



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

## *Les Amis de Marigny*

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

## Fête Marigny 2013

Join us at Washington Square Park on October 20!

Building on the success of last year, but bigger and better than ever. Some of the highlights to look forward to:

### Music

Musical acts confirmed so far include **Aurora Nealand & the Royal Roses** and **Helen Gillet**, with more to be added soon.

### Food

Our goal is to see some of the terrific vendors from last year return, plus we're working to add some new ones this year.

### Kids

New this year we'll be turning the Washington Square Park playground into the Bastille and then having kids storm it with water balloons. Just like they did in France.



### Wine Raffle

Last year's wine raffle was such a success that we are planning another one as part of the second annual Fete Marigny. If you have a bottle of wine (or a case!) that you are willing to donate to the "wine cellar," please bring it to any general meeting or contact Marshall Gries at [marshallg@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:marshallg@faubourgmarigny.org)

## Your Board Not at Work

An unusual thing happened in June. The first *Ban the Bins* Committee met on the 27<sup>th</sup>, with representatives from Cmbr. Palmer's office, Quality of Life Officer Liang and about a dozen other people present for the discussion.

So what made this so remarkable? This initiative was not started by anyone on the FMIA Board, or from the city, it was started by Cheryl Gerber, a member of FMIA who was fed up with the trash bin situation, and decided to take action. Working with the FMIA, Cheryl proved that the process can work — that anyone in the Marigny can start an initiative and get the FMIA board to act.

From the discussions of that first meeting a letter was drafted and sent to Councilmember Palmer, Chair of the Sanitation and Environmental



Committee, in response to growing concern over the unsightly garbage cans being left on the sidewalks in front of our historic homes.

Among the solutions proposed:

- Provide smaller City cans for all residents who cannot currently fit the larger cans in their alleys.
- For those residents whose alleys will not accommodate even the smallest can, allow an exemption for the owner to use heavy bags, like the French Quarter, or a non-standard can.
- For the downtown historic districts return to the pre-2007 system and allow residents to purchase their own cans of a size that will fit in their alleys.

This is an ongoing process. For more info or to volunteer go to [faubourgmarigny.org](http://faubourgmarigny.org)



# Happ'ns in the 'Hood

## SafeCams8

A representative from SafeCams8 will make a short presentation at our next FMIA general meeting on Monday, August 19. This is an opportunity for anyone interested in this program to learn more about it.

## Colton School Front Office

The phone number for Colton School Front Office is 504.373.6256. Please call if you have any questions, concerns or compliments about the Colton Building, parking or KIPP New Orleans Leadership Primary & Academy. All teachers and staff have been requested to honor all parking regulations, and a list of school staff cars is kept at the front office, should any problems arise.

## Wine Bar and Wine Shop News

On July 23 the City Planning Commission voted 6 – 0 to approve zoning docket 073/13, the establishment of a Conditional Use to permit a Wine Bar and Wine Shop at 1027-31 Touro Street, an area zoned HMC-2 Historic Marigny/Treme Commercial.

## Noise Ordinance

There has been much discussion in the city concerning the list of seven essential suggestions for improving the noise ordinance. Not everyone has been in agreement on the issue, so to clarify the position taken by the FMIA, we have posted some background on the FMIA's involvement and official position on this list on our website at

<http://www.faubourgmarigny.org/noise.htm>.

In addition, the text of the Noise Ordinance recommendations from **The Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO)** can be read in its entirety on page 8 of this newsletter.

## New Location for Hubig's Pies

The new location for Hubig's Pies bakery on Press Street was approved by City Council in a 7 – 0 vote at their June Meeting.

## Food Trucks

City Council approved an ordinance allowing for an additional 100 food trucks. These new and existing trucks can operate without a buffer zone around existing restaurants in most areas of the city zoned commercial, industrial or mixed use. In other areas, including Faubourg Marigny, owners can purchase franchises to operate at specifically designated times and places. City Council will hold public hearings on each proposed franchise so that those in the neighborhood can be heard.

