

# FAUBOURG MARIGNY

IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION



Volume 35, No. 1

*Les Amis de Marigny*

January 2007

*Helping to make Marigny a better place to live, work and play*

[www.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org)

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## *In Memory*

The Marigny lost a wonderful human, mother, wife and friend.

Helen Hill died tragically Thursday, January 4, 2007, at her home where she was shot during a house break-in. Born in Columbia on May 9, 1970, she was the daughter of Jacob Davis Hill, Jr. and Becky Wingard Hill Lewis. She was reared with her brother, Jacob Davis Hill, III, by her mother and stepfather, Kevin Lewis. She attended Brennen Elementary, Hand Junior High and graduated from Dreher High School and Harvard University. She then trained as an experimental animated filmmaker at California Institute for the Arts. She and her husband, Dr. Paul Gailiunas, a general practitioner, lived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for several years before settling in New Orleans.

Helen's films won prizes at home and abroad. She was a valued teacher, and her widely distributed publication, *Recipes for Disaster: A Handcrafted Film Cookbooklet*, for experimental animators, was supported by a grant from the Canada Council. She won a Rockefeller Foundation Program for Media Arts grant in 2004 to support the making of a film, *The Florestine Collection*, about a unique African-American seamstress in New Orleans.

## Questions? Need Info?

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Helen was a gift to all who knew her. Her unbridled optimism and light touch were an oncoming sunrise to all whom she loved, enjoyed, and inspired. Her convivial monthly tea parties help to explain the large following of young people in New Orleans who loved her in return and join in mourning her death.

Permanent Katrina damage to their home had driven Helen, Paul, Poppy, and Rosie, their pig, to temporary sanctuary in Columbia. But Helen's love of New Orleans drew them back in the summer of 2006.

Surviving are her husband; son, Francis Pop Gailunas; her mother and stepfather of Columbia; her brother, Jacob; her sister-in-law, Brett Mirsky Hill; nephew, Wyatt Davis Hill, all of New York, N.Y.; her father of Portland, Maine; a large circle of aunts, uncles, cousins; and a grandmother by marriage. She was predeceased by her maternal grandparents, Albert Kenneth Wingard and Helen Addison Wingard, for whom she was named; and paternal grandparents, Jacob Davis Hill and Theo Gause Hill.

Helen was a true part of the fabric we call New Orleans and her absence will be felt greatly.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to "Doctors Without Borders" or to the Helen Addison Wingard Scholarship Fund at Columbia College, Columbia.

## President's Report

By Chris Costello

Happy New Year. It was a hectic last couple of months in 2006, working on the UNOP, staving off the Riverfront Vision 2005 Plan and keeping Bellsouth from erecting a 30' by 30' telecommunications switching station in the middle of our neighborhood. The good news is that the UNOP plan is almost over, we successfully amended the Riverfront Vision 2005 Plan and Bellsouth's application was turned down at HDLC. With all that was going on and our regular 9 to 5, not much time was left for our November newsletter. Not to fear, we have folded it into our January issue.

There is much to celebrate, but sadly there is also one to mourn — the tragic death of our neighbor and friend Helen Hill. Her death motivated our neighborhood and the residents of the New Orleans to march on City Hall saying, "Enough is enough." Her senseless death will not be forgotten and it is my hope that we will learn and grow stronger because of it.

Congratulations to all those who helped us in pulling off a very successful walking tour. It was a beautifully sunny and brisk day in the park where neighbors, friends and visitors enjoyed the art market and walking tour. A big thanks to Bill Marigny Hyland, a great, great, great, great, great grandson of Bernard Marigny and the current personification of Bernard's ghost, Lloyd Sensat for producing the tour and entertaining tour goers. It was a wonderful event that educated people about our historic neighborhood. (Continued pg. 8)

## Walking Tour Success

By Leigh Crawford

Washington Square Park was the starting point for our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall Walking Tour. The Park was also the site of our second Art Market, with 14 artists set up under the extraordinary canopy of the Washington Square Oaks.



The Tour guides led groups through the neighborhood at half hour intervals from 12 o'clock noon till 3:30 pm. While pointing out our notable architecture and historic homes they told the tale of how Faubourg Marigny came to be. Along the journey these groups had a chance meeting with the Marquis Antoine Xavier Bernard Philippe de Marigny de Mandeville himself in the Court Yard of the Claiborne Mansion. A place he was often entertained with music recitals by the daughter's of W. C. C. Claiborne, the son of our first American



Governor. From all accounts the Marquis was charming and lively with quite an eye for the pretty girls taking the tour!

A total of 74 people took the tour and they and many more visited the Art Market for an early start to holiday shopping. There were artist from many disciplines. Represented were printmaking, jewelry making, photography, pottery, soft sculpture, soap making, glass blowing, the written word and fine art. Both the artists and attendees agreed that it was a great market and a wonderful venue.

Next May we will have our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour, a self guided walk through the Faubourg with stops along the way to visit the interiors of historic buildings and homes. These two events, the Fall Guided Walking Tour and the Spring Home Tour (both with Art in Washington Square Park) give us in the Faubourg, those who live elsewhere in the city and others from beyond the opportunity to learn the unique history and architectural importance of our beloved Faubourg Marigny. We will look forward to seeing all of you and more at these events in 2007.

## *Caroling Fun*

Our Caroling event drew an enthusiastic crowd of young and old as we ushered in the Holiday season. Girls and Boys Town kicked off the event with a special ceremony officially opening the doors to their youth home. The kids were in true holiday spirit as they both made the ornaments and decorated the tree that graced Washington Square Park.

A big thanks to our Caroling Queen, Kellye Deel, for organizing the event. A special thanks to: Roland, R.J., Chris and Roseanne of Marigny Brasserie for the hot drinks and cookies, to Hubigs Pies for the delicious pies, to Rocky Russo for donating the brochures, to St. Paul Lutheran church for the use the sound system, and to Sarah Inman for the wonderful trapeze show. Last but not least to Rebecca Berry for her musical accompaniment.

We would also like to thank all those that helped clean the park on Saturday before and to John Deveney, Deborah Oppenheim, Rick Fifield, Leigh Crawford and Chris Costello for setting up and working the table the night of the event.

## *A Time to Renew*

January not only starts a new calendar year, but it also starts a new fiscal year for the organization. This means it is time to renew your membership dues. Dues are an important part of the organization in that they offset the cost for the newsletter and give us the working capital to put on the events we have throughout the year.

We are always looking for ways to save money and time so that our limited resources can go further. One way is to have members pay their dues by January so we do not have to incur the expense of stamped return envelopes and extra newsletter postage. We are asking members to renew in January by one of two methods.

1. If you have no changes to your contact information which includes your telephone number and email address, simply cut out your mailing label and return it to us with your dues by one of the methods below.
2. If you have changes to your contact information which includes your telephone number and email address, simply cut out your mailing label, annotate your corrections/additions on the mailing label and return it us with your dues by one of the methods below.

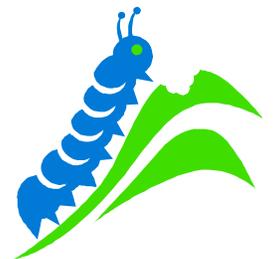
The 2007 dues rates are:

Individual - \$15, Individual Senior (65+) - \$5  
Household (2+ individuals) - \$20,  
Senior Household (2+ seniors) - \$10  
Business - \$25

You can either mail your renewal to our post office box, drop it off in the mail slot at 2408 Chartres Street, 2817 Burgundy or 2101 Burgundy #1 or bring it to a general meeting. (The next one is 1/15.)

## ***Buckmoth Caterpillars Are Coming. Ouch!***

It was hard to miss the swarms of buck moths that emerged rather early to lay their eggs. It is a sobering reminder that their offspring, the dreaded buck moth caterpillars with their colorful but toxin laden spines, will be covering our oaks in our yards and our beautiful Washington Square Park.





The Friends of Washing Square Park instituted a Save Our Trees program after Katrina to help the oaks in Washington Square Park stay healthy and buckmoth free. With over 40 trees in our park, the cost for spraying as well as fertilizing to keep them healthy is expensive yet what they give back in cool shade and beauty is well worth it.

We are asking people to adopt a tree by donating the money to pay for the yearly buckmoth spraying and fertilizing. The cost is \$55 per tree, \$30 for half a tree.

If you can adopt a tree, please send a check made payable to FMIA with "Save Our Trees" in the memo. Send to:

FMIA, Save Our Trees  
P.O. Box 770080  
New Orleans, LA 70177.

## Riverfront Re-Vision 2005

The fight is over and we won!

Thanks to Councilman Carter and Thomas for all their work on passing this historic amendment to the Riverfront Vision 2005 Plan. As you know, we have been very concerned with several of the recommendations in the Riverfront Vision 2005 plan such that we wanted the City Council to deny the motion to adopt it. Of major concern was that developers would suggest that the adoption of the Riverfront Vision 2005 Plan is a blanket endorsed of all the recommendations in the plan including the change in height variances at the riverfront sections called "nodes". The amendment makes it clear that such considerations will be discussed and considered later, when there is a specific proposal before the public, not in advance.

