

06-01-23 FMIA Board Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom

Members Present: *Allen Johnson, Phillip Lege, Lisa Faatland, Kip Hollar, Gary De Leaumont, Mark Malous, Maurice Sholas (Doc), Bobby Moffit, Jeffrey Seymour, Kiriah Haubrich, Gregor Fox, Jeff Treffinger, Jonny Liss, Cat Todd*

1. President's Report -Allen Johnson

There is a meeting Saturday, June 24, from 9:00-11:00, breakfast included at the Harbour Room in City Park. The meeting is about infrastructure with the SWB and Department of Public Works which link up well together. Registration is required for the event and the places are filling up fast.

Doc added that the number one group off people that are injured on the job are the meter readers which drives up the costs through workmen's comp, ie dogs loose, owners don't know who's on their property etc. It also costs to leave notices that they have been there. SWB will be going to automated billing starting the 4th quarter and into the next year.

2. Treasurer's Report - Phillip Lege

The Aids bench for Washington Square was found in storage. It needs to be repaired or replaced if it is not repairable. The names can be seen on the bench.

It would cost \$2,500 to replace the bench mentioned above.

The treasurer's report will follow as the bank statements arrived today.

3. Committees - Kip Hollar

Board elections will be held this September. There needs to be more than just 7 people leading the fmia and running it on day to day basis.

4. JAM Nola - Jonny Liss, Cat Todd

Jam Nola opened during the pandemic and thrived. It is a great cultural add to the city. They have outgrown their space at NOCA.

The Bender Bakery building was purchased by Jam Nola. The space will double the current size. The plans for the buildings have basically been approved by HDLC with a few modifications.

Drawings were reviewed during the meeting. There will be a retail gift shop, a cafe for which a tenant is needed. There are no conditional permitting or zone changes. Nine parking spaces will be leased from Julian Mutter in the parking lot across the street. There are no conditional permitting or zone changes.

Kat runs Where Y'Art at Royal and Kerlerec Streets since 2015. It is an on line gallery of emerging New Orleans artists turned socially conscious art consulting company. Their mission is to elevate and spread the message about the power of art and how an investment in local art means a richer culture and a thriving community for all.

Where Y'art is the creative partner to Jam Nola. Jam Nola was able to provide a space for Where Y'art as a space for community. This new space will amplify what they have been doing and showcase the talent in New Orleans.

Jam Nola will be happy to donate space to the neighborhood/FMIA, i.e., as a possible Meet the Neighbours. Opening date is scheduled for December 24.

Jam Nola would like to advertise through the FMIA, or otherwise FMIA could do e-blasts for them.

5. 2113 -2115 Chartres - Kiriah Haubrich (neighbour), Gregor Fox (owner), Jeff Treffinger architect

Gregor sold the warehouse (Trash Palace or preferably renamed as The Bottleworks) but kept the 619 Frenchmen Art Market which is adjacent to the backside of the Chartres property. Gregor wants to combine the Art Market with the Chartres space.

The project requires two things:

1. A minor resubdivision of the Art Market and lot 19, that is 2113-2115 Chartres - to develop a restaurant. Basically combine the Art Market on 619 Frenchmen with 2113/15

Chartres St. Currently 2113/2115 has split zoning - HMC 1 & 2 which they want to resolve. They want the entire site zoned HMC1 which exists already on the Art Market. Currently no tenant for the restaurant.

2. Propose a waiver, conditional use, to increase allowable sq ft from 3,000sf to 5,000sf for commercial development, namely the restaurant. The 5000sf includes the exterior space of the Art Space. They will not apply for the conditional use until there is a tenant.

Gregor has spent a lot to create art market space which would be preserved. The primary access to the restaurant would be on the Art Market side, not on Chartres St. The egress to the restaurant on Frenchmen would deter crowds from gathering on Chartres. Also the entrance off Frenchmen would allow for ADA ramp. Zoning did not have a problem with this idea.

Marketing for a restaurant will start tomorrow.

Contact Kiriah Haubrich, who works for Gregor Fox with any questions.

6. Meet the Neighbours - Lisa Fatland

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 29, at the The Friendly Bar, on 2301 Chartres St., from 6:00 to 7:30

7. Website - Mark Malous

On the home page removed "coming soon" and replaced with weekly e-basts; removed reference of newsletters, replaced with monthly meetings; removed all info about business memberships until this is rectified; replaced last year's Mardi Gras pics with this year's; added standard info on camera registration with NOPD; under general meetings removed from dashboard if we're not able to update it; newsletter changed header to "archived newsletter"; "join us" now has standard membership included as header with levels of membership. A half dozen things did not get updated and are being worked on.

Lisa will send meeting reports to be placed on the website - archived.

Gary mentioned that Mark could add when there are general meetings, board meetings, and Meet the Neighbours - but Mark would need to be notified of such.

We should all look at the website, think about advertising and make any suggestions for the website.

8. Landuse - Allen Johnson

502 Frenchman - was defeated again. It will go through the process for a 4th time with HDLC and ARC for demolition of the roof. They want to set up a tour of building.

Rum Distillery at Franklin and 2600 St Claude -

The FMIA sent a letter of support but with proviso's such as the entrance on St Claude etc. However, the foundation is not strong enough to support the distillery tanks, and it was going to be cost prohibitive.

807 Esplanade at Bourbon-

This used to be movie studio. The current status is that there are three str's on Esplanade and three on Bourbon. They want a principal bed and breakfast which would give them give 9 rentals. The board did not make a decision in any direction with this structure.

9. Board Elections - Kip Hollar

No one has reached out to either Mark or Gary in regards to running for the board. Mark, Jeffery, Doc, and Lisa will remain on the board. Bobby, Philip, Kip and Allen will be leaving the board. Kip will run again for the board. Allen wants to stay active say on a committee, but wants to be uber focused on Blight, help Jeffrey with land use issues, and Cops 8.

To run for the board one has to have been a member for a year. Also, we need to form a nominating committee. Allen, Gary, and Doc will be on the nominating committee. If anyone has any ideas, please send emails to Allen.

Ariel Johnson and her friend seem to be very engaged. As per Philipp, she would like to be engaged. We could ask Ariel to be on a committee.

Gary reconsidering coming back depending on the need, perhaps as past president or a board member.

10. Business Membership - Mark Malouse

What is the benefit of a business membership for \$150.00. In the past these memberships received ad space in the newsletter. Perhaps we could consider saying the e-blast was sponsored by We need to talk to Ryan and see what Wild Apricot allows us to do.

11. Audubon & Crescent Park - Allen Johnson & Kip Hollare

Allen and Kip went to a meeting with Ron Forman regarding building on the warf which would be expensive. Whatever would gets built, there will need to be a revenue stream to be self maintaining. There will be more on this topic next month. The Audubon Commission will go before council in August.

12. Misc. Roots of Music has moved to Treme.