# ADVERTISING

Commercial Advertising				
Per-month Rates (1-2 times/year)				
	Full Page	1/2 Page	1/4 Page	Business Card
FMIA Member	\$110	\$55	\$40	\$25
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Non-Member	\$93	\$48	\$33	\$21

Ads should be photo ready, or in jpg, tif or pdf format.

All advertising must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication in the next month's issue. For information regarding advertising, contact the business manager at [ads@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:ads@faubourgmarigny.org).

## Classifieds Now Available

The newsletter is now accepting classified ads. Personals, however, are not being accepted. Contact [ads@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:editor@faubourgmarigny.org).

The newsletter is published each month except August and January. Back issues are available online at [www.faubourgmarigny.org](http://www.faubourgmarigny.org).

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# President's Report

Bonjour,

As I write this report, our community is still under the shock of the tragic shooting that happened July 27<sup>th</sup> in the 700 block of Mandeville Street. My sympathies go to all the families, friends and neighbors directly or indirectly involved in this incident. The FMIA is aware of the security and safety concerns raised by our neighbors. More crimes are being recorded on video and reported to the police thanks to the growing web of privately installed security cameras outside our homes.

With the information collected by these cameras, it will be possible to measure progress and assist in evaluating alternative strategies to deal with crime. These statistics should not make us forget though that the peace we are seeking in our neighborhood is more likely to come if it exists among our entire community which extends beyond the boundaries of our historic district.



Truckloads of deliciousness on Elysian Fields Avenue.

On a more positive note, you may have noticed that this year the Faubourg Marigny was the site of some events related to the Bastille Day weekend. Bastille Day is the French National Day celebrated on July 14<sup>th</sup>. This year the FMIA, CitroënNola – coordinated by Heather Marshall, My House Nola – Barrie Schwartz, presented together: "Storming Through Around Washington Square Park" on Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>: unique 60's to 80's French and European cars on Frenchmen Street and

New Orleans-based food trucks parked on Elysian Fields Avenue around Washington Square Park. The intent was to create a neighborhood-friendly event that could engage both residents and passers-by alike.

The FMIA has been invited since the Spring of 2012 to participate in the organization of the Bastille Day Festivities by the French Consulate of New Orleans and this year by the Alliance Française de la Nouvelle Orléans. The festivities are centered around a music and culinary festival at the U.S. Mint and include a series of public and private over three days.



Qu'est-ce que c'est? French vehicles on Frenchmen.

In anticipation of the City of New Orleans 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, Mark Romig -President and CEO of the New Orleans Marketing Tourism Corporation announced at the wreath laying ceremony that he hopes to see the Bastille Day Festivities be the anchor festival of the city in the summer of 2018. Since 2012, I have then represented our association in proposing ways to make sure that the festivities include residents as much as possible as to make it a neighborhood centric festival that is respectful of the cultural identities of each of our neighborhoods.

A bientôt and... be safe!

Alexandre Vialou

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# Marigny Green

By Deborah Oppenheim



## Tie One On

### Twist Ties

People tend to save twist ties in a junk draw to use at a later date. Twist ties are useful all around your house. The following ideas can help with other ways to recycle twist ties.



A pile of lowly yet useful twist ties

- The colored twist tie from bread indicates the shelf life of the bread, so ask the store clerk the date.
- Reuse produce twist ties for tying things together.
- To store your collection of twist ties, it is wise to straighten them out and use a 'snack size' zip lock and/or anything with a clear container with a lid for easy visibility.
- Twist ties are good for left-over snacks and other food.
- Twist ties are good for organizing hair accessories.
- Twist ties can be use like a 'brad' or paper fastener.
- Twist Ties are good for picking locks because they are small and easy to use.
- The corner screw of your eye glasses has fallen out and till you can get it repaired a twist tie works well.
- Twist ties are good for replacing lost zipper pulls.
- Ran out of Christmas tree hooks? Grab your bag of twist ties for hanging the ornaments.
- Twist ties are good for attaching keys together.
- Need to clean your blade of the razor and/or shaver, use a twist tie.
- The hanging mesh basket needs repair and twist ties are handy to do the job.
- The tiny button on electronics and watches needs to be reset and a twist tie can get the job done.