It was smiles all around at last Thursday's City Council meeting when Councilman Carter introduced the statesman-like amendment to the resolution approving and adopting the City Planning Commission's Riverfront Vision 2005. The amendment was readily accepted as a "friendly amendment" by City Council President Oliver Thomas, who had introduced the original resolution. Councilman Thomas said that he liked the amendment, because it made it clear that the public would have plenty of input opportunities as the city continued to plan

(Continued on pg 9)

## Yours Truly in a Swamp by Leonard Earl Johnson

From La Porte, Texas to The Promised Land

The year of the last great Cuban boatlift I was a crewmember aboard the U. S. flagged "S. S. Sealander," a container ship on a run with stops between Houston, Texas and Rotterdam, Holland. During that year the Sealander quit calling at the wharves along Houston's downtown Ship Channel and began stopping at newer, bigger facilities near La Porte, Texas – a town so far out in the boonies it was barely in from the Gulf of Mexico.

The Houston Port Authority's decision to move container service to La Porte was – and still is – a great thorny urchin in the belly of thirsty sailors everywhere. Mind you, near the new terminal existed a dirt - floored, tin - roofed watering hole named The Little Goat Ranch. It sat promisingly along the turn at Barber's Cut, on a beachhead that was easy walking distance from our ship's new berth. But it was not Houston.

(Continued on pg. 10)

## March for Survival

For those that attended, the march on City Hall was an amazing experience. Residents from all over New Orleans gathered at the foot of Canal to start the procession which wound its way through the CBD to make it to City Hall. The crowd was 3000+ with signs expressing the frustration we all feel about crime and the state of City.

The organizers of the march presented Five Ideas for Change to City Hall. They are:

### 1. Gun Safety, Gun Responsibility

Much gun violence is perpetrated with stolen weapons. When a gun is used in a violent crime, that gun must be traced.

### 2. Police Presence

The relationship between the police and the people they are called to protect must be revised. We must focus on building trust on the part of both officers and citizens. Our streets must feel safer and under the competent, steady supervision of our patrol officers.

### 3. Recognize the Tragedy of Each Victim

Each violent death is an individual and immeasurably tragic loss. We must treat each victim with the respect due to each valued member of our community, not as a number.



#### 4. Transparency

With greater access to information, we can all feel more in control of our environment.

#### 5. Prevention

Alleviating crime is impossible without addressing the root causes behind criminal actions. We must find a way to raise children who value life and our communities.

All the speakers echoed the responsibility for crime reduction is with both the police and the residents. We must all work together to solve this issue.

To get involved and for more information visit [www.silenceisviolence.org](http://www.silenceisviolence.org).

### Literary Round Table at the Hotel Royal Sonesta

The first Round Table Luncheon of 2007, taking place on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at noon at Begue's Restaurant in the Royal Sonesta Hotel.

Our guests are going to be columnist Leonard Earl Johnson and novelist Julie Smith who will be reading and discussing "Adventure in Publishing."

For reservations call Noel at 504-553-2220 or email: [nscallan@royalsonestano.com](mailto:nscallan@royalsonestano.com)

### MEET THE NEIGHBORS NIGHT

Come socialize with your fellow Marigny residents at our second Meet Your Neighbors night. The event will be at the R Bar (corner of Royal and Kerlerec), beginning at 6:30 p.m., with a published end time of 8:30 p.m. (though the last Meet Your Neighbors event lasted much longer!).

Thank you to Stephanie Pedro and Justin Kalina for organizing this event to help us rebuild our community.



This past week a Resource Team from the National Trust's Main Street Program was in town conducting an in-depth workshop and examination of the St. Claude Avenue Urban Main Street Project. The project was one of four urban Main Street projects recently selected by the Louisiana Main Street Program to share in a \$1.5 million redevelopment grant.

The St. Claude Avenue Project encompasses the St. Claude commercial district from Elysian Fields to Press Streets.

The Resource Team Workshop included a Public Forum which was held January 11 at Our Lady Star of the Sea. At this forum, the Resource Team shared their observations garnered through visits with the project's steering committee, interviews with local residents, business owners, and stakeholders, and walking tours of the project area. They also made recommendations for revitalizing this area based on their observations and experience in downtown renewal.

The St. Claude Main Street program is looking for volunteers to help them by being on one of the four committees. They are Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Development. If you can help, contact Kina Joshua at (504) 482.5722.

For more information on the Main Street Program visit <http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/lmsintro.htm>.

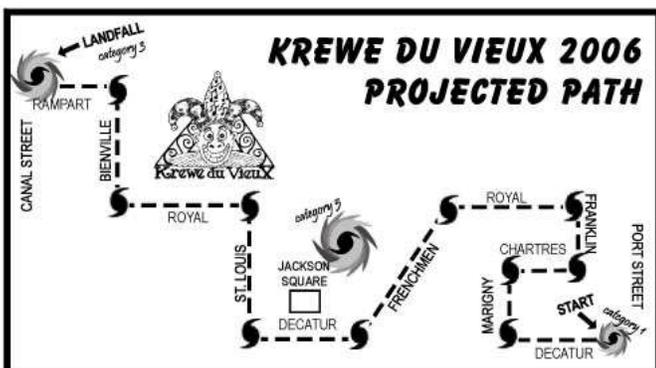


### Krewe Du Vieux

Mark your calendars. Krewe Du Vieux is February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The theme this year is **Habitat for Insanity** and the sub krewes

have good laughs in store with sub themes such as "HOME, HOME AND DERANGED", "Post Traumatic Sex Disorder" and "The Beauticians' Village" to name a few.

For a full list of the sub themes and additional information, visit [www.kreweduvieux.org](http://www.kreweduvieux.org).





## Fleur de Lis Physical Therapy

Fleur de Lis Physical Therapy sends a big **Thank You** to the F.M.I.A. for helping us get through our permitting process with City Hall.

We are offering all Association Members a **FREE** total body strength & fitness assessment, which can be followed by four training sessions at a deep discount, to help you start the New Year off right!

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might not be able to complete all the work. While we are waiting on the information from the manufacturer, we want to put some feelers out to see if we could get a corporate sponsor(s) to help us with the financial aspects of repairing/painting the equipment. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let us know.



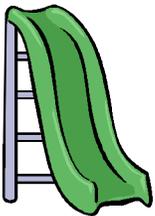
### Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) Update

The UNOP is in its final stages and will have our plan finished within the next two weeks.

The last community meeting, Community Congress III is scheduled for Saturday, January 20 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm (CST). The citywide public meeting will be held at the Convention Center, and free lunch, parking, childcare, and limited transportation will be available.

Registration is free and easy. You can either sign up on the UNOP website ([www.unifiedneworleansplan.com](http://www.unifiedneworleansplan.com)) or call 1-866-940-1095.

## Playground *PROGRESS*



The Friends of Washington Square Park had been working to replace the playground equipment with the help of neighbors (Scott Agies and Jeff Becker) hoping to tap into a program called Kaboom that donates the equipment to neighborhoods.

Luckily, we were informed that the equipment has had some safety issues which lead us to investigate finding the original manufacturer to find the replacement parts for the equipment. Thanks to the hard work of Robert Reddington and Calvin Rice, they were able to locate the manufacturer and get the original plans to the play ground. Calvin has made a partial list of the parts and once we compare that to the plan we will send the list to the manufacturer to get a quote.

Our goal is to have the equipment ready for spring but we also realize that depending on the cost we

**Yours Truly in a Swamp  
by  
Leonard Earl Johnson**

Thursday, November 2006  
L. E. J. Today / Happy Thanksgiving!

There be no accounting for taste, sugar, but Chicory-Coffee ice cream is better'n. . . Oh, breathing fast after an ecstatic experience.

We took Amtrak's Sunset Limited to Lafayette a couple of days ago, packing a thermos of Chicory-Coffee, and L. A. Norma. The train left New Orleans' Union Station on time, and then stopped at the Huey P. Long Bridge over the Mississippi for



two hours, awaiting two Southern Pacific freighters breaking the law.

By law, passenger trains are to be allowed past freight trains. By Democratic or Republican habit, Southern Pacific routinely holds up passenger trains while their dispatcher and crews do whatever, probably dinner and a bobbing on Bourbon Street.

Parking on The Bridge is doubly wrong. While S. P. may own the roadbed in general, the Huey was built by Huey P. Long and the People of Louisiana, and does not belong to these rogue train men.

The bartender told us the S. P. had been called on the carpet in Washington, to talk and wink and laugh with some Goofus W. Administration official about their massive delays -- sometimes as much as seventeen, sometimes twenty hours! In Lafayette locals call the train "on time" if it is within three hours of schedule.

