

3-2-23 FMIA Board Meeting, 7 pm

Members Present: *Allen Johnson, Lisa Faatland, Kip Hollar, Gary de Leumont, Phillip Lege*

Meeting Place - French Quarter Realty - 1024 Esplanade Ave.

1. President's Report -Allen Johnson

Parking Enforcement will be coming to the next meeting, April 17, and discuss the illegal parking on St. Claude, Rampart and Elysian Fields, and illegal food truck parking.

Frenchmen Promenade -The 5th District plan to permanently detail officers and include the John Bar once are new officers are available.

HDLC will allow a home owner to put obtrusive flashing lights on the side of their house. The issue was pulled from City Council agenda. There are different camera programs available; it could be this camera came through Homeland Security. We will see what the resolution is.

502 Frenchmen (old Mona's) -is a significantly rated building under full control HDLC requirements. Owner wants to do a buildup in the courtyard. There would be 100 percent demolition of the roof, more hotel rooms, etc.. The Owner went to the HDLC and the idea was vetoed. The Owner went to ARC recently and the issue was deferred. It will now go to City Council. Allen will go to Freddie King's office tomorrow to discuss. Many of the immediate neighbours in the vicinity are also opposed.

2. Treasurer's Report - Phillip Lege

Nothing major to report. The insurance check was sent for liability coverage.

3. Committees - Kip Hollar

Blight code enforcement 939 Elysian St, next to the Phoenix: railings were put up on 1st and 2nd floors that are not in line with

HDLC guidelines and approved plans. The entire block emailed regarding this and an inspector will be sent out.

Communications on the website are not up to date. Ryan was supposed to be in charge of communications for the website. Gary will contact Ryan.

Infrastructure - Doc has been going back and forth with various city agencies regarding issues - street lights on Elysian Fields are now working, water lines on Press were cut off.

Membership Outreach - Kip to present an idea for the postcard at the next meeting.

Nuisance bars - complaints about the John -neighbours are sending in emails. Haven't heard anything about Iggy's in a while. Big Daddy's has cut back hours.

Washington Square, Parks and Parkways - a bench was stolen at the Aids memorial. It will be replaced by Aquatic Gardens who will determine the dedication.

Streetcar to open April 6, but as of today it is not running. The streetcar has not been not operational since the Hard Rock building collapsed, October 2019. Time will tell when the streetcar will become operational.

Kip is still looking to have active membership on committees.

4. Meet the Neighbours - Lisa Fatland

April MtN is at Baby's, 2400 St. Claude, corner of St. Roch, on Thursday, April 13, from 6-7:30. I have spoken to NOAB but there seems to be scheduling issues.

5. STR's - Allen Johnson

One str per square by a lottery. A release valve to help people in need was established. There are 79 squares in the Marigny; there will be one str per square determined by lottery. Every applicant will have to pay to submit their application. A person can apply through the release valve

process. City planning staff will process the release valve applications based on 6 criteria. Afterwards, the application goes to the city council for approval - thus the individual city council office will or won't approve the release valve str. Currently, there are 127 legal residential permits. There are a total of 399 str's in the Marigny which means that over 2/3's of the str's are illegal. There are 44 Bed and Breakfasts which are grandfathered in and they counted for the one per square.

The court has not approved the above yet. The judge mentioned if the city council can't come up with a set of legal str rules, the judge will write the rules.

Probably somebody will sue due to the arbitrary nature of the above described system. The bans on French Quarter and Garden District str's were not touched.

Rules for commercial STRs will be considered shortly.

6. Pedal Carriages - PJ & Rob Lynch presented their pedicab business. The city wants to see a 40% increase in pedicabs. The DBE requirement is to have a certain percentage of minority or women in the business. Oliver Thomas has pushed this, and now it is law.

The issue coming up is with pedi taverns of which several are illegal. Should pedi taverns become legal, the routes would need to be approved by ground transportation. As it was explained the routes would go through commercial areas and almost no residential. It would be a BYOB situation that would finish by 10 pm. There would also be music. The pedi taverns would only operate on 35 miles per hour or less.

FMIA is opposed to supporting pedi taverns as it's not in the best interests of the membership. The French Quarter is opposed to the pedi taverns. Also as there is not enforcement on many other critical issues, there would probably be no enforcement for pedi taverns

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7. **2600 St. Claude** proposed repurpose to Rum Distillery - Allen Johnson

Allen, Gary, Lisa attended the meeting with the surrounding neighbours. A proposal was presented for a rum distillery at the back of the building with a t.b.d. commercial business at the front. The entrance to the tasting room leading to the 2nd floor was located on Franklin St. which the neighbours oppose. It would be preferable to have the entrance on St. Claude. The front part of the building on St. Claude would be for a commercial business that would bring in some revenue. Some other considerations mentioned traffic generated at Franklin and St. Claude for the operations of the distillery.

A number of conditional uses would be needed: use of property over 10,000 commercial sf, to sell alcohol that is not their own rum, to have live music in the tasting room, parking waivers, possible CU for the unknown use of the rental property. Note: Typically CU's stay with the property when sold. It is not known how many parking waivers would be requested also because it's not known what business would rent the front part. The proposal for the rum distillery now goes to City Planning Commission; the owner representative has six months to present the project to CPC.

Some requests by the neighbours included St. Claude entrance, sound proofing, a proviso if the business fails - the property loses its CU's, live music contained to the tasting room and not alter the size of the tasting room, live music Friday - Saturday to finish at 9 pm, no amplification.

We're in favour of the project but with the provisos.

9. **Lucky Dog in the French Quarter** - Allen Johnson

Minority businesses will be petitioning the city in regards to food vendor business in the Quarter as they want a piece of the action. At one time there were several street vendor businesses in the Quarter. However the city wanted to limit the number of food carts. Thus an ordinance was written in the 1970's to reduce the number of vendor businesses. Only two vendors survived due to the requirement that the vendor had to have been in business for 8 years. Currently only Lucky Dog has a permit to run food carts creating a monopoly.