### Square Plastic Ties

- Many bread bags have little plastic ties to help hold them shut. They are useful to identify electric cords that are plugged into a circuit board and will fit around almost any cord. Write on it with a sharpie to help identify all your cords.
- Lost your guitar pick? You can use a small square plastic bread tab as a guitar pick; it works.
- Bread tabs are great for the Rolodex. Tape on the bread tab and label with a permanent marker.



The humble but versatile bread bag clip



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## Meet the Neighbors



Our last Meet the Neighbor's event was held on June 11 at **Kajun's Pub**. If you missed it you — missed among other delicious bites — pulled pork sliders, fried plantain chips and crostini topped with pecan paste, beets and goat cheese. I'm still full.

This coming month we'll be gathering at **Buffa's at 1001 Esplanade** on Tuesday, August 13 at 6:30 — hope to see you there!

### Please Note:

After August, we will be moving *Meet the Neighbors* from the second Tuesday to the second Wednesday of each month, in order to avoid scheduling conflicts for those who wish to attend the Bywater Neighborhood Association General Meetings held on the same day.

### Sad News

Sadly, Robert Ripley and his partner Thom suffered a great loss just minutes before the Spring Home Tour started. Their adorable 1 ½ year old bulldog, Royce, fell into the pool and drowned. They stoically endured and never mentioned it to any of our guests. Please express your sympathy and gratitude for the gracious way they handled such a tragedy.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August 2013

#### Board Meeting

August 14, 7 pm,  
Room 256 at the Healing Center

#### Meet the Neighbors

August 13, 6:30 – 8:30 pm,  
Buffa's, 1001 Esplanade

#### General Meeting

August 19, 6:30 Pot Luck, 7:15 Meeting  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street

### September 2013

#### Board Meeting

September 4, 7 pm,  
Room 256 at the Healing Center

#### Meet the Neighbors

September 11\*, 6:30 – 8:30 pm,  
Venue TBD

*\*Note change to Wednesday*

#### General Meeting

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

### NONPAC MEETINGS

#### 5<sup>th</sup> District — 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

6 pm, 4015 Burgundy Street

#### 8<sup>th</sup> District — 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

6 pm, location varies between 1001 Toulouse and the Healing Center

### GREEN MARKETS

#### French Market

Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10 am - 5 pm

#### Sankofa Market

Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm  
In front of ARISE Academy at Dr. Charles Drew Elementary School, 3819 St. Claude Ave.

### FREE FUN

#### St. Claude Arts District

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday: see [www.scadnola.com](http://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 John Gutekunst at [editor@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:editor@faubourgmarigny.org)*



### From the Kitchen of the NEWORLEANS FOODCO-OP Summer Squash, Zucchini, and Spinach Salad for Two People

Try this delicious recipe featured in the New Orleans Food Co-op's 5 for \$25 initiative — a biweekly publication of recipe collections that will feed 2 people for \$25 or under!

1 ½ cups spinach	4-5 button mushrooms, diced
½ zucchini, diced	½ cup cooked chickpeas
½ yellow summer squash, diced	2 tbsp. ranch dressing

Combine all of the ingredients in a bowl and mix until coated with dressing.



# St. Claude Update: Inside the Shops and Out on the Streets

By Jonathan M. Rhodes, St. Claude Main Street Volunteer Board President

## Announcing the St. Claude Business Association

Over the past year, St. Claude Main Street has helped to convene St. Claude Avenue businesses to discuss challenges facing storefront businesses and opportunities for improvement. Out of these conversations grew the **St. Claude Business Association**.

The St. Claude Business Association is a membership organization representing businesses between Elysian Fields Avenue and Poland Avenue. The goal of the St. Claude Business Association is to support unified and sustainable growth along the St. Claude corridor.

We are excited to introduce the founding members of the St. Claude Business Association: **Affordable Healing Arts, AfricaNOLA, Downtown Fitness Center, Fatoush Mediterranean Grill, Faubourg Wines, Gerkens Bike Shop, Hi-Ho Lounge, Meltdown, New Orleans Healing Center, Scoots, Shake Sugary Bakery, Siberia and St. Coffee.**

Members will work together on corridor promotions and marketing, as well as improvements such as trash cans, lighting, marketing and public relations. St. Claude Main Street's role is to assist in these efforts by facilitating resources for the corridor businesses.

