



Founding Father: Bernard de Marigny

By William de Marigny Hyland, Bernard de Marigny's great-great-great grandson.

Bernard de Marigny was born in New Orleans October 28th, 1785, the son of Pierre Phillips de Marigny de Mandeville and Jeanne Marie Destrehan. His great-grandfather, Francois Phillips, Sieur de Mandeville, had accompanied Iberville and Bienville during initial colonization efforts in 1698-1699. Francois assisted in the founding of Mobile, Alabama and wrote the first account of the Tombigbee River in 1709. Francois came to New Orleans as major de place in 1724 and died in this city in 1728. Bernard's father and mother were both born in New Orleans in the middle 18th century.

Antonio de Sedella, the beloved Pere Antoine, baptized Bernard with the given names Antoine Xavier Bernard. He was hence named for his paternal grandfather, Antoine de Marigny; his godfather, Joseph Xavier Delfau de Pontalba; and Bernardo for his godmother's husband, former Governor Bernardo de Galvez. The surname of his family was Phillips, originating in the vicinity of Caen in Normandy. Marigny and Mandeville were patronymic names of estates owned by the family. Bernard entered the Spanish military as a cadet in 1793. His father died in 1800 and his legal guardian, Ignace Francois de Lino de Chalmette, completed his education with private tutors in Louisiana, Paris and London. Consequently, Bernard was tri-lingual in French, Spanish and English throughout the remainder of his life.

When Pierre Clement de Laussat arrived in Louisiana to govern the province in the name of the French Republic, Pontalba had arranged for Laussat to use the old Marigny home as the prefecture, or office and residence of the governor until the Spaniards vacated officially Louisiana. Bernard became very close to Laussat and named his first born son, who died in infancy, for Laussat. Bernard began a public career in politics when he was elected to the City Council of New Orleans in 1810. He was subsequently elected to serve as a delegate in Louisiana's first State Constitutional Convention in 1812 and to the State Legislature of Louisiana in 1812. He was the only member of the first State Constitutional Convention to be elected to serve in the second constitutional convention held in 1844. Bernard served as President of the Senate of Louisiana in

1822. He also served as a member of the State Legislature's Committee of Defense in 1814 – 1815 during the Battle of New Orleans. Frequently he found himself at the epicenter of many events which shaped the history and cultural evolution of Louisiana.

Bernard was 5'10" tall with light brown hair and hazel eyes. He had a beautifully deep resonant voice which was "admirably suited to oratory." As he grew older, he became portly, his hair turned white and he always dressed in black with high-topped black leather shoes ornamented with silver buckles. His commanding presence instantly filled any room or public place he happened upon. He loved conversation and was a raconteur without equal. His sharp tongue made him feared in the State Legislature, where he passionately argued for the rights and cultural traditions of the *ancien régime* in Louisiana. He fought duels in his early life and was a dreaded adversary in that realm. However, as he matured in his late twenties, he came to realize that the pen and studied oratory were far mightier in ultimate impact than a sword or firearm.

His guardian, Chalmette and his maternal uncle, Jean Noel Destrehan, joined family friends Salomon Prevost and Julien Poydras in causing Bernard de Marigny to subdivide the plantation he inherited from his father in 1805 – 1806, thus establishing the faubourg Marigny. Bernard's whimsical sense of humor came to the fore as he named the streets of his new development. Les Champs Elysees (Elysian Fields Avenue) certainly would rival its namesake in Paris! Love and Goodchildren streets require no explanation, nor does Craps Street, named for the game of chance so popular in New Orleans, probably long before Bernard entered this world. Marigny launched the setting for a culturally diverse community, reflective of the original City of New Orleans and its first suburb, the Arrabal de Santa Maria (Faubourg St. Marie or Central Business District). Legions of free people of color, joined by Western European immigrants, principally from France, Germany and Ireland and refugees from St. Domingue (modern-day Haiti) fused together in the early 19th century to evolve the Creole cultural identity as they purchased property and constructed homes and businesses. The community centerpiece was, and remains, Washington



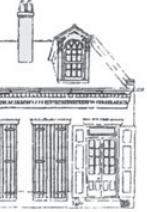
NO MORE BLIGHT

By Alexandre Vialou

Neighborhood Participation is key. Early last month, neighbors of the recently shut down bar, *The Friendly Touch*, located on 1017 Touro Street could not believe the sign at the door of the bar. The owner of this blighted establishment was applying again for a license with the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control to sell alcoholic beverages. After all, the building (see picture below) is in a derelict state, and as such as been attracted a clientele who disrespect neighboring properties.



Left untouched since Katrina, the owner –with whom I spoke- still has no intention to bring his property up to code. Neighbors alerted the FMIA regarding the application and within less than a week, we were all able to send letters to the Commissioner. I am happy to report that the State heard our complaints and issued a permit denial. If it wasn't for the vigilance of these neighbors, the Friendly Touch would certainly have already been back in business now in a blighted property. I hope this story will encourage all of you who live next to a blighted property to keep pressing on this issue. It is important that you email us (blight@faubourgmarigny.org) as well as Mary Cunningham from the Office of Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer (mbcunningham@nola.gov). We can assist you but as the directly affected neighbors you are the actors of change.



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Non-Member	\$93	\$48	\$33	\$21

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All advertising must be received by the 15th of each month for publication in the next month's issue. For information regarding advertising, contact the business manager at ads@faubourgmarigny.org.

Classifieds Now Available

The newsletter is now accepting classified ads. Personals, however, are not being accepted. Contact ads@faubourgmarigny.org. Classified Rates: \$5.00 per each 25 words.

About the Newsletter

Les Amis de Marigny is the newsletter of the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association, a 501(c) non-profit, all-volunteer organization committed to the preservation of the unique architectural and cultural heritage of our historic district, and to improving the quality of life in our diverse community. Contents, editorials and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official views of the FMIA, its Board or its members. The FMIA does not warrant the legality of any business advertised in its newsletter. Contents of *Les Amis de Marigny* are copyrighted. Permission to reprint any of the newsletter, including photographs and original artwork, must be obtained from the editor and/or byline columnist.

Manuscripts, photographs and articles dealing with topics of interest to the Marigny neighborhood are encouraged. The editor reserves the right to reject submissions including editorial and advertising content. Submissions must be received by the 7th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Send contributions to: FMIA Newsletter, 2401 Burgundy St., Box 10, NOLA 70117 or editor@faubourgmarigny.org.

The newsletter is published each month except August and January. Back issues are available online at www.faubourgmarigny.org.

President's Report

By Alexandre Vialou

Bonjour!

With multi-million dollars projects at the bottom of Elysian Fields (a just released proposal for two multi-story parking garages on the French Market Corporation owned parking lots), along the river (the still unnamed Riverfront Park with access through a bridge near Marigny Street), on Press Street (an anticipated NOCCA expansion from Chartres to St. Claude), on St. Claude (ongoing renovation of Colton school and the scheduled renovation of the St. Roch Market), and on North Rampart (the proposed Streetcar line that would connect Canal Street to Elysian Fields), our neighborhood is literally surrounded by prospective developments.