The bartender said the train rouges decided to consider their fines, "probably low-balls levied in 1898," an operating expense, and the Goofus W. Administrator agreed to allow them tax deductions on them as "operating expenses." We all laughed and lifted a Corina beer at the passing cypress trees kicking their knees up over the Atchafalía Basin.

We arrived in Lafayette, "on time," two hours late. The land of boudin looked calm and peaceful. The Chicory-Coffee I brought with me turned out to be old and bitter.

"Like you," L. A. Norma observed as she stepped on the station platform and lit up a Camel cigarette. It was a few days before Thanksgiving.



### 2007 Home Tour

We are gearing up for our spring Home Tour. We need homes and help. If you or someone you know would be interested opening their home, helping out with the planning or volunteering the day of please contact Reg Medellin at (504) 940-4042.

## Orchids & Onions

### ORCHIDS

- ✿ . To Stephanie Pedro and Justin Kalina for organizing the Meet Your Neighbors events. Next one is 1/16 at the R Bar.
- ✿ . To Polly Brown, thank you for all you do and the hard work.
- ✿ . Baptist Friendship House for Mowing Washington Square Park.
- ✿ . To Councilmember Carter for his continued support of our issues, neighborhood and organization.
- ✿ . To Fleur de Lis Physical Therapy for coming to our neighborhood.
- ✿ . To Helen, Baty and Ken for organizing the march on City Hall

### ONIONS

- 🧅 .To those that do not pick up after their dogs.
- 🧅 .To those that trash our neighborhood by not putting trash where it belongs.
- 🧅 .To businesses that operate without the proper permits.

### Meetings

FMIA General and Board meetings are open to the public. Committees and committee meetings are also open to anyone who is interested or would like to help.

**Board meetings** are the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Location TBA (see FMIA website).

**General meetings** are the third Monday of each month and begin with a potluck at 6:30 p.m at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street. The meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. (There are no general meetings in July and December.)



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gets. Thank you to all those who participated in this neighborhood tradition and to those that helped make this such a fun event.

Our first Meet Your Neighbors event was a great success. Neighbors gathered upstairs at Mimi's to meet and greet and get to know one another. It was a great opportunity for the new neighbors to meet the seasoned ones and build an even greater sense of community. Our next one is 1/16 at the R Bar. Stop by and bring a neighbor.

2007 is already off to a productive start, but we will need your help to guide us down the right path. Please stay in touch, stay involved, and continue to do your part in helping to make the Marigny a great place to live, work and play.



## Marigny Bi-Centennial T-Shirts

We now have Bi-Centennial t-shirts and women's tank tops in various colors for \$15.

## ... and Mugs



There are also bi-centennial coffee mugs for \$5.

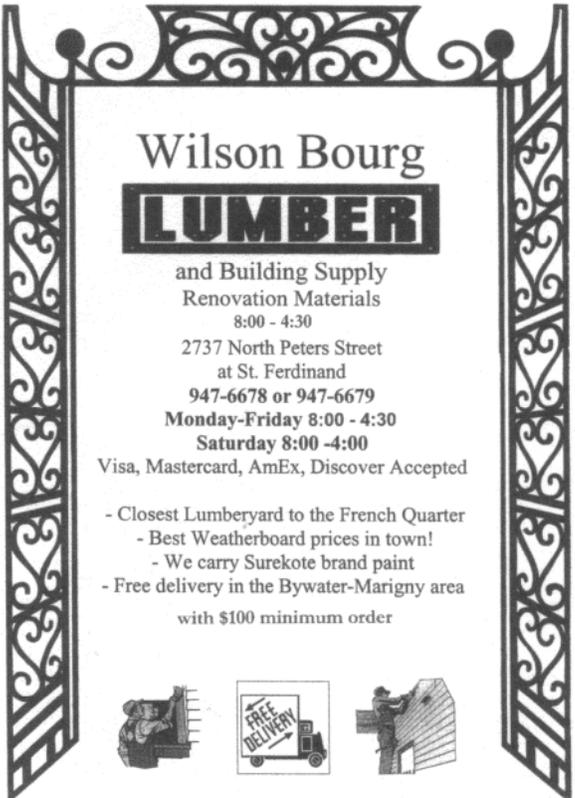
Interested? Email [info@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org).

## (President's Report Continued from pg 2)

I would also like to thank our tour guides: Russ Carl, Bill Whiting, Ron Joullian, Diane Krohn, Gretchen Bombay, Rick Fifield, Bobby Moffett, Marguerite Bergen, Scott Murison and Gene Cizek as well as our volunteers, Polly Brown, Ron Petty, Reg Medellin, Patty Marino, Leigh & Jim Crawford, Jason Patterson, Dan Harris and Diane Lease, and Deborah Oppenheim for all their hard work in putting together the event.

We took this opportunity to put together a special carriage ride tour for the City Council members to show them our neighborhood and the issues we face, since they all vote on matters that affect us and our neighborhood. We appreciate that Council members Carter and Fielkow were able to break away from their busy schedules to attend and that Council member Mindura sent her Chief of Staff to represent her. We were able to not only show them our wonderful neighborhood but also show them our concerns and the issues we are facing post Katrina.

A good time was had by all at our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual caroling event, which brought neighbors and friends from all over the City and visitors from around the world to our neighborhood. The cool weather, hot chocolate and cookies made us almost forget how hot the summer



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## *Lend A Hand?*

Interested in a better neighborhood? A better City? Want to meet some amazing people? Get involved. Now more than ever we need people to help us move our neighborhood forward through the recovery. If you can help, please contact a current Board Member or email [info@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org).



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**(Riverfront Vision 2005 continued from pg. 4)**

the re-development of its East Bank riverfront and that any potentially controversial issues, such as height variances, were not pre-determined by the adoption of this report.

How the amendment read before the changes:

“Be it moved by the council of the city of new Orleans that the City Council approves and adopts the Riverfront Vision Plan 2005 and pledges its support for plan implementation.”

The amendment now reads as follows: “BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS that the City Council generally approves and adopts the Riverfront Vision 2005, but this motion should not be taken as a blanket endorsement of every recommendation contained within the Riverfront Vision 2005 document. The City Council emphasizes that all zoning changes and each project or development proposal that requests a variance from existing zoning and scale will go through the normal community input and legal review processes.”

There are still other issues that we need to work on such as getting independent traffic and environmental studies

so we can investigate the impact (traffic, parking, pollution, safety etc) that increased density will bring to our neighborhood and find ways to mitigate where possible.

Additional thanks goes to Diane Lease, Dan Harris, Jim and Nancy O'Neil, Craig Morse, Chris Costello, Deanna Holladay, Robyn Blanpied, Gene Cizek, Deborah Oppenheim, Leigh Crawford, Rick Fifield, David Rosenberg and Julian Mutter for being on the ad hoc Riverfront Vision 2005 committee and implementing our plan, to Councilman Carter's staff for all their hard work, to Councilmembers Midura and Head for listening to our concerns and finally to Susan Klein, Nathan Chapman, Carol Greve and Chris Costello for working out the amendment with Councilman Carter.

Please consider sending a quick e-mail or call of thanks to Councilman Carter ([jcarter@cityofno.com](mailto:jcarter@cityofno.com), 658-1030) and Councilman Thomas ([omthomas@cityofno.com](mailto:omthomas@cityofno.com), 658-1070) for watching out for our neighborhoods on the Riverfront!

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**(Yours Truly in a Swamp continued from pg. 6)**

The Little Goat Ranch's services were mercifully available twenty four hours a day. And La Porte eagerly beckoned but two miles inland over a deserted asphalt road freshly laid and black as a captain's heart. It curved and unrolled between pastures dotted with long - horned cattle and live oaks awash with Spanish moss. I took a bicycle aboard ship with me in those days, and the ride into La Porte was an experience rivaling anything Dutch planning could create. But it was not Houston.

The Space Shot Motel & Bar sat at the intersection leading to downtown La Porte, or on to Houston, a distance too far for a sailor on a bicycle.

In La Porte, a meager destination if ever there was one, was a Saturday - only Spanish movie in a small wood building painted red. I never saw this business open. Always open was Rosita's Fajita Café & Gulf Coast Hobby Emporium. A lighted plastic sign proclaimed, "Eats," in one window and, "Lionel Trains for All The Ages," in the other. The door between opened on a large room containing both enterprises.

One warm January afternoon, I walked through that door and into the life of Cowboy Castro, a fine looking blue - eyed, brown - skinned local, with a not so fine looking purple "pick'em up truck." Among the truck's many dents and scratches stood a plastic two - foot Jesus holding a bleeding red heart in one hand and a

chromium pigtail radio antenna in the other. This Texas new - age icon was on the driver's front fender. Cowboy was in the Emporium purchasing tiny red lights for his statue, "To light the world through the eyes of Jesus!" I hired him on the spot to drive me back to the ship.