The St. Claude Business Association would love to have your business be a part of these efforts. For more information, visit [www.stclaudel.org](http://www.stclaudel.org).

## Our Natural and Built Environment

St. Claude Main Street has had the pleasure of working with our community partners to develop a series of streetscape improvements, each designed to highlight the unique culture of our community, beautify the public space and encourage community interaction along our shared corridor.

In the coming months, St. Claude Avenue will see some new additions to the natural and built environment including a monumental public art installation in partnership with UNO Gallery; installation of a fruit tree park with the PRC and the Green Project; a pocket park in partnership with Tulane City Center, the BNA, Bunny Friend and NSCAN; bike corrals and racks with Bike Easy; the planting of live oaks with Parkway Partners and the St. Claude Business Association; and the installation of additional trash cans with assistance from Councilmember Palmer's office.

All of these projects will be taking place either in or near the Faubourg Marigny, so stay on the lookout for updates and events near you. In the meantime, there is always more information at [www.stclaudel.org](http://www.stclaudel.org).

### ORCHIDS

 for the participation of our neighborhood in the Bastille Day Festivities.

to ART Janitorial Services for having pressure washed Frenchmen Street as a good neighbor gesture before the Bastille Day Festivities.

### ONIONS

 to those in the neighborhood who make no effort to get rid of graffiti on their properties.

to those who do not pull their weeds.

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## General Meeting Potluck —

just a little suggestion . . .

One of our members astutely noticed that the “assignment list” for the potluck we have before every General Meeting of the FMIA has not changed in over two years and

**we might wish to tweak it.**

So if you’re an F – M person and tired of making bean and rice salad, or an S – Z person who dreams of bringing fried chicken, this is your lucky day! The new potluck assignments are:

If your name begins with:

**A – E: vegetable dish**

**F – M: bread/pasta/rice**

**N – R: dessert**

**S – Z: a meat dish**

**Bon Appétit!**

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## BOARD MEMBERS

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Marshall Gries, Recording Secretary:  
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## COMMITTEES

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Blight: [blight@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:blight@faubourgmarigny.org)

Marigny Green: [marignygreen@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:marignygreen@faubourgmarigny.org)

Newsletter: [editor@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:editor@faubourgmarigny.org)

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Development	Membership	Web Site
Frenchmen	Neighborhood	Zoning
Fundraising	Special Projects	

For comments — email [info@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:info@faubourgmarigny.org)



Did you ever wonder who these people are? ↑

**Find out at the next Meet your Neighbors!**  
And if you have a favorite place in the neighborhood that you think would be interested in hosting an upcoming event, let us know by emailing [editor@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:editor@faubourgmarigny.org).

## Do You Receive Our Weekly E-Blast?

FMIA sends out an email blast every Sunday with important news about what’s happening in the Faubourg Marigny and surrounding area — news that you need to know! To sign up for this service, email [news@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:news@faubourgmarigny.org) to be put on the list.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You may need to change your email settings to allow [news@faubourgmarigny.org](mailto:news@faubourgmarigny.org) as an approved sender or add it to your contact list.



IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

## Noise Ordinance recommendations of The Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO)

### A NOISE ORDINANCE FOR ALL NEW ORLEANIANS

Introduction: The Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (a community group composed of musicians, cultural workers and bearers, residents, and business owners) in coordination with YOUR GROUP HERE offer the following principals for a noise ordinance that works for all New Orleanians. This ordinance must be crafted in consultation with musicians, cultural workers, community groups, residents, business owners, and professional sound scientists. Such a policy must also receive ample public hearing.

