

FAUBOURG ST. JOHN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

General Membership and Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2019

- Board Members Present:

Linda Landesberg	Beaux Jones	Brenda London
Joan Ellen Young	George Bartlett	Jim Danner
Bruce Hamilton	Aimee Kramer	Charles London
Steve Mardon	Gloria Martin	Pushpa Ramaiah
Rocky Seydel		
 - Excused Board Members:
Andy Ryan
 - Absent Board Members:

Jeanie Donovan	Greg Jeanfreau	Nancy Shepard
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OPENING REMARKS

Call to order by Linda Landesberg, President. She identified and thanked the Board Members for their continued service. Rules of Courtesy were read by Leonard Harman, Advisory Board Member.

CURRENT TOPICS

- **Candidates for District 97**
Eugene Green and Matthew Willard, Candidates for District 97 were introduced by Beaux Jones and given three minutes to present their vision for the district and request votes.
- **Councilman Joe Giarrusso**
Councilman Giarrusso announced a \$10,000 award for Desmare Park from funds given to his office for community development by Harrah's and Cox.

He had a meeting with the Health Department about VooDoo Fest; they had only one reading which exceeded the noise scale set by law. The Health Department is asking to install semi-permanent noise readers that will send a text message when noise goes over the limits so that the promoter and residents can be notified when there is a violation. He intends to work on establishing decibel levels, which are not currently regulated. Based on where the sound was directed the Health Department believes that switching stages might get a better balance as the bridges act as buffers.

Councilman Giarrusso offered a brief update on the repairs and reconfiguration of Marconi Drive, which is going from four lanes to two lanes, installing a protected bike lane, and dealing with parking availability and noted that there had been no inclusion of the residents in the planning and construction. He obtained from the City the schematic for distribution to residents; additionally, the City will advise neighborhood associations in advance of future work, hold preconstruction briefings and after reviews. Jane Bartlett asked if the bike lane could be built into the center of the current green space. Joe replied that it had been studied and it was decided that it wouldn't work and wasn't economically feasible. Aimee Kramer suggested that something needs to be done with the traffic lights at Canal and City Park; Joe noted that it is the longest light cycle in the City and his office is continually fielding comments, questions and suggestions to correct the problems. Brad Roberts asked if there was any plan to make travel in the construction area faster and safer for residents and to have adequate parking with designated spots for construction equipment. Joe suggested that he get in touch with Stephen Mosgrove of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement to work for solutions. Jim Danner requested that any study include the area around the stadium for Friday night football access and parking.

In closing, Joe reminded everyone to vote and that the Council is in the middle of the budget process now and are striving to provide a good quality of life for everyone.

- **“Purple Way” Devin De Wulf, Red Beans**

Devin de Wulf, organizer of the Krewe of Red Beans, spoke of the loss of his friend and fellow Krewe member, Sharee Walls, who was killed on her bike after the Endymian Parade last year. In her honor the Krewe is working on traffic and bike safety by creating some plans that the City could have ready as needed and he requested that members join them in coming up with ways to keep everyone safe during special events. Linda spoke of meeting with Commander Roberts and Devin, and of Beaux's Traffic Committee's work on creating safe routes. Devin announced that “Tour de Beans” will be held February 1, 2020; it is designed to be their advocacy day.

- **FSJ Home Tour – Joel Pominville, New Orleans Architecture Foundation**

Beaux introduced Chuck Coret, Vice-President, and Joel Pominville, Executive Director of NOAF, a non-profit working to enhance public appreciation of architecture all over the City. They recognized Elizabeth & Jim Landis, honorary co-chairs of the home tour this weekend. When members purchase tickets they should mention “FSJNA10” to get 10% off the ticket price.

- **Fair Grounds**

Doug Shipley reported that Thoroughbred Racing officially begins Thanksgiving, and concludes March 31, 2020, with racing every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He mentioned that the Louisiana Derby, one of their largest events, will be on March 21, 2020. He mentioned the flooding on Verna and Leda and that they met with Dawn Massy of the Department of Public Works to work towards resolving the flooding issues.

