

FSJNA Meeting
July 7, 2020
7pm via Zoom

Board members in attendance: Linda Landesberg, Brenda London, Beaux Jones, Jeanie Donovan, Andy Ryan, Antoine Pedeaux, Bruce Hamilton, Jim Danner, Sally Main, Steve Mardon, Jenny Carey

1. Call to order: 7:04pm

2. President's Update (5 min)
 - Joan Ellen Young is resigning from board
 - This Saturday there is clean up at Fortier Park from 9am-noon.
 - John Bel Edwards and Rep. Willard donated from the stockpile, 200 cloth masks and we've been passing them out, putting a box in front of Canseco's tomorrow morning.

3. Quick Board Business (5 min)
 - Approve June Minutes
 - Brenda London motions to approve, Andy Ryan seconds, motion carries without opposition
 - Treasurer's Report
 - \$22,000 in Treasury, 56,000 in CD that is for the re-bridge funds and we derive interest off CDs, the Koipu funds are dedicated to Desmare playground
 - Had to renew the liability policy, that was one expense
 - If your membership is lapsed, please renew

4. Guests/Current Topics (25 min)
 - **Sonny Lee from Son of a Saint**
 - Circulated an NPP related to current location on 2803 St. Phillip - Son of a Saint took ownership in early March, space for boys, have been renting space for 3 years, have roughly 20 boys at a time at the building. We're asking for the support for a parking waiver for the building, we're going to have less vehicle traffic, we have about 50 ppl in the building now and don't have any problems with parking now. We'll reduce that number, we only have 12-15 staff and boys get dropped off.
 - Have been around since 2011, provide mentorship and educational support for boys who have lost their fathers to violence or long term incarceration, boys aged 10-19 years old.

Our building provides a home base, but we engage boys in activities throughout the city.

- Because the use of the building is going to change, they have to see the waiver, but the number of parking spots needed will actually be fewer
- Bruce - is there a parking area attached to building?
- Sonny - yes, there are 9 spots and street parking that's adjacent to the building, which is another 6-8 spaces and on the back side there
- Jeanie motions to support zoning change for Son of a Saint, Linda seconds.
- Discussion: Conrad: Will Son of a Saint be sole user of building? Sonny: Yes, the intent is not to lease out.
- Motion carries without opposition.
- **District A Councilmember Giarrusso**
 - Council had a budget committee meeting today - the numbers the city is reporting right now are better than expected. Only off of where we were last year by \$2-3 million in terms of revenue. Collected \$20M more in property taxes, up front payments from Harrah's lease have helped, sales tax revenue is down, but not as much as we thought, expect some federal CARES Act money to be hitting coffers soon
 - Have gotten a lot of complaints about Richard's trash service, on DeSoto street there is a resident who is reporting concerns diligently. Richard's has upped pay dramatically but have a "people problem" - working to smooth that out but city is well aware of it. Please don't hesitate to email if there is a problem. Trash has by 8pm at night to be picked up.
 - 2 weeks ago there was a Complete Streets meeting with DPW - walked through 2012 ordinance and there is a lot of content that's in there. DPW owes a draft policy by Friday, about what their road diet looks like and working with them on tweaking it a little bit. Currently says you need to have input from organizations but doesn't name neighborhood orgs. DPW owes an annual report on Complete Streets, and we're going to add that to our annual meeting in December
 - Andy Ryan - on the trash issue - sometimes Richard's drives down the street but doesn't pick up trash. JG: It's a labor issue, they're trying to fill slots
 - Richard Cahn - they still haven't picked up Monday trash on DeSoto street yet tonight.