With bicycle secured in the truck's bed, we followed the red - eyed beacon of Jesus over the black top road back to the Goat Ranch. There, that night, the ship's Mate, Boson, Chief Cook, and I retained Cowboy to meet our ship each month, drive us into Houston, round us up gurgling in the morning light, return us dockside, and help us stumble up the accommodation ladder.

This arrangement went well. Houston was an alabaster city undulating on a deep pool of booming oil prices, an anything goes Babylon of the oil patch. Cowboy's purple "pick'em up" was the magic carpet that carried us there. Shore leave again was liberty for all.

Despite his religiosity and being on break from Texas A. & M., Cowboy performed his duties well and in time joined us in our in - port out of La Porte escapades.

Our favorite Houston destination was a long gray building along Westheimer Drive housing the Green Door. Neon tubing atop its flat roof showed huge chicken heads kissing among flashing red hearts and green dollar signs. Under this sign a row of green doors opened along a low slung front porch. Beside each door hung a red lantern similar to those used by old - time railroaders. If the railroader's lamp was lighted you could enter and talk privately with a scantily clad man or woman sitting behind a plate glass window. By the power vested in money pushed through a slot you could persuade your selection to stand and display further charms. It was living porno. Shocking, perhaps, but with the possible exception of Cowboy, we were depraved Salts and not missionaries.

Truthfully, Cowboy loved the Green Door and always arrived screaming Biblical quotes like, "Tis better to spill your seed in the belly of the whore than upon barren rock!" Then he would enter one of the doors labeled "Girl" and, as he put it, "Wax philosophic with the Jezebel inside."

Back at the ship one night, I suggested Cowboy join me in my fo'c's'le for a drink. After several, we passed out, awakening early next morning on the deck, under the bunk, with the ship rocking gently as it slipped out into the Gulf of Mexico.

Cowboy quickly grasped our situation and was not happy. "I've been shanghai'd!" he hollered. He cursed me in Spanish and English. He threw a Lone Star beer



can first at the Gulf of Mexico on the other side of the porthole, and then at me!

I hollered back, "Don't blame me, you Bible thumping Aggie. You think I want a stowaway in my cabin?"

The word "stowaway" brought us both up short and sober. He stopped fretting and agreed to make the best of our situation till reaching Miami, Florida, in two days. It was vital that Cowboy get off the ship in Miami. It was our last Stateside stop before heading across the North Atlantic to Rotterdam.

Certain he could walk off the ship in Miami and catch a plane back to Houston with no hitch, we settled in and became comfortable traveling companions. He stayed calmly in my cabin drinking beer, watching television, and feasting on food I spirited from the galley. He talked whimsically of his family's immigration from Cuba, "before the rise of Fidel," he was always quick to point out. He wondered if he might see the crimson isle when we sailed through the Straits of Florida. I reckoned not.

South of New Orleans, which sits in a hole below Sea level, we picked up Baton Rouge television, and saw film of the huge Mariel Boat Lift washing onto the beaches of Florida. Cowboy laughed aloud at Florida's "Gringo governor" greeting Cuban boat people while literally mopping his sweating brow. Then Cowboy's eyes lit up like the red - eyed Jesus on his purple truck. "Caramba!" he exclaimed. "If I can pass myself off as a boat person, I can slap slogan Commie - hating America all the way to easy street."

I was shocked and said so, "How could you, after fleeing Castro?"

"Fleeing Castro?" He peered at me with prove - it in his eyes and asked, "Are you crazy? That Castro was barely in from the hills when we left Cuba. This Castro," he said, pointing his thumbs at his chest, "was a baby. We were fleeing poverty. I still am ..."

As Cowboy was saying this, I felt the ship slow, then go dead in the water. I left him plotting his economic salvation and went topside. The Mate and Boson were walking back from a Jacob's ladder slung over the starboard gunnel. Six sunburned Cubans walked behind them. Off the stern, an unpainted rowboat with an upended oar sluiced in our wake. From the oar flapped a white cloth painted with black letters, spelling "SOS."

I followed them and waited outside the Captain's door until they came back out.

"Excuse me," I said, "but could one of you come with me?"

Both declined.

"Not with the fight I'm gonna' have with that drunken Steward over six extra rooms," said the Boson. He turned off towards the crew's quarters with the six Cubans following close on his heels.

The Mate said, "Sorry, Leonard, but I've got Federal paper to shuffle."

"You better, Mate," I said, relishing the power of my mystery, "we're in waters rough enough to beach us!"

The thing was, any ship irregularity meant more "paper shuffling," and the Mate hated paper work. He let off a sigh and walked with me back to my fo'c's'le. I opened the door. "Hi, Mate," Cowboy grinned, lifting his beer can.

"Jesus H. Christ in a pick up truck!" exclaimed the Mate, slamming the door tight.

In Miami, officers of the United States Coastguard collected our seven Cubans, their number having now grown by addition of the youthful, smiling, un - sunburned Cowboy.

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On our return from Rotterdam, there was no Cowboy to greet our ship at La Porte. Twelve months and as many trips passed. Then, on the day after Christmas, tumbling down the ladder, heading for the Goat Ranch, we saw Cowboy drive up in a new, air - conditioned pick'em up truck.

"The new truck's blue," he explained on the drive into Houston, "because they had no purple ones." He laughed, slapped his leg, and told us how the Miami VFW had bought him the truck.

"And that Gringo Governor of Florida," he laughed, "he got me an appointment to the National Maritime Academy at Kings Point." He grinned and handed the Mate a Lone Star. "I start in the Fall. Then I'll be sailing with you legal like."

The Mate popped the beer, rolled down his window, and screamed a wild Texas "Wa-hoo!" at three cows chewing on a discarded Christmas Tree.

"God bless us all," he said, pulling his head back into the cab, "God bless us all, and welcome to The Promised Land!"

More at [www.LEJ.org](http://www.LEJ.org)

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## Board Meeting Minutes

**October 4, 2006**

Chris called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

### Election of Officers

Nominations: Reg Medellion, Vice President; Deborah Oppenheim, Recording Secretary; Rob Reddington, Treasurer ; Corresponding Secretary, Leigh Crawford; and Chris Costello, President

Marshal Greis motioned to second in favor of Officers as nominated. Unanimous

### Old Business (Active)

**A.** Approval of minutes from 9/6 Board Meeting and 9/18 General Meeting Minutes. By consensus.

**B.** **October Walking Tour** - Tabled discussion.

### C. Bellsouth and the Digital Loop Carriers (2601 Burgundy) -

Chris spoke with Wayne Stein from Bellsouth and told him the Board has voted to oppose the location of the DLC in the neighborhood. Letter sent to Carter and other Council members about this issue.

**D. Retaining Legal Council for Zoning Issues** – Chris has been engaged in Phone Tag with a suggested lawyer. He did say he gives legal advice but does not sue. Still seeking more information.

**E. 2112 Burgundy (Fred Morgan)** – At last town hall it was suggested to report the house to the Good Neighbor Program and this was followed up.

**F. Neighborhoods' Planning Network Membership** – An application will be sent for NON voting membership.

**G.** Approve \$500 donation to St Paul's and check was sent with a letter of thanks.

### H. Projects

- 508 Frenchmen – Meeting with Carter about illegal operation of business. They are checking into it.
- 2328 Royal – Brian Frye investigated and now dumpster is gone and it was reported to Good Neighbor Program.
- 2710 Dauphine, Michael Olivas, Application to subdivide approved.
- Santa Fe – The same issues which are the dumping of their kitchen onto the street and the illegal bar upstairs - no progress
- Board approved the \$125 for the Transitional Board Meeting.

### Old Business (In-active)



## I. 2005 Riverfront Vision - No Status

1) Sean Cummings - Riverfront Development Corporation Committee sent a RFP to a lot of national architects. There were not many replies and to encourage interest, the Committee sent a box of incentives as a follow-up. Information from the State Board of Ethics is needed to clarify his position. FMIA mission is to serve and protect the Marigny. Another question was asked: What was in the RFP and was it approved by City Council? More information is needed.

2) Riverfront Development has not been mentioned in any discussion concerning rebuilding. We will have a Strategy session with our Attorney.