Not all of them may materialize. However each one of them has the capacity to change the course of our neighborhood. With your continuous inputs and vigilance, it is important that we manage to make these projects a success for both our community and the city in general. It is the mission of the FMIA to balance development in our area so that the quality of life of those that have been living here for decades isn't sacrificed for the sake of an investment option that would benefit only a minority. It is for this reason that

we have decided to formally object to the proposal laid out by Mr. Sean Cummings at the corner of Elysian Fields and Charters. Similarly, the FMIA has also recently taken a stand against a proposal that would have de facto doubled the number of short term rentals and bed and breakfasts that could legally open in the neighborhood.

Luckily life still goes on and I am always enchanted by the vibrancy of our faubourg. As a perfect example, Lost Love Lounge produced a spectacular St. Joseph altar with an exquisite banquet that benefited from the participation of so many different members of our community. I do hear concerns from some neighbors that our neighborhood may be getting saturated with too many artistic venues and drinking places. While it is important to be wary of some of the pernicious linkage between the Arts & Entertainment industry and tourism (think Bourbon Street), there is also a very beneficial linkage between the Arts & Entertainment and our economy. With common sense consideration on noise levels, accessibility and legality, it can enhance our quality of life as we get exposure to the artistic and creative expression of our many talented residents. If you haven't done so yet, I strongly encourage you to check out a show at one of our many theaters along St. Claude Avenue or shows at Café Istanbul. Let's trust in our value of tolerance and our wonderful traditions so that we remain grounded while we watch these multi-million dollars businesses pop up from our stoops.



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Happ'ns in the 'Hood

CVS

The CVS project in the 2600 block of St. Claude Ave. appears to be abandoned at this time.

501 Elysian Fields

The conditional use application scheduled for April 10 has been withdrawn. A new application is to be submitted the first week in April. The FMIA has not been apprised of what changes, if any, are being made to the original 75 foot mixed use structure planned. Stay tuned.

French Market Parking Lots

The long anticipated request for proposal (RFP) for the two parking lots owned and managed by the French Market Corp. has finally been issued. The requirements listed are:

1. incorporate street-level retail space to enhance the overall character and activity on Elysian Fields Avenue, Chartres Street and Decatur Street, respectively;
2. expand the number of parking spaces currently available at the existing surface parking lots;

3. provide for parking as required by the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance for proposed uses in the development;
4. offer increased parking capacity as deemed necessary to accommodate special events held at Reinventing the Crescent – Downriver Park, French Market and other nearby public spaces
5. carefully consider both the pedestrian/street level experience and traffic flow and be designed in accord with the character of the surrounding area, as well as all municipal planning/zoning and other agency regulations and requirements; and
6. proactively engage the surrounding community throughout the design and development process.

It is unclear whether sufficient spaces for contracted parking would be available as has been discussed during presentations of mixed use residential projects that look to reduce the number of off-street parking spaces required by zoning ordinances.

Continued on page 5

Founding Father Bernard de Marigny continued from page 1

Square. Bernard learned to appreciate the value of urban planning and design perhaps a century before this became a recognized discipline in the United States.

Bernard retained throughout his life a respect for the immigrant and encouraged their settlement in New Orleans. During the Constitutional Convention of 1844, Judah Benjamin opposed retaining the right to vote or hold public office for naturalized citizens in Louisiana, vehemently attacking a rival attorney, Pierre Soule, who was also a member of the Constitutional Convention. Marigny in turn rebuked Benjamin, reminding him that he was not a Louisiana native either. He concluded his remarks with the following comments:

"My dear Mr. Benjamin, how is it that you can pretend to oppose the rights of a certain class of citizens to vote or hold public office when these same citizens were guaranteed those rights in 1812, willing to lay down their lives for this nation in 1814 -1815 (Battle of New Orleans) and have built a modern City of New Orleans. Are the naturalized citizens less deserving than other citizens? When you presume upon the power invested in us by all the people, they will bring you and all other transgressors to a just appreciation of their power over us and that over which we are deliberating..."

The Panic of 1837 ultimately reversed Bernard's fortune. In 1852, he lost estates in St. Tammany and Plaquemines parishes. Thus, investments in property which plummeted in value and other failed business interests were principally

responsible for his economic decline. While he did enjoy gambling and, as he once explained to his second wife, Annette Morales, other "vices of a gentleman," he was not addicted to games of chance as were several of his sons who survived to adulthood. Once, according to family tradition, my great-great grandmother in her childhood asked "Pere, is it true that you used to light your cigars with hundred dollar paper notes used as tapers?" Bernard's response was "Dear child, I have been a fool about many things, but you may remain assured I never burned money!"

Bernard de Marigny died of a "fit of apoplexy" while strolling through the Faubourg Marigny February 3, 1868. He was buried the following day amidst great pomp, circumstance and genuine regret. Family members, former slaves and persons of all walks of life attended the funeral services in St. Louis Cathedral and St. Louis Cemetery Number Two. He was the last living link with the colonial origin of Louisiana. Born a Spaniard, he became a French citizen, an American patriot and a somewhat reticent Confederate. He died leaving an estate valued at slightly more than \$20,000 including cash and property in Mandeville and New Orleans. He knew almost every governor of Louisiana during his lifetime, Lafayette, Louis Philippe I and many other notables, both in the United States and Europe. Always outspoken in his convictions, he was either loved and admired or indescribably detested by all who knew him. He was first and foremost a champion of Louisiana's distinct cultural identity and he succeeded in contributing to its preservation to the present.

Next: A Brief History - Faubourg Marigny

Happ'n's in the Hood continued from page 4

2222 St Claude Avenue

Known variously as Robért Marketfare or the Schwegmann Building, this was the site of the neighborhood's only full-service grocery store. Robért, the tenant, and the Schwegmanns, the owners, have been involved in litigation since Katrina closed the store. A three week jury trial found in favor of Robért Marketfare St Claude, and the Schwegmanns were directed to restore the exterior of the building to its pre-Katrina condition. Marc Robert was quoted as saying, "It means we had an opportunity to get back into the neighborhood." Margie Schwegmann Brown said, "my brother, his children and I are working together to have the St. Claude Store designated an historic site, and to have it restored to a full-service grocery store within the next 18 months".

Short-Term Rentals

Carrie Altemus, owner of two properties in the Marigny, has requested amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Her requests are to provide a new definition for transient vacation rentals and to add transient vacation rentals as permitted uses in the Marigny and Tremé. In essence, the new definition would allow short-term (less than a month) rentals in non-owner occupied buildings. Such licenses would be in addition to the current licensed bed and breakfasts. The FMIA has gone on record with the City as opposing these amendments.

Press Street

With its acquisition of the Habitat warehouse, NOCCA now owns all the property from St. Claude Ave to its front door. NOCCA is still working on its master plan for the street, but current thinking includes a 'gateway' building on St. Claude to include a restaurant staffed by its culinary classes, blocks-long kitchen gardens to supply its restaurant and cooking classes, classrooms and a museum/information center as well as a recognition of the historical significance of the 'Plessy vs Ferguson' train stop.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2012

Board Meeting

April 4, 7 pm,
Who Dat Café, 2401 Burgundy Street

Meet the Neighbors

April 10, 6:30 – 8:30 pm,
Kajun's Pub, 2256 St Claude Avenue.

