

7-6-23 FMIA Board Meeting, 7 pm

Members Present: *Allen Johnson, Lisa Faatland, Kip Hollar, Gary de Leumont, Phillip Lege, Mark Malous, Bobby Moffit, Maurice Sholas, Jeffrey Seymour*

Meeting Place - French Quarter Realty - 1024 Esplanade Ave.

1. President's Report -Allen Johnson

Freddie King appointed a five person task force to stream line Safety and Permits to make the department more efficient, he proposed an ABO ordinance to allow bars temporary ABO permits.

Blight a continuing issue in the neighbourhood - The person who owns Mardi Gras Zone, owns property on Archthitect St. that is being used as str/s and running construction from there too. The neighbours have complained to Safety and Permits. We will probably see some action regarding this shortly.

Freda's has been fenced off, it's had a fire and the balcony is falling off. Neighbours have complained. Freda's investors have done nothing; safety and permits is looking into the matter due to the dangers of the balcony collapsing.

502 Frenchmen - another blight issue, blocking of the sidewalk and street, squatters are scaling/ repelling down the girder. Note: fencing has no permit,

There are many complaints regarding St. Claude St. ie, shootings, illegal food vendors, illegal parking, trashing of the street, etc.

Howie Kaplan, the night mayor, due to pressure, had a sweep on Bourbon St. which netted 5 tickets being issued.

Freddie King is very good on quality of life issues.

807 Esplanade did get a conditional use as a bed & breakfast from CPC staff.

2. Treasurer's Report - Phillip Lege

Elisa Cool Murphy donated \$100.00 on top of a business membership

As the original Aids bench is in too many pieces, the FMIA will proceed in replacing the bench at a cost of \$2,800. Phillip will coordinate. The board approved unanimously to spend \$2,800.00 for the bench which will be taken from the Aids memorial funds.

Utility box painting on Royal and Elysian Fields - The board voted unanimously for Philip to move ahead getting permits/permissions and insurance to paint the utility box.

The current amount in the FMIA account is \$54,904.87, with \$10,000.00 of the total set aside for Aides Memorial. Treasurer's report approved unanimously.

3. Committees - Kip Hollar

Kip presented New FMIA banner to be used for different purposes.

Marigny Triangle Safety Group - Sue Sims is heading the group. A few people from the group met with Freddie King and various city officials including Dashia Myles, the city attorney. There will be a multi departmental effort requiring funding. King to speak to the Chief of Police for extra funding to cover overtime. A great deal of coordination and planning will be needed.

More recently there was a sweep from 8th district around the John. The night chosen was a slow night but there was still a lot of drama.

4. Meet the Neighbours - Lisa Fatland

The meeting for July 27, will take place at the Ruby Slipper from 6-7:30 pm.

5. Web site - Mark Malous

Wild Apricot is used for e-blasts, website etc. By July 18, FMIA needs to decide if to keep Wild Apricot subscription, or pay month to month. The cost is \$140.00, per month or \$1,512.00, annually. The board unanimously agreed to go month to month with Wild Apricot. We will ask Ryan for suggestions to replace Wild Apricot as the server.

6. Board of Elections - Kip Hollar & Mark Malouse

Bobby and Gary are willing to run again. Elisa Cool Murphy would consider being on the board. Ryan could consider being on the board perhaps as corresponding secretary. Gary has spoken to Lisa Suarez as past president for that position.

Committee chairs are also needed.

7. Hide, Lock, Remove - Allen Johnson & Kip Hollar

Signs in the neighbourhoods that say hide, lock, remove. Need to reach out to Bryan Block of the HDLC to see if we can put these signs up. Allen will check with Department of Public Works, and then consider placing the signs in public lots, by the river wall to post these signs. We don't want these signs in residential areas. The FQMD - French Quarter Management district are in favour of these signs but there might be issues with the VCC.

8. Spotted Cat - Allen Johnson

A few people went to the NPP for the Spotted Cat. Two bars are allowed per block face on Frenchmen St., which in this case is The Spotted Cat and the Apple Barrel. The other businesses need to be restaurant/bars. The Spotted Cat wants to remodel the back spaces adding a courtyard; a three story wall would be erected to block noise. There would be no live entertainment outside. They would need to renew their conditional use with the new configuration of their space. The board unanimously approved the renewal of the Spotted Cat's conditional use.

9. Historic Sign Motion - Allen Johnson

The Motwani group wants to replace the original Tujaque sign and replace it with donut signage from an out of town firm. This is a very contentious issue. Currently, a FQ business cannot have fluorescent signs or a sign as large as the vintage Tujaque sign; the VCC requires smaller signage. However a business can replicate their original sign if it can't be moved. Tujaque's moved down the street and did just that. King proposed to keep the original Tujaque sign but change the lettering of the sign and thus create a non compliant sign. Currently there are 35 protected signs in the city as a whole. The board will wait until King submits his final motion on signage before voting on the issue.

10. Membership - Kip Hollar

FMIA Postcard - Kip presented three different size post cards and incorporated information from Gary and Lisa's written draft. Content and size to be considered by the board with cost determined by size chosen. One item to add to the text is public safety.

How will the post cards be mailed out– We can miss part of the Marigny foot print or spill over to other neighborhoods in a general mailing. In the past, we sent out mailings that spilled over into other neighborhoods, and we received memberships from people outside the Marigny.

Business Memberships - for now these memberships have been frozen and are not on the website. However, these memberships are still being renewed. There are fourteen small business memberships and two large business memberships. These memberships are not receiving anything in return for their higher fees. The board needs to consider how we can give business memberships some form of advertising.

There are a number of members without an email on their profile which means they are not being notified to renew their membership.

11. STR and Transient Lodging Study - Allen Johnson

Harris reintroduced a motion on May 25, in regards to an all consuming lodging study which touches on hotels, hostels, Bed & Breakfasts, principal and accessory, commercial str's. We've talked in the past about eliminating commercial str's and make them hotels.

For any hotel over 10,000 sf, it must go through conditional use process. However, an HMC2 zoned residential property such as seen on Elysian Fields and St. Claude can become a hotel by right. Example: A double shotgun, across the street from Mags on Elysian Fields of about 1,400 sf is zoned HMC2 and is applying to be a hotel. This building is obviously housing and not a hotel type of building.

On Tuesday, July 11, the city council will discuss transient lodging housing and comments will be received from the community. This is an opportunity for Marigny residents to object to the fact that there are no density limits for transient lodging in our neighborhood nor in Tremé and Bywater. However, there is a ban on transient lodging in the French Quarter.

12. Misc.

As fewer people are participating with potluck dinner we should consider discontinuing the practice.