

2-2-23 FMIA Board Meeting, 7 pm

Members Present: *Allen Johnson, Jeffrey Seymour, Lisa Faatland, Kip Hollar, Bobby Moffit, Mark Malous, Phillippe Lege*

Meeting Place - French Quarter - Realty 1024 Esplanade

1. President's Report - Allen Johnson

1924 Dauphine - many illegal acts have occurred. A new contractor is on board. A \$5,000 fine has been levied by the HDLC because of past actions.

Big Freeda, 2100 block of Decatur- Only plans have been announced - There will be 5 rooms, a bar, a restaurant, a sometimes night club, pool, an outdoor space by the parking lot. No permitting is in place.

February meeting will move back to February 27 as 3rd Monday is Lundi Gras.

5th District meeting - Allen went with Leslie. The police appreciate when people come in and feed them during special events. The 8th District is covered by cops 8 during special events.

Coffee convo - JP Morrell will be at Baldwin's on Thursday, February 9, at 8:30 am. The hot topics will include STR's, marching parades, and crime.

2. Treasurer's Report - Phillip Lege

There is currently nothing significant. The Physter sisters check remains outstanding. FMIA receives \$30 every month from an FMIA supporter.

The bank balance stands at \$52,855.00. The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously

3. Committees - Kip Hollar

Kip sent to Doc re infrastructure: Issues included several street lights are out, street maintenance, drainage.

Due to an accident on Elysian Fields at N. Rampart - Entergy removed wood power pole, the wires were pulled across Elysian Fields with no middle support; the accident debris still there; the street light pole still a mess, gas and antifreeze from accident has not been cleaned up.

This administration is big on bike lanes. Kip to request data on how many accidents have occurred before and after the bike lanes were installed on Elysian Fields. Kip will speak with the neighbourhood engagement for District C - julia.stern@nola.gov.

Kip is creating a contact list for committees including the committee heads as well as secondary heads, with phone numbers and emails.

Gary, Robert, and Kip met over the summer and participated in a zoom meeting with the postal service to look into mailing options. FMIA could do bulk mailing or every door, direct mail by carrier. A cost analysis was carried out and the cost was close between the two. There would be a total 1,894 mailings. i

A designed post card could be created and include a QR code which would lead to the FMIA website. Hopefully this would generate more membership which is currently stands at 178 members.

Once a person is on the website through the QR code, the FMIA could note what we have accomplished in the year and what we want to accomplish in the upcoming year. Some of the past accomplishments could include: FMIA created the first historic district outside of the Quarter in the mid 70's, created our own zoning, stopped the Mississippi River bridge from coming in at Press St., and more recently, stopping 502 Frenchmen (protecting historic buildings). Call Gary with any ideas of accomplishments.

4. Meet the Neighbours - Lisa Fatland

Lisa will reach out to DJ of Nola Art Bar (NOAB) on St. Claude to host a Meet the Neighbours.

5. Land Use - Jeffrey Seymour -

The CPC has relieved themselves of STR regulations. The next issue will be subdivision regulations. The subdivision rules were created in 1999. The city has since then issued three versions of the subdivision rules; these rules were never adopted to coordinate with the CZO. With this situation, we were able to stop the illegal subdivision at 621 Elysian Fields.

FMIA has some issues with the proposed draft of new review regulations. The CPC is relieving themselves of certain responsibilities, and at the same time they want to gain additional authority and autonomy.

An example of unbalanced oversight is the person next door wants to change their railing and you get a postcard, but another neighbour wants to subdivide their property and there is no notification.

The CPC staff and executive director are trying to push through the new regulations so they can continue to run without oversight and transparency. There was a motion to engage a lawyer for up to \$2,000 to discuss subdivision regulations so that proposed city subdivision regs would not be in conflict with states statutes. The motion passed unanimously.

6. STR's - Allen Johnson and Margaret

There was a good turnout but due to weather warning, the meeting was called short .

The STR discussion centred on residential STR's; commercial str's were not in consideration. Several options were discussed such as: density limits, one str per block face, one operator per site, one person can own a non commercial str and cannot be an llc, etc.

As witnessed, one historic neighbourhood's ban on str's affects other historic districts. The same rules should apply to the French Quarter, Treme, Marigny etc. We need to get data on number of hotels, commercial corners, and keep tabs on how many rooms they have.

7. Krewe du Vieux - Allen Johnson

The Krewe submitted their preferred route in November. The Krewe was given the same route as last year.

As Allen mentioned, it would be better to have staging on Homer Plessy - better for the mules, and it wouldn't bother the residents,.. Note, the Krewe du Vieux is not considered Mardi Gras which is a major sticking point for clean up, police etc.

It would be a big win for marching groups on this side of Canal to be established as Mardi Gras.

An aside: there's a lot of history from the late 60's - history of preservation in city. We should speak with Gene Cizek who can be considered as the father of historical preservation. It would be good to get the history of this neighborhood and its evolution. We could do a video of Gene and also get NOVA involved.