General Meeting

April 16, 6:30 Pot Luck, 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street

May 2012

Board Meeting

May 2, 7 pm,
Who Dat Café, 2401 Burgundy Street

Meet the Neighbors

May 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm,
Venue TBD

General Meeting

May 21, 6:30 Pot Luck, 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street

NONPAC MEETINGS

5th District — 2nd Wednesday,

6 pm, 4015 Burgundy St.

8th District — 2nd Thursday

5:30 pm, 1001 Toulouse Street

GREEN MARKETS

French Market

Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10 am - 5 pm

Sankofa Market

Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm
Holy Angels Complex, 3500 St. Claude Avenue
(at the corner of Gallier Street and St Claude Avenue)

FREE FUN

St Claude Arts District

2nd Saturday: see www.scadnola.com

Chess Lessons

Thursdays, 5 pm,
Alvar Library, 913 Alvar Street

**If you have an event for the calendar please send it to
Donna Wakeman at editor@faubourgmarigny.org**

**Supporting your neighborhood is a great way to help
make the Marigny a great place to live, work and play.**

How to Complain

By Chris Costello

We live in a wonderful neighborhood. The architecture, small streets and intimate mix of commercial and residences are the recipe for the close knit, walkable neighborhood we enjoy. One more ingredient is the eclectic array of residents both locally grown and imported. We all love this neighborhood but sometimes we might forget that we are a part of a community and do things that are not respectful of our neighbors. No one will fault you if you forget every now and then but if your neighbors ask you to respect their rights you should show them the respect you wish to be given.

The FMIA is committed to helping residents and businesses resolve issues so we may all peacefully coexist. We are reactive to complaints and proactive to projects. We have created the following policy to help resolve issues. We ask that residents and businesses alike to follow it so we can resolve issues before they become out of hand.

The Policy

All complaints must be in writing and contain the issue, who is causing it, when it is happening and the contact information of the person submitting the complaint.

All complaints are anonymous. The information we will provide to those who request it is the date the complaint was registered and a description of the complaint in our own words. If we need to share any other information we will ask first.

Step 1

When a complaint is received the person submitting the complaint is asked if they have talked with the person(s) who are causing the issue(s). If they have not, they are asked to talk with them to let them know about their concerns and to let us know if this resolved the issue.

Step 2

If step one does not work then the association will set up a meeting with the two parties. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the parties to express both sides of the issue so each side may better understand the others concern(s) or reasoning for creating the issue(s). Then the group tries to come up with remedies for the issues.

Step 3

If neither Step 1 nor Step 2 resolves the issue(s) then the association will seek enforcement from either the city or the state or both to resolve the issue.



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Marigny Green

By Deborah Oppenheim

Twisting the Recycle with Twist Ties

Instead of putting twist ties from packages in your junk drawer think about using them around your house such as:

1. Use different color twist ties by sorting similar-looking keys.
2. Be creative and create a trellis for climbing plants by using the plastic rings from a six-pack and twist ties by connecting the plastic rings until the trellis is at the desirable size. Keep adding sections as needed and at the end of the season - just roll it up and store it.
3. Use to organize all the excess cords from computers to entertainment centers.
4. Reuse twist ties with other food bags.
5. Twist ties are great for costumes accessories.
6. Tie up your cord of Christmas lights for storage with twist ties.
7. A twist tie is good to keep your ear bud from getting tangled.
8. Make art with twist ties
9. Avoid twist ties all together when using a plastic bag by making a loose knot at the end of the bag.



For more information on recycling contact Deborah at green@faubourgmargn.org

Don't forget to register for a curbside recycling, register online at <http://recycle.nola.gov/>

Donna D. Wakeman

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For comments — email info@faubourgmargn.org



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7:30p—Salsa Dancing with Javier Olondo & AsheSon

At Home in the Marigny

By Arin Adkins

Shortly after David and Elizabeth Goodine bought their home on Burgundy near Franklin, they learned that it was an "all-you-can-eat" for a colony of termites. This was in 2003 and the renovation began.



Before (above)
and After (at right)

The house was likely built in the 1860's. The floorboards vary in width, consistent with homes of this era. A kitchen was later added in the rear of the home, along



with two bathrooms. This is where the termite damage was most concentrated, so the Goodines started the renovations here. They lived in the house while doing most of the work themselves. While the kitchen was renovated, the Goodines went without a kitchen. Now they enjoy a modern kitchen with adjoining formal dining room in the back of the home.

Renovations by previous owners included the beneficial addition of a great-room around 1930, the not-so-beneficial addition of drop ceilings between 1950 and 1960, and indoor-outdoor plastic grass around 1970. The plastic grass was removed and the original hard-wood floors that could be saved were refinished. The drop ceilings were

removed to return the ten to twelve foot ceiling height with new crown molding. The house had a lot of barge board, but most of it could not be salvaged. One piece was, however, and it now provides an architectural feature for the great room.



Dave's Library

While this work was underway, Katrina came. The Goodines did not evacuate, and in that David was the pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Goodines played an active role of support during the aftermath of the storm. A fellow Marigny neighbor stated that that Rev. Goodine was instrumental in providing food and shelter to the community through St. Paul and was "recognized by council person Jackie Clarkson for his efforts in the Marigny."

The Goodine's house came through the storm well. The damage it sustained came as a result of their neighbors' concrete roof caps. These blew off and onto the Goodine's roof, creating holes too significant for patch-work replacement. As a result, the Goodines received a new roof, which would not have otherwise been a priority in the renovations. Much of the new roof was completed by volunteers who came to New Orleans to offer assistance after Katrina.

The Goodines were the first to turn the double shot-gun into a single family home. They put three bedrooms on one-side in a way that allows for privacy, instead of having to walk through each room as is traditional with a shotgun. The transom-openings were refitted with beveled glass and the home has superior air-flow. The entry way remains as it originally was and a double parlor with library greet family and friends upon arrival.

The renovations were finally completed in 2008. After five years of working on their home, the Goodines have since been enjoying the fruits of their labor. Such effort continues in the Marigny as more and more houses are being brought back to their original splendor. With each completed remodel, the historical fabric of our neighborhood becomes all the more enriched.

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Graffiti Program

The following is excerpted from information provided by the Vieux Carre Graffiti Abatement Program, an initiative of the French Quarter Business Association.

What Is Graffiti?

Graffiti is writing, drawings or symbols applied to any surface without the permission of the owner. To create graffiti, vandals use a variety of materials such as automotive car paint, spray paint, crayons and permanent ink. Vandals also etch surfaces as another way to destroy property.

Art or Graffiti?

The difference between art and graffiti is that art is done on property with permission of the property owner. Art is a creative and productive form of expression, whereas graffiti is a crime.

Why should I care about graffiti?