## J. Planning Meeting Report - No Progress.

## K. Survey of District 7 via Tulane School of Medicine - No Progress

## L. 501 (c) 3 Status. No Progress

## M. Need Zoning Chair? No Status

## N. Visibility of Marigny - More is needed

## O. Projects:

- 839 Elysian Fields - No Status
- 1017 Touro (Friendly Touch Bar) - No Status
- 801 Frenchmen - No Status

## New Business

### A. Next Board Meeting will be on November 1, 2006 at Deveney Communication

### B. Appointment of Committee Chairs

Caroling – Kellye Deel; Membership – Gary deLeaumont; Communications – Kara Kortman; Blight – Will Reihm; Website – Chris Costello; Volunteer - Open; Walking Tour - Open; Home Tour – Reg Medellin; Advertising – Open; Bylaws – Gary deLeaumont; Neighborhood Development – Brian Frye; Community Outreach - Marshal Greis; Frenchmen St. - Deborah Oppenheim; Educational Outreach – Deborah Oppenheim; Planning Committee – Gene Cizek; Newsletter – Simon Hand; Hospitality Gary deLeaumont; 8th District Non-Pac Brian Frye; Washington Sq. Park – Chris Costello

Approval of Committee Chairs By Consensus

**C. Unified Planning Process** - Brian and Chris met with Acorn Housing District Planners and discussed the Marigny's concerns. They said that they have a system in place to do the planning. They have a lot of



Universities who will facilitate and supervise students. FMIA met with other neighborhoods assigned to Acorn to find out their concerns. Many differences of opinions about Acorn. 1) Acorn local problems 2) Conflict of interest because they are building within the districts 3) they are facilitators and not planners 4) Absence of locals –will bring in out-of-state Universities and students 5) Historical, Acorn has had conflicts with HDLC standards 6) Their planning meeting was at an illegal bar. 7) Acorn Housing mission is to supply and secure middle income housing for people. 8) Information from Acorn has been difficult to obtain. Bywater, Holy Cross, residents from St. Roch, and Lower Ninth all thought it would be better for all the neighborhoods to request another Unified Planner. Motion was made to express our concerns with a letter from all the neighborhoods involved. Approved Chris will meet with Steven Bingler.

**D. KaBOOM! Operation Playground** -- Parks and Parkway have contacted FMIA on the subject of playground equipment for Washington Square Park. Jeff Becker and Scott Agies have stepped up to put the application forth to KaBoom Operation Playground, a Non-profit Organization to buy playground equipment.



The equipment that is in Washington Square Park is in disrepair, equipment is needed, and free. Is this appropriate equipment for the square and what would be appropriate was discussed. Chris said we don't want to be the organization that turns down free playground equipment. The concern is that Washington Square Park would not be a world heritage site. There is no way that the City will give the money for repairs of the equipment. Further discussion included: perimeters have to stay the same size, configuration has not been determine, color and quality, design, liability, maintenance and if the grant will be a problem for a non 501c organization. May need to be the organization for the application but will not have any liability or maintenance exposure. A proposal was made to look at the equipment in City Park and research the other unknown answers. Rob is checking the non profit status from the State.

**E. Cook Book Project** – Ann Stauss

([anniedd@charter.net](mailto:anniedd@charter.net), 504-220-2906) is putting together a cookbook with recipes from various neighborhoods. She will give a majority of the proceeds to the neighborhood organizations. A contract needs to be presented, approved and signed. Members can get discount. By Consensus

**F. Boys/Girls Town Caroling Collaboration** – Kellye Deel will be the Chairperson. Chris met with Boys/Girls Town and ironed out details of how the caroling will work. They will help out in the set-up and some financial assistance. Their event will be 5:00 – 6:15pm . The lighting of the tree will begin the Caroling. The kids will be engaged in cleaning up the park as their community service. OK by Board

**G. Jazz Series in Park** –Don Marshall , Executive Director Of Jazz and Heritage Foundation approach Deborah to see if FMIA would be interest in a Jazz Series. Ok by Board and Deborah will contact Don Marshall.

**H. Candidate Forum for Congress** - VCPORA asked if we wanted to be involved for a candidate forum on October 19 at Omni Royal. Small monetary commitment has been requested. The Board approved.

**I. Neighbors 4 Neighbors** – Meet with three young people on how to reach their age group. They suggested a monthly event which could be a Bar, NOCA, or Coffee Shop, Art Opening, social. The event could rotate between businesses. Sign up sheet for FMIA volunteers, FMIA membership, police liaison, community volunteer will be available. FMIA would sponsor. A suggestion was made to have a letter drafted and when approved will be hand delivered to the businesses. Information to

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residents would be included in our newsletter and five days before the scheduled social, distribution of flyers, and information to nola.com and our e-mail. It is a great idea and was approved by the Board. A name is needed for the group.

**J. Issues**

Bar Next to Elysian Fields Inn, Ado Haynes manages the Business. Major complaints and problems which are: people having sex in the bushes, noise , volatile abusive, nuisance parking, and food is being served. All the residents on the Block are extremely upset. Terry Theriot is the owner of building.

**K. Frenchmen Street Services** – Chris spoke with James Carter about our issues with the overlay, specifically enforcement and trash. He suggested that we do a letter writing campaign and then address the City Council with our complaints. The letter writing Campaign will be sent to our Council person, James Carter and all appropriate departments. A sample letter will be drafted for approval. Once approved FMIA will present to the City Council.- Approved



## L. Projects - None

## M. Committee Reports:

**Treasurer** – None

**Zoning** - Rick Fifield - 800 Mandeville and Dauphine S & M Iron Works building Owner went to ARC and was given a lot of help.

**Newsletter** –Orchids to Stephanie Pedro and household for organizing the young adults socials Baptist Friendship for Mowing Washington Square Park Onions Businesses who do not get their proper permits Correction: Brian Frye was left out of the newsletter as serving as Vice President for the 2005 -2006. He will continue on the Board for 2006 - 2007.

Ended at 9:40

Submitted by Deborah Oppenheim

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## General Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2006

Chris opened the meeting at 7:15pm

Welcomed Speakers: 8th Police Department, Captain Anderson and 5th Police Department, Lt. Norwood

Captain Anderson: Discussed the shooting near the Praline Connection. The dishwasher was on a work program. One of the men shot died and the bystander received a gun wound. He said that a patrol car was in the area twenty minutes before the shooting. It was a targeted incident. He claimed that patrol strategies were in place. Captain Anderson reiterated the need of a partnership with the residents and police. Previously in the 8th District there were no white male suspects. Last week five incidents occurred and five white males. The Tuesday night incident fits the description of incidents in the 8th District. The strategies used in catching arm robbers has worked by placing officers in the right places and having plain clothes officers placed in the 8th District. Captain Anderson encourages all to attend 8th District Non-Pac meetings which are on the second Thursday 5:00pm at the Omini Royal, St. Louis and Royal.

Lt. Norwood -5th District is part of the investigated unit and is representing 5th District since Captain Kelly was unable to attend. She said that Captain Kelly has stringent policy and procedure for the 5th District and Captain Kelly will attend another FMIA meeting to answer our questions. She brought HOT SHEETS for problems that need to be addressed immediately. The 5th District Non-Pac Meeting is the second Wed. of every month at St. Claude and Gallier St. at 7:00pm and Lt. Norwood encouraged all to attend.

Capt. Anderson discussed community policing. He said ideally a win win would be having a police on the corner which is the same as an officer on the beat would be applicable for every neighborhood. Intensive manpower is the issue and the problem. It would require more officers than they have now. Since April, 8th District lost 28 officers. His dedicated Administrative Assistant is now working with the federal agency because of increased salary and incentive packet. The problem is how to recruit and retain police? Katrina reality has changed the dynamics. There are a lot of traumatized officers, community interaction is not copasetic, crime stats are increasing, the judicial system is a mess, and 8th District lost a significant number of police. The current crime strategies involve using the Police Van on Elysian Fields and police are patrolling with the blue lights on to show their visibility. He emphasized the need to be put back the Cop on the Beat. Maybe the help from the Federal government is needed. They have the blue print that was drawn up in the 70's but it is a logistical issue and has not been resolved.

**Questions to Captain Anderson and his answers:**



**Q:** Criminal Sheriff is patrolling where?

**A:** The 8th and the 5th 6pm to midnight for the Marigny Area.

**Statement:** So many dynamic factors that have to change. The reality is that there are the same problems as before the storm. It is not a crime to be poor. He emphasized the role of our elective officials, "It has to come together. By the time it comes to the police, it is too late," said Captain Anderson.

**Q:** How effective is the video camera?

**A:** It has a positive effect but is not the cure all. The cameras were a federally funded program. In some neighborhoods, the cameras are very effective like Bourbon St. For example, the video will help convict the guy involved in the incident on Bourbon St. Most districts do not have any cameras.

**Q:** What is the number to call to report a crime?

**A:** The police have to have a reason to stop someone and he encouraged all to call 911 even with reasonable cause. If it is a Non-emergency call the district station. Captain Anderson e-mail: kevanA@nopd.com { good for documentation} and the police is [nopolice29@yahoo.com](mailto:nopolice29@yahoo.com). Spencer Smith is the 5<sup>th</sup> district Quality of Life Officer.

**Q:** Housing and salary is a problem. The residents would like the blighted property repaired for the first responders.

**A:** NOPD lost a lot to the state police because of the salary increase. Money will help fix the problem. Residency requirement is not an issue but police can go to Jeff Parish and get amenities. Captain Anderson said, "Bring the pay up brings the standards up and fight for better officers".