Virgil gave the following dates of interest:

December 21, 2019	Super Santa Saturday
January 25, 2020	Exotic Animal Races
February 8, 2020	Red Beans Eating Contest
March 7, 2020	Wiener Dog Races
March 21, 2020	Louisiana Derby

He noted that Jazz Fest starts setting up March 23, 2020. Linda thanked the Fairgrounds for their generous donation to FSJNA which was used for Bounty on the Bayou.

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

Commander Roberts thanked Councilman Giarrusso for securing NOPD's budget going forward and Linda for FSJNA's sponsorship of the annual Night Out Against Crime.

He spoke of Fortier Park and the start of the "Walk and Talk" program by each platoon, two or three times per shift to ease residents' concerns about the unacceptable behaviors of the homeless in the park. . Steve Chapman detailed his experience with the homeless in Fortier Park and suggested it be made a NORD Park. This would take an ordinance; he was reassured by Commander Roberts that he and his officers consider this issue a first priority and they want to solve it as quickly by effective policing and social services. He requested e-mails, videos and 911 calls directed to him at lroberts@nola.gov, (504) 658-8604.

Crime stats citywide are lower with homicides down by 38, the most significant decrease since 1971. In the First District, we are down in shootings, homicides and armed robberies. He reported that NOPD is prepared for the usual uptick at year end. They are still working diligently on property crimes, which are decreasing as a result of actions taken to control and provide assistance to juveniles. Auto burglaries in the First District are going down as a result of cooperation by FSJNA residents

Commander Scott of the Fairgrounds Patrol reported that there were no robberies in the past 120 days in FSJNA, and only 4 burglaries. He announced that the drunk driver who killed the cyclists after the Endymian

Parade was given a 91-year prison sentence. Commander Scott touted the use of the Real Time Crime Center cameras in assisting the police.

Linda repeated that crime increases between Thanksgiving and Christmas and urged members to be vigilant.

Beaux reported that FSJNA has applied for a grant to obtain more of the signs for pedestrians in crosswalks and we are working with UNO's Transportation Department in their traffic study.

- **Stephen Mosgrove – Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement**

He spoke about the Construction on Marconi; they are trying to get things through more quickly. They did canvass the neighborhood but moving forward they will [press for community meetings on future projects.

They are working with the residents of Leda and Verna and the Department of Public Works to abate the excessive flooding. Public Works has cleaned out catch basins. Repair of these two streets is scheduled to begin in 2 ½ years.

He noted that infrastructure is a key component in the Mayor's budget and suggested that residents pay attention to the budget hearings now being held.

CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS

- **Bounty on the Bayou**

Served over 800 children. Volunteers were thanked for all they did to make it an awesome success.

- **Desmare Fundraiser**

There will be a kids and adults event November 23, 2019. New equipment will be coming in on that date and Linda asked all Board members to donate 3 ½ hours of their time to help with the event.

BOARD BUSINESS

- Linda asked for a motion to take \$8,000 from FSJNA's General Fund pay for the rest of the playground at Desmare Park while we wait for other monies to come in. Devin offered a donation of \$1,000. Aimee moved that \$8,000 from the General Fund be used so as not to lose the pending matching funds, which was seconded by Beaux, and was passed.

- For consideration at the December Meeting, Linda was approached by a group (BYO Bike) that would like to take over Fortier Park as a bike valet during Jazz Fest. They would split the proceeds with FSJNA. Jim requested a business plan, proof of insurance and approval by the City be furnished before we consider it. Linda recused herself as this her niece's non-profit.

Linda and Beaux will send e-mails to Board Members from the Nominating Committee for December's vote on the 2020 Officers and Board Members.

MOTIONS

A motion to accept the minutes of the October General Membership and Executive Board Meeting was made by George Bartlett, seconded by Jim Danner, and was passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gloria Martin, seconded by Jim Danner, and was passed.