- Linda L - is Complete Streets plan where we're inputting our special events safety plan? Beaux: It was never explicit that it was going to be a part of Complete Streets plan. Special events is probably a separate thing that we need to revisit as a neighborhood for relevant events.
- Beaux - the other issue is a contingent of Moss Street residents who have sent Beaux and JG a letter, did this come up at Complete Streets meeting? JG: No, it did not, but we've been asking for a traffic calming circle at Grand Rte St. John for more than a year, and I view it as a straight up DPW issue rather than a Complete Streets issue.
- Beaux: I'd like to see the conversation about safety concerns on Moss move forward, we want to have a robust process to feel out what can be done. Any guidance from JG, Stephen or DPW would be great.
- Beaux: another issue related to the Bayou, we've had a lot of comments and questions about postings on the bridge. What are the rules? Neighborhood association doesn't have authority to permit what goes on the bridge, and there have been some pretty tense conversations about putting things up and taking things down. Is there a process?
 - Joe: It is not the neighborhood associations' role. You can call 311 or councilperson's office. My thought is for political speech on a public owned thing, it is subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, there is supposed to be a permit if someone wants to do something there. So you would apply, maybe through safety and permits and DPW, if you want to do something. Residents can also go through One Stop to see if a permit has been granted.
 - Stephen - it's the property of the city, public works has the authority to approve or remove if they'd like. We would not look to the neighbors to police that.
- **Stephen Mosgrove – Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement**
 - COVID: Mayor Cantrell and Dr. Avegno will announce additional restrictions tomorrow because the city is starting to see increases in new cases, positivity rate, hospitalizations. Restrictions will be targeted and looking at hotspots, the data is showing that 40% of new cases are in age range of 18-25. We're also seeing hospitalizations within that age demographic,

that's a little different from what we saw the last 3-4 months that young people aren't as impacted. Continue to wear masks and social distance - mostly seeing people not really social distancing, it's a 4 ft conversation but it's not 6ft, so we need to re-dedicate ourselves to this

- Please keep the census top of mind, take the leadership to spread the word and make it a cause of the org to spread the work: 844-330-2020; 2020census.org
- Meals program: the city has started a meal delivery program with food from local restaurants, sign up through 311, today was first day of meal delivery, intended to provide meals to citizens who need them, not necessarily replacing food bank efforts, but intended to supplement.
- City recently received a "what works cities" certification from the Bloomberg Foundation - certified at the silver level, 1 of 16 cities that got the certification, which shows that the city is using data to improve the functionality of the city - public safety needs, budgeting, etc...
- **Representative Matthew Willard-(5 min)**
 - Highlights from 1st special session:
 - Main Street Recovery program, legislature set up using some of the CARES Act funding, has \$275m set aside for business with fewer than 50 employees that incurred COVID related expense, eligible for 15,000 in grants, application will go online July 28 - www.treasury.la.gov/mainstreet; first come first serve basis. 40M has been allocated just to women and minority owned business
 - Democratic caucus set aside funds for \$250 checks to frontline workers - hospital personal, sanitation workers, grocery workers and others. The application process is being set up now and handled through the Dept of Revenue. Also on a first come first serve basis.
 - Looks like we'll go back into special session in the fall
 - Worked with the Alzheimer's Association to has HR 19 - relates to the care and testing protocols for long-term care and VA facilities - requires LDH and Dept of VA to follow protocols and procedures for residents and staff.
- **NOPD 1st District / Fair Grounds Patrol-(5 min)**
 - Capt. Roberts - new assistant, LT. Kendrick Allen, he'll be doing the meetings in his absence.

- In 1st district seeing increase in violent crime and property crime. Carjacking on Grand Rte St. John - were able to make an arrest.
 - Working closely with surrounding districts to solve crimes, finding that they're all interrelated. Have identified 3 males that have been committing crimes in multiple districts.
 - Homicides expected to make arrests soon, some warrants will be issued for armed robberies
- Lt. Kendrick Allen - contact info: 504-421-8333; kcallen@nola.gov
- **Fair Grounds (5 min)**
 - Beaux - Fairgrounds is requesting emergency authorization from the mayor to extend hours on a temporary basis - this is flash pan issue, has been for many years, our formal position is that if FG formally wants to bring a request we'll consider it
 - Doug Shipley - haven't spoken to the group since February, in March we held La Derby without spectators, and we were stuck with 1,200 horses and 700 horsemen living in dorms with nowhere to go. We took temperatures early on - they just left in the month of June, only 1 horseman tested positive. We carried those protocols into the Fairgrounds, we're being inspected regularly by LSP. So far no cases - very proud of that.
 - May 13 FGNO opened, and have been working in sync with Mayor's office, only allowed to operate at 25%, rest of the casinos are allowed to operate at 75%. I think required masks are important. The challenges we're having at FGNO - we're 43% below prior year and 1/3 of our staff have been furloughed.
 - More than willing to pay NOPD or our guards to control noise or people exiting. This was enacted 10-11 years ago, I think we know where the weak links are - some of the noise that may emanate from the Fairgrounds. This would only be temporary, If there is anything that troubles the neighbors, we'd go back to regular hours
 - Rocky: Since the other tracks have been allowed to open more than 25% - any chance of getting it altered from that perspective, with lack of COVID contamination at the FGNO?
DS: I don't see her coming off the 25% - I don't see 25% going to 50% before the fall. We haven't made any reservations for Thanksgiving, we're not planning to have a Thanksgiving.
 - We're planning on laying off 100 people,

