

EASTERN NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES ST MARIA GORETTI 6:00 P.M. Tuesday, May 12, 2009

PRESENT: S. Scineaux-Richard, C. Charbonnet, C. Garner, T. Lee, T. Wall, D. Gordon, G. Maurice. C. Garner: parliamentarian

Commissioners: Homeowner Association Presidents (CAB) roll call (17) Sign in sheet maintained with ENONAC records. Quorum established.

Meeting called to review order at 6:10 p.m. Motion by O. Rainey (L. Willow) to accept agenda and seconded by B. Vallon (Spg Lk) .

Scineaux –Richard ask Commissioners to read distributed minutes from the April 14, 2009 meeting. The resident membership was referred to the website to read minutes.

Motion to accept minutes by C. Denesse (Kennilworth) and seconded by Knott (Lk Forest Estates).

Acknowledgment of special guest: Councilwomen Willard-Lewis and Hedge-Morrell, Clerk of Criminal Court- Arthur Morrell and Assessor Errol Williams

T. Le gave treasurer report as of 4-13-09. Motion to accept treasury report by Broussard (Little Woods), and seconded by B. Vaughn (W. Warwick).

Mr. Martin, Grant Chief and Mr. Cade, Project Manager of the Corp of Engineers presented to membership plans on Hurricane Risk Reduction System. Maps of Greater NO Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System were handed out giving outline of work being done for NOE. The levy walls by Railroad will be raised. A flood gate is being installed Paris Road. Complex breaches from south point to CSX RR

14ft incrementally increased is underway but it is not completed. A meeting is scheduled this Thursday at the Church at New Orleans 11700 Chef Menteur Hwy corner of Bullard and Chef for 7:00pm. There will be project managers in attendance for more detailed information and the status of ongoing projects. Councilwoman Willard-Lewis requested specific questions that need to be answered at the upcoming meeting on Thursday. Question “Are we going to be safer this hurricane season.” It was recommended to work on for MRGO 24 hours a day as was the work on 17th Street Canal project to build barriers. Councilwoman Willard-Lewis wants a report on small business that has been engaged to complete storm/levy protection. Willard-Lewis requested that we be provided a tracking report to help ENONAC keep up with completed, ongoing and continuous project. The last article about flood projection that appeared in the Times Picayune said that ENO is vulnerable and we want answers (neighborhoods that flood from rain water). Local base company awarded (SHAW) contract. www.nolaenvironment.gov at approximately 700 million dollars.

Scineaux-Richard thanked the presenters and asked that ENONAC be kept up to date with all progress of flood protection.

Blight and Environmental Report: Mr. Winston Reid, Director of Code enforcement and Mr. Wesley Taylor, Chief of Environment Health, addressed issues of blight, initiatives on overgrown lots, making owners accountable and, taking lien foreclosures against properties in violation. They have acquired additional inspectors, completed training up to 12 inspectors, 2 per district. They are collaborating and merging with Code Enforcement so as not to duplicate work. They also work with quality of life officers. Mr. Reid said they are taking one bite at a time to address this catastrophe. Reid would like to propose with the Councilperson, a citizen participation program. Violations are a revolving door because owners will comply and the process starts again. Repeat offender penalty don't release judgment for 2 years. La Provence is in litigation, he can't talk too much about it because it is in litigation. It has been adjudicated and fined. We will get information about the hearing. Their department is averaging over 1000 hearings a month. They will be going to the Convention Center to hold larger scale hearings. www.wptaylor@cityofno.com and www.whreid@cityofno.com

ENONAC gave CAB members a petition to go along with letter that will be drafted to Wal-Mart. The petition will give ENONAC more weight when contact Walmart as to why they need to return to ENO.

Agenda item from zoning to residential to commercial (major change). No information available. J. Heisser contacted Willard-Lewis.

Questions raised by RH properties. They use same process. If we have a problem contacts them about it and they will forward it to RH.

Questions were raised as to why the Grand Theater still standing blighted and has not been gutted. Reid said it has been adjudicated and a lien put on it. . It is suppose to be a part of the city redevelopment package. It has been brought to the attention of City of New Orleans and DA office. Why isn't the fine being added up for daily costs? Code changes are being recommended for more aggressive actions to reduce blight.

Acceleration is the goal on all adjudication of blighted properties. Recommend that we work with RH for properties that are supposed to be repaired and get them to go after those owners. Reid said they are working with them on that issue. Commercial property that has not been gutted should be demolished. We should consider suing the Commercial owners but some of commercial owners have temporary restraining orders are in place. What can we do as citizens to help you (Code Enforcement)? Public Health issue is the approach they are taking to get the judges to agree with request from Code Enforcement. Imminent danger how do we define that with code enforcement? Mr. Reid triggers imminent danger, safety and permits is the only one that can determine imminent danger. If the building under 50% damage after inspection they can file a temporary restraining order (TRO).

Renaissance Market Place: Booth rentals \$35, entertainment, zoo mobile, kids tank, every 4th Saturday. We want to show that we can develop a shopping area in NO East. Lavon Trapania (Vendor Rep) Roland Doucette grass root efforts is his objective. We ban together to make NO East a better place. Phenomal response to idea. 287-9228 contact number.
www.renaissancemarketplace.com . Packets given to prospective vendors. All profits are of the owner.

Residents requested our support to attend the LHFA hearing against Peltier Gardens request for tax credits for a 400 unit 100% section 8 developments.

T. Jones announced that Senator Duplessis will be on radio station WBOK on tomorrow 5-13-09, with the Dr. Foley with VOB Developers and also a representative from Lake Carmel.

Why are we still pursuing Wal-Mart? We should pursue other business. Residents are frustrated with pursuing Wal-Mart.

Good News:

Scineaux-Richard highlighted two ENO businesses:

Sammie's' Chicken and Waffles

Royal Cakery is returning to its former location.

Motion made to adjourn Commissioner Maurice and second by Bunny Vallon.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.