns. Cross walks will be painted.
- Question from Beaux - where are you in the process?
- Answer: Louis - if there are no strong objections, we're cleared for this, we have a backlog of striping, so it would probably not happen until next year. It's not part of our process to canvass the neighborhood on this.
- Louis - it will still be a 25mph street
- Beaux - I would like to seek some comments on this and will get you some feedback to Louis in a week

C. Energy Smart Program- Brandon Muetzel (5 mins)

- This program incentivizes smart energy upgrades, everyone is eligible, everyone pays into it through Entergy bill.
- Renters and homeowners can participate.

- Home energy assessment is free, a contractor comes out and can also be done over the phone, have a whole household approach, during this assessment they can assess insulation, HVAC, lighting, water heater, etc...
- Some homes will qualify for free smart thermostats, light bulbs, etc...
- Two weeks after inspection you'll receive report from contractor about recommendations and they're all based on incentives available through Energy Smart programs.
- Income qualified weatherization - eligible households must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.
- Online marketplace - rebates on various products to improve the energy efficiency of your home.
- Commercial programs as well, we have a 25% increase incentive until the end of the year on top of the existing rebates.

Energy Smart Resources:

Website: www.energyla.org Phone:(504)229-6868

Free home energy assessment (renters and owners)

<http://save.energysmartnola.info/request-an-assessment-event>

Income Qualified Weatherization Program (free)

<http://save.energysmartnola.info/iqw-assessment-event>

Online Marketplace <http://shop.energysmartnola.com/>

<https://www.energysmartnola.info/businesses/>

D. Neighborhood Crime Update- Capt Roberts

- Recently we did a murder near the Waffle House, carjacking on Bienville
- Don't leave anything of value in your car
- Speed control device on bayou - it will stay for a couple of days, will get signs up
- Will put a camera car up somewhere along bayou in coming days
- Lt Allen - we've had an uptick in crime in 1st district - carjackings on Bienville and Orleans Avenue, we're working with federal partners with identify a group of individuals which we've linked to the uptick in crime
- We've identified the ring leader and some of his co-conspirators, we are working diligently to put these violators behind bars to make it a safer city.
- VCAIT - violent crime abatement investigative team - just was started in collaboration with FBI, US Marshalls.
- In the 1st district we're up 7 shootings year to date, and 3 homicides year to date. We know the narrative around the violence that is occurring and we think we'll see a significant difference going forward. We have a good handle on it.
- Beaux - please don't hesitate to share information when you have it about the violent crime in the neighborhood.
- Question from Linda - Is traffic camera supposed to tell you your speed?
- Answer: Capt Roberts - it might be out of power.

- Nov 17 - Virtual NONPAC, will send out details in newsletter

III. 2721 Dumaine Zoning Change application (5 mins)

- Casey - we recently became members of FSJNA - bought a house at 2721 Dumaine St. We bought the house as a triplex, but didn't understand at the time that we put down an offer, we couldn't get a conventional loan unless we changed the zoning, so that's what we're trying to do.
- It's a triplex, long term renter in the front, STR in the back, all units in the same structure.
- Our neighbors aren't concerned, Rodrigo and Geraldine, in front of us in the church and right beside us is the Advanced Auto Parts store,
- With zoning change we would be extending the lot, HU-MU is the only designation we could get for triplex or multifamily.
- We're currently in HU-RD2, historic duplex, the next is HU-MU
- The NPP was all virtual, sent out letters and emails, filed the report and paid the fee, waiting for the city to tell us what's next.
- Zach - our goal is to keep the house exactly as it is, we have a twelve year old, we're trying to avoid having to change anything to the house, it would require a change to go back to a duplex.
- Beaux - those who are closest to the property are the ones i would want to hear from, any communications you got back, that would be great. There may be something coming along to allow properties to stay as they were without an NPP.

IV. Nominating committee:

- Beaux: we have to have a roster of nominees 15 days prior to the December meeting, so it's November 24 deadline. There will be some turnover on the board, so there will be some open spots.
- The work that has be done in committee, decrease the barrier to entry, have to have ways to get people involved
- If you're interested in board service and officership, please think about what committee work you'd like to be involved in. Would like to decentralize the work of FSJNA.
- If you're a board member please fill out the survey I sent you, if you're a member, please fill out the survey Linda sent out.
- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4o-anVPp-HnQjIH0JI8SnvrbE-Q4jmURZAvBRf2_UbdKQfA/viiewform?usp=sf_link

V. Fortier Park (Beaux)

- November 23-24, Parks and Parkway is going to have the fence removed.
- It's been a strange year with a complex situation, I think that what we need to do is get into the park and spend time there to make it a park for everybody.
- Two volunteer events in October that happened.
- Vey: The park will be open sometime at the end of November, need to use it as much as possible, call the police

- Saturday before the park opens we will be doing one final community day, laying down more pine straw, to get the park ready to be fully reopened.
- Committee would like FSJNA to vote on donating some of the benches or chess tables to another FSJNA park like Desmare, because I'm not sure who owns that property.
- One of the proposed ideas for Fortier Park would be an alcohol ban, and not sure if we need to vote on the proposal before bringing to city council but there is more research that needs to be done there.
- Beaux - at December meeting, if you have a list of recommendations that you could circulate before, I'll reserve some time at that meeting.

VI. Questions from membership

- Beaux: Jim Danner has been storing all of the tables, chairs and ice chests that belong to FSJNA, and if there is anyone on this call that would be interested in donating some part of your shed and garage for this stuff, please let Beaux know, otherwise we'll need to get a storage unit.
- Linda - did we get membershipworks moved?
- Beaux - yes Antoine is working on it.

VII. Motion to adjourn - Beaux/Jeanie, approved without objection