Graffiti is an act of vandalism. Not only is it unattractive, but it also lowers property values and encourages other types of crime in neighborhoods. By promptly removing graffiti, property owners can send a message to the people responsible for graffiti.

Graffiti Prevention Tips

1. Maintain upkeep.

An exterior appearance that suggests apathy and neglect attracts vandals.

2. Remove quickly.

Studies show that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence.

3. Control access.

- Add or improve outside lighting to promote natural surveillance.
- Limit access to roofs by moving dumpsters away from walls and covering drain pipes.
- Incorporate shrubs, thorny plants, and vines to restrict vandal access.

4. Step up security.

- Employ graffiti resistant materials or coatings on a chronically hit wall.
- Do not allow a "legal wall," or an area that permits graffiti, at your business; they are largely ineffective and may draw more graffiti vandals to the area.
- Organize a "Watch" with neighbors to keep tabs on an area.
- Install some type of security camera.

5. Work with the community.

Inform the city when graffiti appears on your property.

Join The Fight!

Step 1: Record

If you see a graffiti crime in progress, please contact the New Orleans Police Department immediately at 504-822-1111. Please provide a complete description of the perpetrators and/or vehicles involved, including license plate numbers. Photograph the graffiti using a color camera (digital). Never approach or confront vandals yourself.

Step 2: Report

Graffiti vandalism is a crime. Report graffiti to New Orleans Crime Stoppers at crimestoppersnog.org or call the non-emergency number at 504-822-1111. Upload a photo of the tagging. Please keep copies of each photograph for your personal records. These photographs help the police identify local graffiti hot spots.

Step 3: Remove

Property and business owners understand that promptly removing graffiti reduces the chances of recurrence. Also, the sooner you remove graffiti, the easier it is to clean the damaged surface.

Removal Methods

First, try using soap and water and a soft brush. If this does not work, use an approved removal product that is appropriate for the surface. The "World's Best Graffiti Removal System" has been tested and determined safe on historical buildings by the Vieux Carre Commission. In many instances, you can use a graffiti removal product rather than paint.

Meet the Neighbors



Our MTN guru **Jill McGaughey** has a knack for interesting venues.

Last month we met at **Siberia** on St Claude for drinks, some terrific sandwiches and out-of-this-world onion rings. If you missed it — your bad.

So be there for the next MTN on Tuesday, April 10 at **Kajuns Pub**, 2256 St Claude (kajunpub.com). Who knows what you'll find — alligator rings?

NONPAC Meetings

5th District Report No Report

8th District Report

With the 8th District assuming responsibility for the majority of the Marigny, it is more urgent than ever that someone volunteer to attend and report on its NONPAC meetings. Anyone interested please contact editor@faubourgmarigny.org.



Riverfront Park

By Donna Wakeman

On March 21, Councilmember Kristen Gisleson Palmer sponsored a community meeting to update all on the status of the riverfront park. Held at Café Istanbul, representatives of the City's Capital Projects department, the Neighborhood Engagement office and the construction company made a presentation to a standing room only group from the French Quarter, Marigny, Bywater and St. Roch neighborhoods. Photos were shown of the current status of the project, which is anticipated to be completed this fall.

Plans were announced concerning the establishment of a nine-member Riverfront Community Liaison Team to provide a communications link between the neighborhoods and the project manager during the final stage of construction, and most importantly, provide input on the creation of a programming/operations advisory mechanism. The announced intent was to obtain three representatives, one each from the French Quarter, Marigny and Bywater neighborhood associations. Councilmember Palmer requested the addition of an additional representative from the St. Roch association. The remaining members of the team will be drawn from at-large community members, with input from Palmer's office if there are more applicants than spaces. The goal is to start meeting as soon as possible, ideally the first week in April. The original intent was for

the team to last until construction is complete, but the Neighborhood Engagement office indicated its flexibility in that regard.

In the question and answer period, great dissatisfaction was voiced by attendees about the lack of clarity concerning plans for the use of the park, its funding and maintenance. It was pointed out that the Marigny has been voicing its concern for years. Of greatest concern was the possible noise pollution and parking problems that might be generated by events held at the Mandeville Wharf. Councilmember Palmer reiterated her support of the neighborhood on this issue and pressed for community input into operating guidelines prior to the selection of a management firm.

Note: The FMIA has designated Ken Caron, former Board member, as its representative.

Orchids & Onions

ORCHIDS

✿ to residents of 2000 block of Burgundy Street where the entire block is now monitored by 12 private surveillance cameras.

ONIONS

✿ to those property owners don't respect historic zoning

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Parking in the Triangle

By Ken Caron

The Marigny Triangle is a formal Residential Parking Zone (Zone 11). Additional parts of the Marigny Triangle will soon be included in the Residential Permit Parking Program, Zone 11. The streets are:

- 2000 Block of Dauphine Street, both the odd and even sides
- 1900 Block of Burgundy Street, both odd and even sides
- 2000 Block of Burgundy Street, both odd and even sides
- 2100 Block of Burgundy Street, odd side only
- 700 Block of Touro Street, both odd and even sides
- 900 Block of Touro Street, odd side only.

In order for a street to be added to the RPP a petition needed to be created with the listed of each electrical metered address. Each side of each street applying would have to have greater than 50% of the residents want to be included in the Residential Parking Permit Program and sign the petition indicating so. The streets that chose to be added to the RPP had a very large majority in favor of the change far exceeding the greater than 50% requirement. Most were greater than 90%!

In order to park on designated streets in RPP Zone 11 between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm you are required to have a current RPP sticker or risk a parking ticket. In order to obtain a yearly Residential Parking Permit, proof of residency at the local address in the residential permit parking zone must be presented at the time of application is made. The required documentation is:

- Lease, Mortgage or Utility Bill at the Local Address in the RPP Zone
- Current Driver's License matching the Local Address in the RPP Zone
- Current Vehicle Registration Matching the Local Address in RPP Zone

Applicants with motor vehicles registered in another state may apply for a 30 day permit. Applicants must provide a valid driver's license and motor vehicle registration from their home state, a rental or lease agreement, utility bill

receipt, or some other adequate proof of residency in the designated residential permit parking zone.

Fees:

- \$40.00 Application Fee
- \$15.00 Permit Package Fee (1 Decal and 1 Visitor Pass)
- Persons 65 and older who qualify for a Residential Parking Permit are exempt from paying the parking permit fee.

The City has indicated that the new Residential Parking Permit Signs will be installed in May or June.

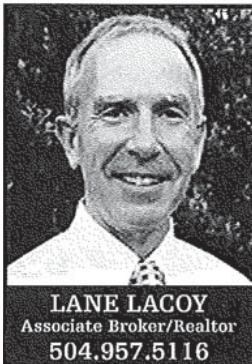
Residents will be informed when they will be able to obtain their RPP stickers. Please look in May's newsletter for this information.

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FMIA General Meeting Minutes February 27, 2012

WELCOME / INTRODUCTION

President Alex Vialou welcomed all to the February General Meeting of the FMIA. Alex announced the three guest presentations for the evening: (1) Bonnie Rabe of the Professional Innkeeper's Association of New Orleans, (2) Sean Cummings, real estate developer, and (3) Jackson Knowles of the NOCCA Institute.