**Q:** There is a huge problem with Squatters.

**A:** Captain Anderson said, This is the problem; the owner of the house has to sign a form indicating that the person in question is trespassing. Another big problem is prostitution. We had the problem of jail space and Sheriff Guzman has opened more beds. People are homeless by choice. There is an active Homeless Assistance Program. Challenges are daunting."

**Q:** If the owner of the house is not there and the neighbor sees or hears a problem, can they call the police?

**A:** Of course, just explain the situation to the dispatcher.

**Councilman Carter said they are voting on Nov. 15th on the police budget.**

#### **Announcements:**

- Great to see New Faces: Robyn from HI, Renee and Dale, Paige and Aaron, David Martin, Mary, Meverleane, Becky, Lisa
- Need a great gift idea? FMIA has T-shirts and mugs for sale thanks to Polly Brown
- Walking Tour on November 12th Washington Square Park Noon to 4 It is the Marigny's Bicentennial celebrating Monsieur Bernard Marigny for creating the first subdivision; Faubourg Marigny. We encourage you to attend our guided Walking Tour, Art Market and support the locals businesses. Interested in volunteering? Call Chris Costello and/or Deborah Oppenheim.
- St. Claude is the receipt of the Main Street Program. Congrats to the Committee who worked to get this grant. It is a four step plan to bring back St. Claude's commercial corridor: Elysian Fields to Press St. Monies are allocated for lighting, facades improvements, signage, and beautification. The added bonus is that the residents can participate in decision making. Participation is encouraged.
- Acorn Housing has been removed as planners for the Bywater, Lower 9th, St. Roch, and Marigny. Acorn develops low and mid range housing and it is not appropriate for them to be in charge of planning and actively developing housing. We have been assigned to Goody Clancy Please attend the October 28th meeting and get involve in the planning process.
- Pastor Goodine: Need help on how to contact and approach the owner of the two properties that were burned for the idea of getting them and turning the property into green space. Call Pastor Goodine if you can help.
- October Fest: Saturday, October 21, October Festival 1-5 Eat and drink and have great fun
- Sunday, November 5th about noon Enjoy food while listening to great good jazz from NOCA students, and learn information from the Lutheran Disaster Response who will be talking about stress and depression. If you need to speak to a professional regarding chronic anxiety please call St. Paul's Lutheran for assistance.
- Krewe du Vieux, [www.kreweduvieux.org](http://www.kreweduvieux.org) – Susan and Vic of KdV wanted to say thanks for the Marigny's support of the KdV. Lewis Schmidt Captain of KdV said they will parade the same route through the bulk of the Marigny on Feb. 3rd. The theme is Habitat for Insanity and Chris Rose is the King.
- Becky – Reminded the group to fill out the HOT SHEETS COMMENTS and she will go the 5th District – see her after the meeting.



- Diane – There was only 10% voter turn out at the last election . On November 7th , Ward 1 is in an area that has major problems such as no bus service , limited services, isolated, and out of the neighborhood. CALL and ask why ! Mr. Morrell Clerk of Criminal Court 658 - 9105 or
- Ms. Aubrey , Assitance to Secretary of State 417-0075 Sect. State
- Music and North Rampart Housing Project - It has become a public health issue and what to do about it
- Press St. Sean Cummings purchased all the land on our side of Press St. and the property is up for sale. The Renaissance Project is working to get the land so it could become a public park and have the Pessey Memorial.
- A participant asked to have Chief Riley and Captain Kelly be invited to the next meeting.
- Robyn: from HI and a new resident. She said, " Marigny needs to be in one district and all we need to do is to get a petition – and send it to the Superintendent of Police. Chris will investigate. He is pleased that the 8th and 5th District are communicating.

**Introduction to the Guardian Angels:** A resident named Gio explained how they were contacted: He said, "Month and months ago Michael Frey was killed by a shot gun. He was a friend of his friends. It was too much and he wanted to get out and try to make a difference and asked the Guardian Angels to come to New Orleans.

Guardian Angels: Frank, East Coast; Robert, West Coast Director; Chris, Denver; Jack, Tenn. their website is [www.guardiangels.org](http://www.guardiangels.org). The Guardian Angels had a meeting in New Orleans to see if they could get invited to form a chapter in New Orleans. Brief History: In 1979 Curtis Leewood was a night manager at McDonald's in NYC. At that time, the area was spiraling down towards destruction including the burning of the Bronx. He decided that he wanted to make a difference. He basically had his twelve employees form a nonpolitical and religious group to focus on quality of life issues. Their visibility (the uniform T shirt and beret) helped the local police by being the eyes and ears of the community they patrolled. The Guardian Angels have in-depth training, work on donations, have their own insurance, age is not an issue, and do not take the law in their own hands. There were many confusing issues that were not discussed. More information is needed.

**Q:** Is this a City Wide Chapter?

**A:** Just need an invitation to go to another part of the city.

**Q:** Where do you get money for this group?

**A:** Funds come from private donations and from the city too.

**Q:** Maurice lives at Charters and Spain - His concern that people of color do not fair well with groups like this and are usually brutalized by these types of groups.

**A:** Frank said, " I am Asian American and we see no color or sexuality."

We have a special neighborhood and we should look at all possibilities for policing our neighborhood.

The meeting ended at 9:00pm

Submitted by Deborah Oppenheim

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 1, 2006**

Chris Costello called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following attended the meeting: Leigh Crawford, Brian Frye, Reg Medellin, Bob Reddington, Simon Hand, and Deborah Oppenheim. Marshal Gries and Gene Cizek were absent.

### **Old Business (Active)**

**A. Approval of minutes** from 10/3 Board Meeting and 10/18 General Meeting Minutes. Approved

**B. November Walking Tour** – Meeting with the Committee finalized the details for the first Bicentennial Walking Tour which will be November 12, 2006. Volunteers are needed distributing flyers to hotels, businesses and help is needed on the day of the event.

**C. Bellsouth** Wayne Stein and Keith Hitchens of Bellsouth attended the Board Meeting to discuss the Digital Loop Carrier at 2601 Burgundy. They proposed a fence and said that they had a contractual agreement with the owner to have the unoccupied area be a "park". They offered a donation of \$5000 to help defray the initial cost of a bench and a few trees to develop the park. The maintenance and insurance would be the responsibility of FMIA for the next 99 years. The problem of graffiti and trash at 2100 Burgundy was discussed. The equipment that has been left is being used as trash receptacles. They are working without a permit.



Q: Is Bellsouth responsible for the graffiti?

A: No, that is the responsibility of the owner of the property.

Q: Is the vacant land on Press St. possible?

A: The Right Away Team investigated sites that were available. The property at 2601 was the only one available. The network is designed for distance and the boxes need to be close. They serve a large population.

Q: There are properties that would work and were they investigated? Why not use the commercial sites especially on St. Claude St and St. Paul's Lutheran has an available location?

A: The Right Away Team has worked on site location for months. Mr. Stein's goal is to get the network up. Mr. Stein would like to have a list of sites. The cable and fiber optic comes down Franklin; a manhole system.

Chris wrote a letter to HDLC to have them defer the application for 2601 until we could address the Cable & Telecommunications Committee with our concerns. It was deferred for one month. The meeting was recorded and Chris will write a letter to the HDLC commissioners regarding the comments from Wayne Stein during the meeting.

#### **D. Retaining Legal Council for Zoning Issues**

Through Carol Greive of the French Quarter Citizens Group, Chris was able to talk to an attorney that made some suggestions on how we could handle Ray's Boom Boom Room and Deborah is doing the follow-up.

#### **E. Neighborhoods' Planning Network Membership –**

Application sent. We are a member

#### **F. Projects**

508 Frenchmen – Received advice from attorney.  
2328 Royal – Dumpster was moved. – FYI. If stop work order is placed on property the dumpster can still be moved.

2710 Dauphine, Michael Olivas – was approved and he needs to go to BZA for waiver of substandard lot.

**G. Unified Planning Process** – Acorn was replaced with Goody Clancy. FMIA met with EDAW & Goody Clancy to give them a background on our planning to date. A Steering Committee has been set up to meet regularly. Reg offered to also go to meetings.

**H. KaBOOM! Operation Playground** – Since we are not a 501(c) 3 we can not be on the application. The parents are pursuing another 501(c)3. The issue we have is that we will not be an integral part of the process. Brian said in Tennessee they are being dismantled. Bob will go over to the playground at City Park to evaluate

what is needed to repair the existing equipment. Dialogue with Parks and Parkways might ameliorate the situation.

**I. Cook Book Project** – Ann has drafted an agreement which was a stipulation before we signed onto the project. She has sent one. Approved

**J. Boys/Girls Town Caroling Collaboration** – Chris and Kellye met with them again to divvy up responsibilities. Kelly is handling the details and will report to the Board on progress.

**K. Jazz Series in Park** – Deborah contacted Don Marshal and will do a follow-up.

**J. Neighbors 4 Neighbors** – Stephanie Pedro has written the letter to be delivered to the businesses. Letter Approved.