Preamble: Music and performance are the backbone of our city and they drive our local economy. Live music draws millions of tourists to the city every year, attracts new residents and investments, and enhances real estate values in neighborhoods of cultural and musical vibrancy. A comprehensive noise ordinance that threatens the distinctiveness of New Orleans threatens our quality of life, the long-term economic growth of the city, and the everyday ability of thousands of our residents to earn an income. For New Orleanians, quality of life includes recognizing the interests of performers, residents (both owners and renters), businesses, and visitors in a manner that honors our culture bearers and the traditions—new and old—that comprise our city’s most important asset.

- LOCALIZED DECISION MAKING: While a citywide noise ordinance provides necessary coherence, blanket regulations are inappropriate and do not recognize the unique characteristics present in our neighborhoods. Regulations should be appropriate to the individual character and soundscapes of the city’s diverse neighborhoods, communities, and traditions. Such policies must be created and enforced with the input of residents, neighborhood associations, businesses, performers and cultural workers.
- MEDIATION, NOT CRIMINALIZATION: Noise complaints should lead to a formalized mediation process rooted in the involvement of concerned residents, neighborhood and community groups, affected performers, cultural workers, and local businesses. Criminalizing live music is neither a good neighbor policy nor a good economic policy in a city that thrives on the availability, diversity, and innovation of performance.

- PROFESSIONAL ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION: New Orleans needs a dedicated office directed with handling noise complaints that is both accessible and accountable. It is integral that this office be tasked with providing outreach to residents, businesses, performers, cultural workers, and other members of the cultural community about rules and regulations. This office must also take the lead in starting and fostering any mediation necessary to bring all involved parties to a mutually satisfying resolution of issues.
- CLARITY OF STREET PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS: Hours of performance and sound levels for street musicians and other performers may require legal and enforceable regulation, but these regulations should not threaten New Orleans’ reputation as a city that nurtures music, performance, and cultural innovation. Regulation on street performance must be crafted in consultation with performers themselves as well as residents and businesses. Once determined, hours and levels should be clearly posted on streets and online. Furthermore, all involved parties should have access to training and workshops regarding these regulations to ensure a common knowledge and understanding of the issues should the need for mediation arise.
- HONORING TRADITION AND INNOVATION: Traditional cultural practices including but not limited to Jazz Funerals, Second Lines, street performance, Mardi Gras Indian practices, parades, and gatherings should be explicitly encouraged and protected in the language of any final ordinance. These traditions lie at the core of our city’s culture and its economic growth, and the need to preserve and maintain the importance of these treasures must be considered at the heart of any mediation efforts.





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## Alvar Library in Bloom

By Adele Marrs, , Assistant Manager, Alvar Branch, New Orleans Public Library

The staff of the Alvar Library would like to thank everyone who participated in our Summer Reading and Teen Reading programs this June and July! We hope that you all had a wonderful time making puppets, reading stories, crafting creatures, meeting insects, and hearing stories with us. We had a great time offering these activities and seeing all of our youngest friends continue to read and learn throughout the summer.

We now look forward to offering homework help and resources to students and teachers throughout the school year. Additionally, we are eager to offer needed programs to our community members of all ages and would love your insights as to what these might be. Please let us know if you would like to see offerings of book clubs, writing workshops, poetry readings, job search assistance, or something else entirely.

Thanks to the help of our wonderful community volunteers, we have now begun offering free computer tutoring every Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm. Drop in between these hours for basic computer assistance, ranging from resume help to email account setup, and everything in between.

For those of you who have been visiting us throughout the summer, you have likely noticed that our community garden is in full bloom! With assistance from our teens, who helped to both build the garden bed and plant vegetables and herbs, we are now growing okra, cucumbers, tomatoes, basil, and peppers. Feel free to stop by and take a pick.



This fall we will be planting flowers and seasonal vegetables and would again love your knowledge and assistance.

Stop by and see us or give us a call at 596-2667 if you have ideas for programming or activities. As always, all programs are free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you soon!