New Faces / New Members:

New Neighbors: Alec Case and Kate Clark, new residents at 716 St. Roch introduced themselves, as did Rachel, who recently moved to 945 Kerlerec St. (Check sign-in sheet for names – Gretchen?)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPEAKERS

Announcements:

Two Quality of Life Officers from the 8th District, Jeanette Williams and Chase introduced themselves. The officers encouraged FMIA members to contact them with their concerns. They were asked if the monthly COMSTAT meeting could occasionally be held in the Faubourg Marigny. The Christopher Inn was suggested as a potential venue. The officers were applauded for recent efforts at policing the illegal turns at the corner of St. Claude and Franklin Streets which had become very dangerous. In response to a question about the sub-station in the New Orleans Healing Center the officers stated that it had been considered for a bicycle patrol station but that nothing was final yet.

Guests:

1) Bonnie Rabe: President of the Professional Innkeeper's Association of New Orleans (PIANO). Ms. Rabe started her presentation with a definition of a Bed and Breakfast (B&B): (a) it must be licensed, (b) there can be no more than nine rooms in an owner occupied home, i.e., the owner claims homestead exemption, (c) it must have fire and safety inspections, (d) it must have insurance, and (e) it must pay taxes (4% plus a 50 cents-per-night fee goes to the city). In contrast to short term vacation rentals, stays at a B&B are usually 7 days or less. Short term rentals, which can be legal if licensed, require a minimum stay of 30 days.

Ms. Rabe encourages everyone to report unlicensed B&B's and short term rentals. Not only are they potentially dangerous (no inspections, insurance, etc.), but a recent OIG report indicates that substantial City revenue is being lost to these unreported businesses. Ms. Rabe estimates there are 3 times more illegal B&Bs compared to the number of licensed PIANO members. Currently, only one B&B per block-face is permitted. Violations should be reported to the City CFO.

PIANO is working with the City to make a single definition of a B&B and to standardize the requirements. New Orleans currently has 5 different categories of B&B, each with a different license.

Ms. Rabe thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak and invited members to contact PIANO with questions.

2) Sean Cummings: Real Estate Developer and Director of Ekistics, Inc. Mr. Cummings gave a brief history of some of his projects including the National Rice Mills Lofts in the Bywater. His proposed project for the Marigny is called the Elio Lofts and is located on Decatur St. between Elysian Fields and Marigny Streets. He described the location and surrounding elements of the neighborhood. Images of the building were displayed and he explained the ideas and inspiration behind the designs. Energy efficiency would be double most current New Orleans construction.

Wayne Troyer, architect for the project, described the three sections of the building. The 1/3 on Elysian Fields Avenue includes loft apartments and commercial space, the middle 1/3 incorporates the existing historic building in the center of the block, and the 1/3 of the building on the Marigny corner includes the parking. The building was described as a contemporary interpretation of the old buildings found in this area of the riverfront. Although the Marigny neighborhood is predominantly one and two story homes, Mr. Troyer explained that buildings on the riverfront were historically different. The Elio Lofts were designed to integrate the larger riverfront buildings with the residential homes. The project envisions 73 loft apartments and 74 parking spaces with an overall height of 75' at the highest point. There will also be commercial space including a restaurant and a florist.

A lively discussion followed the presentation and many points of view were expressed. There was much opposition to the project in both scale and design. The minimal parking for residents was questioned and there is no parking at all for the commercial businesses. Approving a building 75 feet high was viewed by many as opening a Pandora's box for future development. One member voiced support for the entire project, as is. Another member suggested that a compromise could be possible. Another member expressed the danger of creating a precedent and eventually losing control of development, leading to a corridor of tall buildings down Elysian Fields.

One member pointed out that the project would exceed the current height zoning by 50%, it would exceed the permitted floor area ratio (FAR) by 50%, and would reduce parking from the required 1.5 spaces per unit to 1 space per unit.

Mr. Cummings indicated that the current height limit of 50 feet could be respected but it would be at the cost of all the interesting aspects of this very creative building.

Gene Cizek, first president of the FMIA, recounted the history of the organization which was formed 40 years ago primarily in response to the construction of the Christopher Inn which was and remains an out-of-scale monolith in the middle of the historic Faubourg. The FMIA has tenaciously defended the 50-foot height limit for years. Mr. Cizek insisted that the FMIA's struggle has been successful in maintaining the fabric and integrity of the neighborhood. He complimented the project as a whole as well as Mr. Cummings past projects such as the Rice Mills, but urged that this project be modified to fit into the neighborhood.

President Alex Vialou thanked Mr. Cummings and encouraged all members to voice their opinions about the project to the Board.

3) Jackson Knowles of the NOCCA Institute. Ms. Knowles explained that the mission of the NOCCA Institute is support and advocate for NOCCA. The institute is currently situated in the main NOCCA building. Because NOCCA is a state agency it has suffered budget cuts in each of at least 3 years. The NOCCA Institute is searching for ways to make up the lost revenue.

This year NOCCA announced a new Culinary Arts program. Also, students now have the possibility of attending NOCCA full time for the first time. Previously, students would attend their regular schools for core classes and then travel to NOCCA for their art classes. Now, students will be able to attend NOCCA full time for all classes, starting with the ninth grade, and will graduate in 4 years with a NOCCA diploma.

Unfortunately, the current facility is bursting at the seams. NOCCA has acquired property along Press St. next to the railroad track, from Chartres to St. Claude Avenue and plans to utilize the space both for the school's future needs and also the needs of the neighborhood.

While no plans are finalized yet, NOCCA envisions the following:

1) At Press St. and St. Claude Avenue a new entrance to NOCCA. There would be some type of a St. Claude "Gateway Building" which would be mixed commercial facility and might include a restaurant. This would lead to a tree lined corridor down Press St. with green spaces leading to NOCCA.

2) Rampart St. to Dauphine St. would be culinary gardens for students and produce for the school.

3) Dauphine to Royal St. will be a tribute to Homer Plessy including: a) an outdoor park, b) a visitor center for the history of Homer Plessy, and c) space for a community forum for modern "citizens committees".

NOCCA has also bought the Habitat Restore building on Royal Street. That location may house the new culinary classes. There may also be a Café Reconcile-type restaurant at that location.

Ms. Knowles acknowledged that parking is an issue. She stated that NOCCA is aware of the issue and they are committed to finding solutions.

Rachel Heilman of Transport for NOLA discussed the progress of New Orleans streetcar projects. Phase One of the new streetcar line from Union Station to Canal St. is currently under construction. Part Two will continue the line from Canal Street to Elysian Fields or Press Street. Unfortunately, it is only partially funded and completion of the entire line is uncertain. The last phase would take the line to Poland Avenue. Tiger IV federal grant money is now available and would provide the City with another opportunity to secure funding to complete this project. Ms. Heilman underscored the need for letters of support from the community. The organization would like to collect 1,000 signatures to accompany the application for funds. Transport for NOLA has a website where a petition of support can be signed: transportformola.org.