#### **K. Issues**

Bar Next to Elysian Fields Inn – Leigh said that that they are having strip shows and sex shows. She will go to City Hall and check their permits. Brian suggested that she go to the Non Pac meeting.

**L. Frenchmen Street Services** – Chris met with Councilperson Carter and told him we have agreed to have a letter writing campaign to get the services needed for the Frenchmen St. Overlay Districts. Enforcement is the primary concern besides the Quality of Life Issues. Veronica White, Director of Sanitation told Brian that trash cans are on order for Frenchmen Street.

**M. 2005 Riverfront Vision.** No Status.

**N. Survey of District 7** via Tulane School of Medicine - No Progress

**O. 501 (c) 3 Status.** No Progress Chris needs help with the completion of the paperwork. It was suggested that we contact a professional because of the complexity of the application. A suggestion was made to ask Susan Banks. Brian is going to ask Susan Banks to help.

**P. Zoning Chairman.** - Brian Frye

**Q. Visibility of Marigny** - No Status

#### **R. Projects:**

839 Elysian Fields **No Status**

1017 Touro (Friendly Touch Bar) **No Status**

801 Frenchmen - opened the upstairs Sign is inappropriate, furniture on sidewalk.

2100 Burgundy (Fred Morgan) **No Status**



## New Business

Next Board Meeting?

**A. Guardian Angels** - Giovanni (Gio) Anglin gave information to the Board. He said FMIA support will help gets things off the ground. Guardian Angels will still start a chapter which will be more difficult without our support.

Q: Do you live in the Marigny?

A: Gio lives in Mid City and there are not a lot of people back. Marigny is more centralized and spiders outward. The people could volunteer and work the Marigny.

Q: Why did you call the Guardian Angels?

A: A chapter was started in the 80's for the crack issue. As Gio got older, the crack issue declined and the Guardian Angels considered the problem was no longer there anymore. They are the most active organization and also have other programs such as: Urban Guardian Angels – intercity patrol and learning program, positive role models; Junior Guardian Angels do not patrol but help clean up and participate in community service; Cyber Guardian Angels group looks out for scams and bad guys etc on the internet. They are subordinate to the police. They can exercise a constitutional right to do a citizen's arrest. It is a three month training which includes policies, city codes, and martial arts.

Q: Chris asked: How often would patrols be in the Marigny?

A: Scheduling is a couple of nights out of the week but people does have lives. He would need a place to do the training for Martial Arts and policies. He said that more community support in the Marigny is needed but that 15 people want to join. They have full time volunteers and pay their expenses.

Q: What is the background check?

A: Screening is done. He said 16 and 17 year olds can join with parental consent.

Q: Chris asked: Can the rules be tailored for this chapter? The kids are supposed to be in school and they do have curfews.

A: Probably but will have to speak to Curtis Silva, the founder.

Q: Simon said the biggest objection is vigilantism and profiling.

A: GIO said the residents won't get harassed by their own neighbors. Guardian Angels is involved for safety and nothing else.

Reg suggested that they get involved in Community affairs, have a function, and get to understand the Marigny.

Q: Leigh asked about set patrols and must they wear their paramilitary uniforms?

A: Gio: Yes, there will be set patrols. Every applicant signs a waiver and the city, state is not responsible. The Guardian Angels has their own insurance. In the 27 years there have been only 6 who have lost their lives. The Guardian Angels are trained in verbal judo and know what to do in the each particular situation. Radios will be used and the training continues after the first three months.

Q: Simon requested the stats to show the make-up on the organization, complaints etc.

A: GIO will get Curtis to send information.

Q: Rob requested references from other cities, issues, feedback, contacts.

A: You will have to hunt down these references.

**Circle K Store** - Not coming back but another convenient store will be back there. The neighbors don't want the store to sale beer and liquor. It is grandfathered in as a conditional use and has to go through the license process. They have asked FMIA to back them on this because of the late hours and crime. FMIA will write a letter stating that several neighbors have expressed their concerns about selling alcohol and the store has had a long history of problems and ask for a hearing to discuss the issues.

**The National Arbor Day Foundation** Join the \$10 foundation and they will send 6 trees which are 3-5ft - FMIA Membership will be informed through an e-mail.

**Riverfront Development Committee**, Sean Cummings – Conflict of interest and more information is needed.

### Projects –

**517 Elysian Fields** (Schoen funeral home) is asking for a change of zoning from HNLI & HMR3 to HMC2. This will allow them to build 600 sq ft residences and also will require them to provide parking. They will probably go to BZA to have that waived. Both CPC and FMIA have not been given enough information. FMIA is requesting a deferment.

### Committee reports:

**1) Newsletter** – We are going to begin Bulk Mail.

**Orchids** - Polly Brown, thank you and hard work. Stephanie Pedro for organizing the Neighbors for Neighbors



## **BIG THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS for our Bicentennial Walking Tour –**

**Tour Guides:** Russ Carl, Bill Whiting, Ron Joullian, Diane Krohn, Gretchen Bombay, Rick Fifield, Bobby Moffett, Marguerite Bergen, Scott Murison, Gene Cizek, Bill Marigny Hyland, Lloyd Sensat. **Volunteers:** Polly Brown, Ron Petty, Reg Medellin, Patty Marino, Leigh Crawford, Jim Crawford, Jason Patterson, Dan Harris and Diane Lease, Deborah Oppenheim and Chris Costello.

**Onions** Bellsouth for not including us in the planning process for substations.

**2) HDLC** –Rick Fifield said that there are no monies for more staff for HDLC. It is extremely difficult for the department to function with reduced staff. Pre Katrina they had 9 staff members and post Katrina only 5. The Department has 9 existing Historic Districts and these neighbors have applied for the Historic District status: Garden District, Esplanade Ridge, Carrollton River Bend, Broadmoor; and the CBD wants to expand the designation to the bridge. Letter to City Council in support of more staff was approved as well as email to membership asking for their support by writing to City Council members.

**3) Phone Tree** -This needs to be explored.

Meeting is adjourned: 9:53 pm  
Submitted by Deborah Oppenheim

## **General Meeting Minutes November 20, 2006**

**Chris Costello begun the meeting at 7:15 PM**

### **Announcements**

1. **Newsletter** - Simon was busy and Chris server went down.

2. **Walking Tour** –The first Walking Tour was a huge success and will probably be an annual event. The Carriage Ride Tour for the Council members showed those who attended the issue of our neighborhood. The Riverfront 2005 Plan was up for a vote and the Council deferred it for a month.

3. **Caroling** – Kellye Deel is the Chairperson for our Dec 10 caroling event. This year Boys/Girls Town will light the tree. Kellye needs help to do errands and to serve drinks and hand out candles. Call

615-9467 to help. She is looking for white Christmas lights and red ribbon. Please join us at 1:00pm to clean Washington Square Park.

4. **No meeting in Dec.** next meeting Jan 15

5. **The Green Market** is coming to the Bywater at Holy Angels Church.

6. **Replant New Orleans** – sustainable gardens - North Rampart and Music Street

7. **UNOP** Input how neighborhoods will be developed and please attend the meeting on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 at Holy Angels and bring your ideas. The Steering Committee is working on: Distribute to every house in the neighborhood with information; Strategy for the neighborhood: A list of building and what we want in them and Ideas welcomed.

8. **Welcome new member** Chris Norse is interested in a cooperative grocery and has other great ideas.

**Special Guest, Juan LaFonta, State Representative**  
and his **phone number is 504-288-4911**

1. Special Session Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – insurance issues bail out with the state insurance look at their position

2. Redevelopment issues - Gentilly is starting to have problems such as operation of illegal bars and clubs.

3. He suggested an Ad campaign to enforce the law with the FQ, the possibility of a Taxing District to hire people to patrol and consider video monitoring.

4. Any suggestions re legislation – bring to him such as recycle, trash etc.

5. The delicious cake was brought by Mr. LaFonta to wish our neighborhood Happy Birthday.

### **Questions and Answers: Juan Fonta**

Q: If the city does not close the illegal bars/clubs in 2 years; do they become legal? Please change this at the state level.

A: Once you file the complaint then the city has two years to solve or not. Another approach is to file a mandamus and have documentation.

Voting for the Marigny rectangle is in the wrong place on Arts Street. An urgent request is to inform the Clerk of Court to ameliorate the problem.

Q: Alcohol travel with the deed of the property and the license is still there. If they associate the license with



the operator instead of the land and there would be more control. Is this something you could imitate?

A: Will look into it.

Suggestion from Juan La Fonta: Build a network and become more diverse. Think about having Dillard University students participate and have hands on experiences.

**Ann Stauss Cookbook Project:** She is requesting a favorite recipe and the author would tell the story of their submitted recipe. The cookbook will be in alphabetical order by neighborhood. A brief history and map of each neighborhood, neighborhood organizations, and contacts will be included. There will be a Glossary of terms and listings of all neighborhood and their neighborhood organization.