- Bruce - have you made a statement to the Fairground Advisory Board regarding the extended hours proposal? Doug: No
- Rocky - has the city been approached and have they taken a position? Beaux: I have heard from council and mayor's office that they were not going to approve. Doug - met with the mayor in first week of June, explained protocols, she asked, is there anything city can do to help? FGNO we asked to extend the hours of operation to the community leadership.
- Stephen - currently the mayor is saying no to the executive order request.
- Conrad abadie - I would hope that the board would support this.
- Jeanie Donovan - other casino facilities in state are not operating 75% as stated by Doug, they are operating at 50%. There have been several outbreaks associated with unnamed casinos in the state and it is a growing concern. My greatest concern is that while this is being pitched as a "temporary" extension of hours, the reality is that FGNO has been requesting extended hours for years, long before COVID-19, so there's every reason to expect that if this temporary measure were put in place, it would be leveraged into a permanent change post-COVID.
- Bruce - agree with Jeanie, it's not clear when the hours would be expanded and then reduced again.
- Conrad - would point out that business at the FG is highly regulated.
- Doug - we're highly regulated by Louisiana State Police.
- Jeanie - I'm not sure how that relates to extended hours.
- Beaux - from a process standpoint, I have a concern, I don't know what a vote would be on, I don't know what the mayor would be putting out, we don't have language. I do have concerns about FJSNA issuing a blanket statement related to how we feel about extending FGNO? Imagine that statement/position would be rolled into a later request. Similar to Moss Street, appreciate neighborhood engagement on it, I'm not sure what basis we have to say whether an emergency order makes sense for Doug's business. We would like to hear from mayor about she's in support of this proclamation.
- Stephen Mosgrove - Mayor was displeased with the process, the position is no, currently.
- Beaux - don't want to take a position in the ether, would like to see the proposal first. Has FGNO put together a proposal?

- DS: It sounded like the mayor was okay with it, but maybe that's changed, my ask is simple, to ask for the additional three hours.
- Stephen - don't want to influence the neighborhood in any direction, take it back to our team and figure it out. The mayor has a position now, I don't know if she'll change it, she was receptive to it initially, that changed, with anything there is openness to discussion.
- Richard Cahn - Why wouldn't we get with our City Councilman - start talking about this at length, we're not going to solve this in one night. FG supports City Park and supports neighborhood patrol. Would like to see a small group of people hash it out.
- Beaux - suggestion to the board - the Fairgrounds and the Mayors office workshop this with the FG Citizen's Advisory Council. It could be on short order, come up with a discreet proposal, willing to entertain having a special meeting.
- Beaux makes motion for Fairgrounds and Stephen bring it back to us through FGAC with a more detailed proposal. Seconded by Andy, passes without opposition.
- Linda - question - we do have representation from all of surrounding neighborhoods on FGAC, DeSaix, Fairgrounds and FJSNA. Rocky: Yes, some positions are currently empty, but have representation from three neighborhoods.
- Jim Danner - Deutches Haus would've liked to host FSJNA meeting this month, they asked if we'd like to do that next month, will probably still be closed on Tuesday but would open up for us.

5. Next meeting: Membership & Board meeting – Tuesday, August 04, 7 pm, Zoom or Haus

6. Motion to Adjourn