UPDATES / COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committees:

Marigny Green Committee:

Deborah Oppenheim of the FMIA's Marigny Green committee reminded everyone that she still has cards that neighbors can sign and submit if they are interested in recycling.

No other committee reports.

MEMBER DISCUSSION / TOPICS

Dwight Norton announced that there would be a symposium presented by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) on March 13, 2012, from 6:00 to 8:00 related to urban parking issues. It will take place at the WWII museum. This announcement was followed by a general discussion of parking issues in the Faubourg.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

FMIA Board Meeting Minutes March 7, 2012

Members Present: Alex Vialou, Jason Patterson, Jim Farr, Gretchen Bomboy, Gene Cizek, Miles Swanson, Marshall Gries, Donna Wakeman, Chris Costello, members Absent: None

Guests: (1) Dave Hurlbert, Owner Holy Trinity Church; (2) John Luckett, Neighbor of 501 Elysian Fields, (3) Beth Barrios, Owner / Director "Guide 2 Fun" (tourist maps)

Meeting called to order (time): 7:08 p.m. By: Alex Vialou

Previous Meeting Minutes: Read? No, distributed by e-mail Approved? Yes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

COMMUNITY REQUESTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. DAVE HURLBERT, Owner Holy Trinity Church

Mr. Hurlbert reported that Holy Trinity Church is currently undergoing renovations as a private residence. There are no more public performances. Although an application to operate as a church has been filed no permit has issued yet. Mr. Hurlbert's first application was denied and he is now awaiting a response from the City on his reapplication. He is asking for permission to operate the building as a church and indicated that Episcopal Bishop Joe Doss is involved in the application process. His goal is to once again make the church a community resource. However, for the time being it is a residence only. If Mr. Hurlbert is granted classification and a permit to operate as a church he will then start the safety and permitting process. Although the church is currently planned to be non-denominational Mr. Hurlbert is working with the Episcopal Church.

There was a brief discussion about the history of live musical performances without proper permits. Mr. Hurlbert reiterated that those have stopped and will not resume until he has proper authorization.

The board thanked him for the update.

2. JOHN LUCKETT - Neighbor of 501 Elysian Fields project.

Mr. Luckett voiced his concerns about parking for the proposed Elio Lofts project at 501 Elysian Fields. He stated that one year ago a variance was granted for 511 Marigny from 1 1/2 to 1 space per unit. Now, 501 Elysian Fields wants a similar variance. Mr. Luckett asked the FMIA to stand firm on the 1.5 spaces requirement and to oppose any reductions. He reminded us that the FMIA has opposed corner businesses in the past because there was no/inadequate parking. The total lack of parking for the project's commercial businesses was also noted. Mr. Luckett also voiced his concern about the construction process which would include pile-driving and the impact on the surrounding homes.

There was a general discussion about creating precedent for inadequate parking. Further, the City will be putting out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for development of the Elysian Fields parking lots and the impact of that development on parking

Continued on page 13



Fmia Board Meeting Minutes March 7, 2012 - continued

was raised. The City Planning Commission (CPC) has requested that we revisit the current parking requirements.

There was additional discussion about the importance of having good project designs. Bad projects are not hard to find in New Orleans. Jackson Brewery was raised as an example. Despite initial representations, Jax Brewery has been commercially unsuccessful, has gone through multiple owners, and has never succeeded in integrating into the Vieux Carré.

Mr. Luckett was thanked for his participation.

3. BETH BARRIOS - Owner / Director "Guide 2 Fun" (tourist maps)

Ms. Barrios owns a company which produces laminated folding tourist maps which highlight notable landmarks, restaurants, bars, etc. These maps are commonly seen in tourist destinations. Ms. Barrios hopes to include the Marigny and Bywater neighborhoods in her newest map and wants to coordinate with the neighborhoods to help find and promote local businesses. Business owners pay to have their businesses highlighted/advertised on the maps. The maps are then distributed to multiple outlets and are generally available for free to the public. She extended an invitation to the FMIA to be a sponsor. For those interested, she may be contacted at beth@guide2fun.com.

Ms. Barrios was thanked for her presentation. No decision was made regarding FMIA sponsorship.

ADMINISTRATION

1. APPROVALS BY E-MAIL: None.

An e-mail motion to donate \$250 to the Goodchildren Social Aid and Pleasure Club had been approved, but was amended to \$300 which would entitle the FMIA to be a recognized sponsor.

2. STOP THE NOISE INITIATIVE: The FMIA has been asked by the Vieux Carré Property Owners Residents and Associates (VCPORA) to support the Hear the Music, Stop the Noise initiative. Potentially, this issue affects the Marigny, i.e., Frenchmen Street and other areas.

Members discussed the initiative which focuses on establishing and enforcing reasonable levels of sound. The idea behind the initiative is that music doesn't have to be loud to be heard and enjoyed and that over-amplification which has resulted in decibel wars on Bourbon Street affects the health and quality of life of those who live nearby.

Chris Costello volunteered to provide additional information on the initiative such as the official website and distribute it to members. An e-mail vote will be arranged once all have had a chance to review the material.

3. MINUTES: Gretchen Bomboy moved to approve last month's minutes. Gene Cizek seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Alex Vialou stated that the board is again stretched too thin to achieve all of its goals without volunteer help. There is a tremendous need for people to volunteer for certain activities.

Alex also reported having attended a meeting regarding a new initiative on an Arts, Cultural and Entertainment District. The arts component could include events such as Fringe Fest, cultural venues could include long term music establishments such as Snug Harbor, and entertainment venues could include various clubs and bars. He will keep us updated.

There was a brief discussion about the procedures to be used when making a complaint to the FMIA. The complaint policy is posted on the FMIA website at faubourgmariigny.org. On the homepage, click on the Neighborhood Issues tab and there is a link to the policy. Everyone needs to remember that the people who feel harmed should first take the problem to the offender, police, or city agency and try to resolve the issue before contacting the FMIA. It is very important that all attempts at resolving the issue be documented. If this doesn't work the FMIA will organize a meeting between the parties to attempt to resolve the issue. If this also fails, the FMIA will refer the complainant to the appropriate city or state entity. The FMIA is not a police agency or City department with enforcement powers.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Chris Costello distributed the balance sheet, profit & loss statement, and check detail reports. The balance sheet will be posted on the website. Chris reminded the board that the Louisiana Non-profit Organization annual fee (\$100) would be coming due soon. Chris moved that we pay the \$100 fee to renew our membership. Alex Vialou seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Newsletter: Donna Wakeman distributed by e-mail a proposal to update the faubourgmariigny.org website in order to improve the functionality and appearance. Currently, the site is technologically limited and dated. Unfortunately, there have been no volunteers who have expressed either the desire or ability to do the upgrade work and basic upgrade would require around \$2,000 as an initial outlay.

The ensuing discussion covered everything from the types of upgrades (on-line updating of member information, payment of dues, etc.) to the possibility of sponsored ads to help pay for the upgrades.