**718 Mandeville** Paul Kocke, Sr. PLS, Edward Kocke, Walter Stone  
Gondolfo Stone LLC is interested in relocating to New Orleans from Harahan. They have identified the building at 718 Mandeville St. to house their business. It is a city owned building. The business is low impact about eight people. They are looking for support from FMIA.

Q: How many trucks, hours of operation and parking?

A: Their workers pick up the trucks at 7:00 and leave. There are two crews. The trucks are parked in the rear yard and not left on the street at night or weekends.

Q: This is a residential area and maybe could look on St. Claude Street for a vacant building which is zone appropriately. how could the city take the position that it is non conforming use - residential area – low impact and your successor firm could think differently St. Claude is Main St. Area – vacant bldg. and zoned for that use.

A: They are not looking to be adversary.

Q: We appreciate you coming to the general meeting but this building could be use for a community center.

A: The City told them if you want it you will have to clean it up.

Q: Why did you choose the Marigny ?

A: They choose the building because it did not flood and they need to have their records protected.

**Riverfront Vision 2005** was placed on the City Council's agenda in November and fortunately was deferred for another month. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to know and understand the issues.

The issues are:

- Big issue was height –not respecting the 50ft. height for our historic neighborhood
- We want smart development

- We want them to use original land not built up land
- LaFonta said be very concern about the artist rendering
- Shift in demographics and the values for historic preservation will be diminished
- Effect the local businesses with big box concepts on the riverfront
- Transportation circulation is not addressed
- Infrastructure and safety is not addressed

**Please note:** Dec 15 the winner of the Sean Cumming's new New Orleans plan will be announced and Dec 16 city council will vote on the Riverfront Vision 2005.

Meeting ended at 8:45pm

Submitted by Deborah Oppenheim

### Board Meeting Minutes December 6, 2006

Chris Costello called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following attended the meeting: Leigh Crawford, Brian Frye, Reg Medellin, Bob Reddington, Deborah Oppenheim, Marshal Gris and Gene Cizek. Simon Hand was absent.

#### GUEST:

**Mark Steinbauer**([msteinbauer@cox.net](mailto:msteinbauer@cox.net)) lives next door to the Firehouse on Mandeville. He has e-mailed Carter and has not received a response. He said it was bad with NORD and the building needed a lot of work. It still has a FEMA roof. The business that wants to lease the building from the City would need support from the neighbors. A discussion at the General Meeting by the participants and neighbors lead to a conversation of the appropriateness of this business in a residential neighborhood. St. Claude recently a recipient of a Main Street Grant is a good location for this business. St. Claude is commercially zoned. The neighbors need to petition their neighbors and letters to CPC, City Council, and other City agencies were suggested.

#### Old Business (Active)

- A. Approval of minutes from 11/1 Board Meeting and 11/16 General Meeting Minutes
- B. Bellsouth and the Digital Loop Carriers, 2601 Burgundy Meeting with BellSouth and, Safety and Permits with Royce of Carter's office and Chris follow up.



**C.** Retaining Legal Council for Zoning Issues through Carol Greive of the French Quarter Citizen Group. Suggestions were given how to approach the situation with Ray's Boom Boom Room.

**D. Projects**

- 508 Frenchmen: The possibility of retaining a lawyer. Injunction – judge you have a problem - come back and whatever their side is – their defense – permit injunction - Court Order NOT THAT EXPENSIVE

State – letter and ordinance - back up with stuff for later -Ray's Boom Boom is illegally operating since day one and should not be rewarded for breaking the law - We should push to get the overlay legal.

- 517 Elysian Fields (Schoen funeral home): Three different zoning for their buildings and changes from their proposal were changed.

**E. Boys/Girls Town Caroling Collaboration** December 10th– Met with them again to divvy up responsibilities. Kelly ([kellyedeel@msn.com](mailto:kellyedeel@msn.com)) is Chairing and will report to the Board on progress. There is a Saturday clean up at 1:00 and students from William Carey College and the boys from Boys Town will be helping with the clean up. Marigny Brassiere is donating beverages and cookies.

**F. Relief Marigny** – Julian Mutter

**G. Jazz Series in Park** – Deb O. - Don Marshal - no response

**H. Neighbors 4 Neighbors** – Stephanie Pedro has written the letter and it has been delivered to some businesses as a test group. First event: 12/12 6-8pm at MIMI's. Chris will remind Stephanie not to put the flyers on telephone poles

**J. Issues**

Bar Next to Elysian Fields Inn called 'Bout Time Lounge – Leigh said that they are having strip shows first weekend of every month besides fights at Doerr's property. Royce of Carter's office is researching their legitimacy. Suggestion was made to go to the NOPAC meeting. The owner of the building, Lou has an ABO for another bar not at that location and owns wholesale liquor place in St. Bernard. Leigh will check their ABO status with the State.

Frenchmen Street Services – Chris met with Carter and told him we have agreed to take his suggestion, which we will organize. Sylvia Patterson is up in arms over the Spotted Cat with the noise issue and is interest in working on moving this effort forward.

**I. 2005 Riverfront Vision** – Status Schedule vote in Nov was successfully deferred for another month. Two meetings with the Steering Committee. Strategies include petitions, meeting with all council members to explain the issues, and have an emergency meeting on Tuesday December 12 at MiMi's. It was mentioned that the Council hears nothing positive on this issue but we have repeatedly emphasized the good points of the proposal. It is important to crystallize what our main objections are such as height truck route and smart development.

**J. 501 (c) 3 Status.** – Called Camille Strachan and has offered to help. Susan Banks is getting back with us. One question was asked: If the organization is dissolved what happens with the funds? Section in the Article of Incorporation –'Upon dissolution of the organization, the remaining assets of the organization will be given to a charitable organization approved by the Board". We are working to get this completed. We need to define this organization. A motion was made to find or hire a tax accountant to do our taxes (an individual familiar with our type of organization) for 2006, Leigh second the motion and approved.

**K. Q & A with Guardian Angels** – No news to date -

**L. Circle K Store** – No news to date HDLC is aware of the inappropriate signage at the store and at Santa Fe Restaurant.

**M. Riverfront Development Committee** – Article in paper Sean Cummings and State - Several organizations are also concerned and questioned his conflict of interest. A MOTION to draft the letter to the State Ethics Board was approved.

**N. Playground Equipment** Bob did research on the playground equipment in Washington Square Park. He contacted Timberline and they will send the design and can determine what is missing.

Old Business (In-active)

**E.** Survey of District 7 via Tulane School of Medicine - **No Progress**

**F.** Zoning **No Status**

**G.** Visibility of Marigny **No Status**

**H.** Projects:

- 839 Elysian Fields **No Status**
- 1017 Touro (Friendly Touch Bar) **No Status**
- 801 Frenchmen **No Status**
- 2100 Burgundy (Fred Morgan) **No Status**
- BOB was asking about 540 St. Ferdinand and the neighbor said that the building has been downgraded and call Elliot Perkins 382-4767



## New Business

- A. Next Board Meeting?** January 3 2007. Moved to the Jan 10<sup>th</sup> at Bob's house 540 St. Ferdinand
- B. Projects** – None
- C. Go through committee reports:**  
 Treasurer Will send this  
 Newsletter – Ready tomorrow - need help  
 Orchids - Jim Crawford picking up trash lots  
 Caroling – Kellye and business Congrats Boys Town - William and Carey College for clean – up Marigny Brassiere for donating beverages, cookies, linens and helpers  
 Onion – Bellsouth
- D. Bikes** – going the right way - Maybe think about posting directions
- E. Insurance** – The city requires FMIA to have insurance for events (\$400 per event). We can get a policy for the organization and cover the events for the year and also covers all Board members for liability. Chris thinks this something we should do for a year policy. Minimum cost is \$1500 from CA and will get other quotes. This will be mentioned in a general meeting.
- I. Spring Garden Tour** – Marshal suggested a Spring Garden Tour and would be interested in chairing the event.
- J. Tree Planting:** Julian Mutter is very interested in Tree Releaf for the Marigny. Even with a volunteer to accrue the cost, the plan has to be done by a certified landscape architect. He is invite to the January 10<sup>th</sup> general meeting to discuss his ideas.
- K. Wasted resource** – Marshal said that no one is doing this but petty criminals who are on probation and need to have community service hours could be helpful in waste resource. Questions to be answered included: supervision and could they be covered on city's insurance policy. Possible areas are St. Claude and Frenchmen St.
- L. Buck Moths:** Deborah mentioned the Buck moths are really bad this year. The trees also need pruning.

Ended at 9:29

Submitted by Deborah Oppenheim

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Frenchman - Deborah Oppenheim	
Home Tour – Reg Medellin & Deborah Oppenheim	
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Washington Square Park – Chris Costello	
Web Site – Chris Costello	

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