

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

I. The meeting was held at Bricolage Academy and called to order by President Steve Mardon at 7:00 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 Update – Commander Ganthier: Commander Ganthier thanked FSJNA for donations to their coffee fund and for being vigilant neighbors. An FSJ neighbor followed an individual from a robbery at the Shell Station and the police were able to apprehend the individual. Crime is down 12% in the 1st District from this time last year. NOPD has launched a new program called MAX (Management Analytics for eXcellence), this replaces the current COMSTAT. The weekly department-wide meetings will be held every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., they are open to the public, and provide an overview of all aspects of the districts. Commander Ganthier said he would look into the hit-and-run bicycle accident on Crete and Esplanade. He reminded neighbors the NONPAC meeting is every 3rd Tuesday.

Homeless People & the Neighborhood – B.B. St. Roman, NOPD Homeless Assistance Unit: unable to attend

Fairgrounds Patrol Update – Commander Scott: Commander Scott distributed a 2-page crime map of the Fairgrounds Patrol Area, from September 6, 2016 through October 3, 2016. There were 3 armed robberies in 30 days; 2 have been solved. On Bell Street 2 cars were broken into. Commander Scott was told that when the Fairgrounds Patrol number was called there was no answer. He recommended calling the Fairgrounds Security Office at 948-1127. He was also asked to look into speeding motorcycles on Broad Street.

Short-term Rental Update – Cynthia Scott: Cynthia Scott attended a meeting organized by “NOLA Neighbors”, a coalition of neighbors organized to present a position to City Council with regards to short term rentals – especially whole house rentals. A list of their positions is available at www.nolaneighbors.com. They are in favor of banning Type “P” whole home rental in residential districts across the city; allowing Type “A” and “T” with limitations and with a homestead exemption; allow Type “C” only in commercial districts where hotels are allowed; ban all short-term rentals in the Quarter and where new bed and breakfasts are now prohibited; and require data sharing by and from the platforms (i.e. AirBnB). Cynthia suggested putting your position in a letter to the mayor and council.

1620 Sauvage St. Request for Conditional Use – Alec Adamick, Architect: The owner, CJ Minor, is requesting variances for change of use, change of footprint and change of occupancy at 1620/22 Sauvage Street. He intends to construct 5 connected townhouses on the site where there are now two separate 2-family residences. The new construction would include curb cuts for off-street parking and a courtyard. Mr. Adamick distributed architectural drawings of the proposed units. The owner goes before the CPC on October 11, 2016. He insisted that no units would be allowed to be used as short-term rentals. In the recent past one of the current buildings had been used as a short-term rental.

The discussion was open to the floor and a list of the comments and concerns follows:

- Neighbors uncertain about the future of the buildings - transition of ownership from one owner to another;
- No green space;
- New curb cuts will reduce parking for the rest of the neighbors;
- Questions about the current zoning, whether it is commercial or not;
- 5 connected townhouses doesn't fit neighborhood;
- Adding a second structure ruins the neighbors views;

- 1 parking spot/unit will be an issue;
- Can the density be reduced?

V. Treasurer's Report: No treasurer's report this month.

VI. Committee Reports/Updates/Actions:

Membership Committee – Nothing to report this month.

Events Committee – Linda Landesberg gave an update on “Bounty on the Bayou” on October 31, 2016. Grand Route St. John will be closed from 5:00 to 7:30 for safe trick or treating. There will be a DJ, juice boxes, water, NOPD distributing glow necklaces, and a fire truck at Fortier Park. She needs volunteers for porch sitting. Neighbors will be reimbursed up to \$60.00 for Halloween candy. The cost to FSJNA is about \$3,000.00.

October 18, 2016 is “Night Out Against Crime”; FSJNA will reimburse up to \$150/per event for neighborhood block parties that night.

Landscape Committee – Nothing to report this month.

Public Safety – Nothing to report this month.

Zoning Committee – Sarah Stogner provided the Zoning Committee's recommendation for the development at 1622 Sauvage Street. FSJNA sent out a survey to the surrounding neighbors and received 29 responses back. 24 were opposed for reasons including density, parking, and short-term rentals. 5 supported the project stating that it would improve the property. Sarah reported that the Zoning Matrix developed by the Zoning Committee was not developed for this type of request – because it is not a business – and could not be used. Therefore, the Zoning Committee recommended not taking a position on the variance because we didn't have a matrix and the position would be subjective rather than objective. The CPC issued a staff report today on the project and recommended 3 townhouses over both lots.

A motion was made by Linda Landesberg to oppose their request of 5 units for the reasons cited in the CPC staff report; and to list the results of the Zoning Committee's survey in the letter. Gloria Martin made the second. The discussion following the motion included Jim Danner and Erich Caulfield agreeing with the Zoning Committee's recommendation because of the lack of a zoning matrix. Steve Mardon and Gloria Martin agreed with the motion on the floor because of the results of the survey and being responsive to neighbor's concerns. The motion was withdrawn.

Motion made by Linda Landesberg, second by Gloria Martin: To oppose any Conditional Use that changes the current zoning and encourage the City Planning Commission and City Council to enforce the current zoning, for the reasons cited in the FSJNA survey response. 7 in favor , 1 opposed, and 1 abstain. Motion passed.

VII. Old Business – Pushpa Ramaiah made a motion to approve the September Minutes. Gloria Martin made the second and it passed by unanimous consent.

VIII. New Business – Jim Danner gave an update on the Deutches Haus. They got a conditional permit to build, they hired an architect to design the building, and it went out for bid with the lowest bid at ~8.5 million. That amount is above the budget so they need a new architect and a new building. There is a committee working on plans to bring Oktoberfest to Moss Street in 2017.

President Mardon received an email from Charlie London that he would like someone else to maintain the FSJNA website and social media.

Motion made by Sarah Stogner, second by Jim Danner: To form a social media committee. All in favor. Motion passed.

IX. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Stogner. Gloria Martin made the second and it passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.