It was decided that the issue should be brought to the general membership.

b) Marigny Green: No report.

c) Blight: Alex Vialou reported that an Office of Performance and Accountability study indicated that code enforcement was underperforming in all areas except in the number of inspections and demolitions.

d) Security: No report.

e) Washington Park: Chris Costello moved to spend \$80 for a portable toilet and \$100 for gravel to enable a Sheriff's detail to undertake park maintenance including repairing the drainage around the storage shed. Gretchen Bomboy seconded the motion. All in voted in favor.

Continued on page 14



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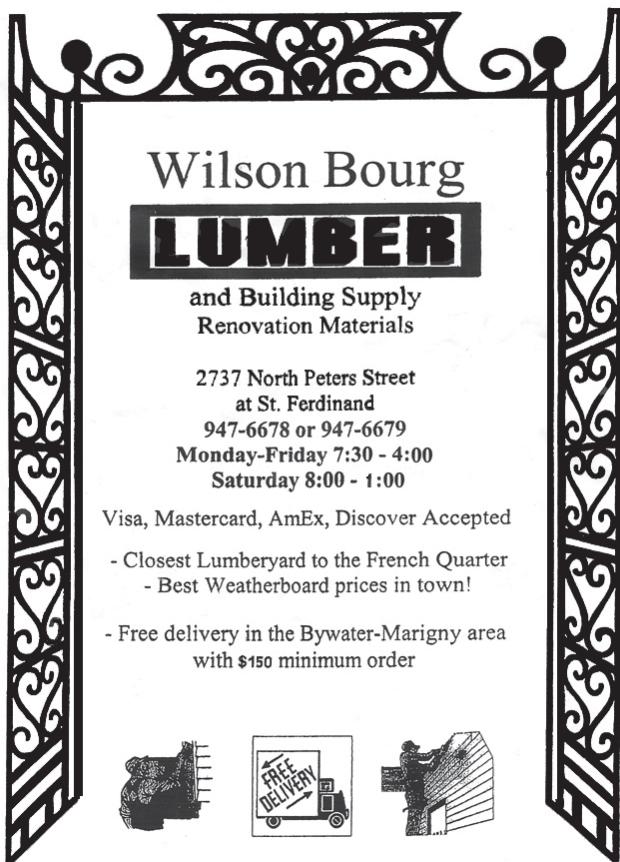
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Fmia Board Meeting Minutes March 7, 2012 — continued

The ASPCA has asked permission to place an "art dog" in the park. This would be similar to the streetcar art project and the proceeds from any subsequent sale would go to the ASPCA. However, existing art will have to be removed. Miles Swanson to follow up.

f) Marigny French Festival / Fête Française: Marshall Gries gave a presentation detailing plans for the fall 2012 Marigny French Festival / Fête Française. The date has been tentatively scheduled for the October 21st, 2012, the same day as the annual walking tour and would incorporate the tour as well as FMIA 40th Anniversary activities.

Plans for the festival currently include food and beverage booths, amusements/games, merchandise vendors, a stage for music (live and recorded), a costume contest, silent auction, children's area, and raffle. Anyone interested in working on the festival or knowing people who would be interested are encouraged to contact Marshall Gries at marshallg@faubourgmargny.org.

g) FMIA 40th Anniversary Committee: Gene Cizek and Chris Costello are continuing work.

OLD BUSINESS

PROJECTS:

a) Master Plan: There will be a Master Plan meeting at the City Planning Commission office on March 30 at 4:00 p.m. Parking, heights, and an extension of Cultural and Arts overlay will be discussed.

b) Parking: Ongoing

c) Sound: Ongoing

d) Bicycle Safety PSA: Ongoing

e) Riverfront Alliance: Next meeting is scheduled for March 21.

f) Graffiti: The problem is getting noticeably worse. Gretchen Bomboy moved to enter an agreement with Operation Clean Sweep to paint over graffiti - on the condition that there is a signed agreement with the owners of the affected property and that any painting will be done in matching colors. This has been successfully tried on St. Claude Avenue. The cost would be \$250 for the year for the entire Faubourg. Jim Farr seconded the motion. Motion passes; 8 in favor, one against.

g) Mimi's: Miles Swanson is to organize a meeting between Mimi's owner or manager and affected neighbors.

NEW BUSINESS

PROJECTS:

a) 501 Elysian Fields: The board expressed the view of the overwhelming majority of FMIA members and rejected the current proposal for 501 Elysian Fields. The FMIA will not participate in any working group unless and until the project complies with the 50 foot height maximum. Alex Vialou will draft a letter to Sean Cummings and various city and state officials notifying them of the FMIA's position and reasons.

Motion by Miles Swanson to reject the project as currently presented (75 feet) or join any working group until the project complies with existing zoning. Jason Patterson seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

b) Spring Home Tour: Gene Cizek has obtained commitments from three homeowners and is continuing to search for more.

c) CVS: CVS has apparently withdrawn their plans and the proposal appears to be dead.

d) Frenchmen: Nothing new.

e) Noise: See Administration#2 above.

Further discussion was tabled due to time constraints. Remaining issues to be addressed by e-mail.

ORCHIDS & ONIONS:

Orchids: 1) Orchids to residents of 2000 block of Burgundy Street where the entire block is now monitored by 12 private surveillance cameras.

Onions: 1) Onions to those property owners don't respect historic zoning.

MOTIONS:

1) Motion to increase the donation to Goodchildren Social Aid and Social Club from \$250 to \$300 which entitles the FMIA to be a recognized sponsor.

Moved: Gretchen Bomboy Seconded: Donna Wakeman Vote: Approved 9-0

2) Minutes: Motion to approve last month's minutes.

Moved: Gretchen Bomboy Seconded: Gene Cizek Vote: Approved 9-0

3) Motion to renew our membership in LANO.

Moved: Chris Costello Seconded: Alex Vialou Vote: Approved 9-0

4) Motion to spend \$80 for a port-o-potty and \$100 for gravel for Washington Park.

Moved: Chris Costello Seconded: Gretchen Bomboy Vote: Approved 9-0

5) Motion to pay \$250 to Operation Clean Sweep for graffiti removal.

Moved: Gretchen Bomboy Seconded: Jim Farr Vote: Approved 8-1

6) Motion to oppose the proposed development at 501 Elysian Fields as currently planned.

Moved: Seconded: Vote: Approved 9-0

Meeting Adjourned Time: 9:50 p.m.

Membership Form

Membership Status New Renewal

Member Type Individual \$15.00 Individual Senior (65+) \$5.00

Business \$25.00 Household \$20.00 Household Senior (65+) \$10.00

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FMIA General Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2012

WELCOME / INTRODUCTION

President Alex Vialou welcomed all to the March General Meeting of the FMIA and thanked everyone for coming. Alex reviewed the agenda for the evening and introduced the evening's two guests: Officer Franklin of the NOPD Fifth District and Councilmember Stacy Head, a candidate for one of the City Council's two at-large seats.

Alex reminded all members that the annual membership fees are now past due.

New Faces / New Members:

New Neighbors: Kevin Davis and his wife recently closed on their new home at 1024 Port Street. His father Dave was here with him to help on the house. The members welcomed them to the neighborhood.

Luke Har de Galuan is a new FMIA member and attended the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPEAKERS

Announcements:

President Vialou thanked everyone for their efforts in making the most recent Meet the Neighbors night at Siberia a great success. These meetings provide a great opportunity to meet neighbors and make new friends.

Guests:

1) Stacy Head: Councilwoman Stacy Head introduced herself and gave a brief summary of her experience as a Councilmember for District B, which encompasses the CBD, Garden District, part of Uptown, and Central City. As an attorney, Ms. Head became involved in local politics after Katrina. She stated that she wanted to make a difference in the City which already had a great base but which suffered from dysfunctional government and a substandard education system – two areas that can be influenced through politics.

Ms. Head was then asked several questions about issues relevant to the neighborhood. First, she was asked about the riverfront development. She responded that she wasn't yet sufficiently educated to respond to specific questions about the riverfront. Regarding zoning issues, she refers to the city's Master Plan. She has had experience working on height variance issues through her work in District B, especially in the CBD. She underscored the need to perfect the Comprehensive Zoning Overlay (CZO).

For businesses which are not permitted to operate under existing zoning and are asking for variances, she emphasized the importance of having "good neighbor agreements" similar to the one in place between the FMIA and Café Istanbul. She has had experience with these types of agreements in District B. For businesses which are entitled to have alcohol by right, problems can only be addressed through enforcement. Ms. Head said that this is an area that needs to be improved. She indicated that much of the problem is the excessive amount of time it takes for a case to be brought before the ABO and adjudicated.

Short-term vacation rentals and B & Bs were also addressed. Ms. Head discussed problems similar to those in the Faubourg Marigny that she encountered in the Garden District. She said it is a problem city-wide and she has been working with the organization PIANO and the City to address the problems.

She thanked the members for the opportunity to speak and urged everyone to consider voting for her in the upcoming election.

2) Linda Santi: Ms. Santi introduced herself and announced that she was running for the Democratic State Central Committee from District 99, and also for the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee from District E. One person can be elected to both positions.

Ms. Santi told FMIA members about her experience working with the Democratic Party, her grassroots organizing efforts, and her knowledge of the political process. There was a brief discussion about the boundaries of her districts. It appears that most of the Faubourg lies within the district and her name will appear on most Marigny ballots. She urged Democrats to vote for her in the upcoming election and promised to work hard to earn their trust.

She thanked everyone for the opportunity to address the group.

Michael Pizzolatto of the Homer Plessy Community School made a brief announcement that their charter had been approved by the Orleans Parish School Board or BESE and they hoped to start operating as a charter school in 2013. They would like to start up in the new Colton school but they have been fighting national charter organizations like "KIPP" schools which are much larger organizations. To keep the neighbors better informed of developments the organization will start hosting events around the neighborhood. Next Tuesday they will host an open house at the Shadow Box Theatre at 2400 St. Claude Avenue from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come to the event.

UPDATES / COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committees:

Parking: Residential permit parking will soon be starting in parts of the Marigny Triangle. Since the original legislation only included the Triangle, the Rectangle would have to start an initiative of its own if residents there want to implement the same system. Further, although permit parking is allowed in the Triangle, each block has to petition the City and prove that 51% of the residents (by number of electrical meters) are in favor before permit parking is approved for that block. Further, permitting is granted individually for each side of the street, i.e., odd and even sides of the street.

Although there are no street signs yet indicating the permitted areas, the City has indicated that they may be in place in May or June. Many Triangle blocks are now approved: The 2000 block of Dauphine St. both sides of the street; the 1900 block of Burgundy Street both sides of the street; the 2000 block of Burgundy St. both sides of the street; the 2100 block of Burgundy St. only the odd numbered side of the street; the 700 block of Touro St. both sides of the street; and the 900 block of Touro St. only the odd numbered side of the street.

Each resident on an approved block will be able to obtain one permit for him/herself and one for a guest. In these permitted areas parkers with a permit will be able to park from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. without having to move their vehicle. All non-permitted vehicles will have to move after 2 hours.

While this will reduce the number of long term parkers and abandoned cars, it is likely to squeeze parkers into other areas putting pressure on the other streets in both the Triangle and Rectangle.

Newsletter: Donna Wakeman announced that she had attended a symposium and workshop on March 13 sponsored by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) on urban parking. The focus was on the high cost, in all senses, of urban parking. Several nationally recognized experts spoke on the issue. Those at both the symposium and workshop believe that parking should be priced high enough to force a reevaluation of driving and parking habits.

The ULI has received a government grant to study the issue. They are considering a "Parking Benefit District" (PBD) in certain sections of the city, most likely the CBD and French Quarter, on a trial basis. This PBD would incorporate new parking strategies and pricing. Additional revenues generated by the increased fees and fines would inure to the benefit of the neighborhoods for things such as sidewalks, trees, benches, etc.

Workshop participants discussed the feasibility of having 24-hour metered areas as well as increased pricing at nighttime when the demand increases. Donna wanted to make certain that the Triangle and Rectangle are kept together as a unit for purposes of any potential program. There was general discussion about people who need a vehicle in neighborhoods which lack basic necessities such as grocery stores, doctors, clothing stores, etc.). Residents with parking permits would be exempt from paying meter fees.

Donna made it clear that there is interest at City level for this type of project but it is still a work in progress.

MEMBER DISCUSSION / TOPICS

Spring Home Tour: Gene Cizek has been lining up houses for Spring Home Tour which will be May 20, 2012 in the Triangle this year. Gene has some very interesting homes this year including some which have never been on the Tour before. The remaining homes are in the pipeline but have not yet committed. Members were reminded that we will need volunteers for the Home Tour.

French Fest / 40th Anniversary FMIA: Marshall Gries outlined the general format of an autumn French-themed Festival in Washington Park. This first year, the Fest will also incorporate FMIA 40th Anniversary celebration activities as well as the fall Walking Tour. Artist booths, food and drink vendors, an entertainment stage, children's game area, costume contest, and silent auction are all planned for the event which could become an annual fund raising event for the FMIA. Volunteers will be needed for the various committees and a sign-up sheet was available for those interested. Anyone interested should contact Marshall Gries at marshallg@faubourgmargny.org, or come to the first organizational meeting which will take place at Café Sentiments (above Feelings Cafe) at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30.

Holy Trinity Church: Nothing new. The owner is still moving forward with his plans to reopen the building as a church. In the event that any variance is sought the FMIA would require a community benefit agreement between the owners and the neighborhood.

501 Elysian Fields: The FMIA Board voted unanimously against the current proposal for the 501 Elysian Fields project. The project was scheduled to go before the City Planning Commission in April but has been postponed. The new hearing date will be announced and the meeting will be open to the public. All those interested are encouraged to attend. Member(s) of the FMIA board will be present.

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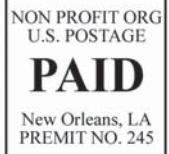
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We get it done!



ASSOCIATION

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General Meeting — Monday, 4/16/12

Meet the Neighbors Night — Tuesday, 4/10/12

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