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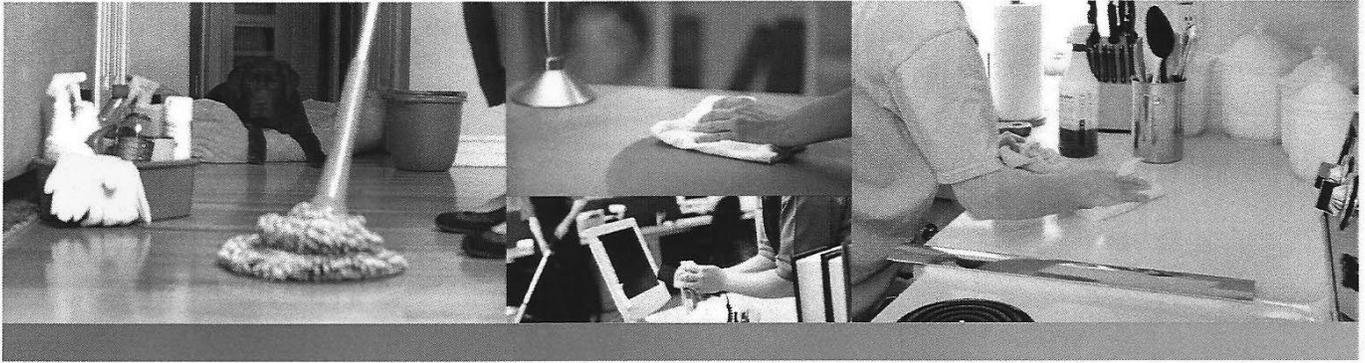
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# FMIA Board Meeting Minutes June 5, 2012

Members Present: Miles Swanson, Bill Walker, John Gutekunst, Mark Malouse, Marshall Gries

Members Absent: Alex Vialou, Gretchen Bomboy, Peter Horjus, Chris Costello

Guests, Organization:

PJ Lynch, Bike Taxi Unlimited, LLC; Rob Lynch, Bike Taxi Unlimited, LLC; Rita and Robin Chapman, Neighbors (Hubig's); Gary Delaumont, Neighbor (Hubig's); Cheryl Cook, Contractor (Washington Square Park fence); Donna Wakeman, FMIA Parking Committee

Meeting called to order (time): 6:58 p.m. By: Miles Swanson

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

## COMMUNITY REQUESTS/PRESENTATIONS

1) PJ and ROB LYNCH: The Lynch brothers own one of New Orleans' three pedicab companies, Bike Taxi Unlimited, LLC. Currently, three companies share a total of 45 total permits for pedicabs in the city. This is part of pilot program which will be ending soon. City Council will be asked to make a decision whether to discontinue the program, continue it with the current number of pedicabs, or increase the number of pedicabs. The City's Director of Ground Transportation Bureau has recommended to City Council to increase the number of pedicabs to 75. City Council will take up the issue at a public meeting scheduled for June 25, 2013. The Lynch brothers hope to maintain the current level of 45 permits.

PJ Lynch summarized his company's position as follows: a) the current number of pedicabs adequately service the public's demand with some shifts going unfilled during certain off-peak times (85% of shifts over the past year did not have all 45 pedicabs operating at one time), b) increasing the number of pedicabs will dilute each driver's income and will increase turnover, not create new jobs, and c) more pedicabs will add to the congestion of the downtown areas which they serve.

The Lynch brothers believe that pedicabs are currently at their optimum number and increasing the number will only result in an oversaturation, diminution of wages, increased turnover, and more congestion. They reported having spoken to French Quarter groups who are in favor of

keeping the number at 45. Taxi drivers and carriage drivers also oppose an increase. Cmbr. Kristen Palmer is the head of the Council's transportation committee that will be influential in the final decision.

The Lynches asked the FMIA to write a letter of support for the current 45 permit level and will provide a sample letter. They and also asked the FMIA to urge Cmbr. Palmer to meet with industry leaders concerning the issue.

There was a brief discussion about pedicab fares and the need to clarify rates. The Lynches stated they are in the process of making larger signs with posted fares for all of their company's pedicabs. The board thanked them for their presentation.

2) GARY DELAUMONT, RITA and ROBIN CHAPMAN (HUBIG'S PIES): Resident Gary Delaumont was emphatic in his desire to see Hubig's Pies to stay in the neighborhood. However, he stated that this particular site/lot is not appropriate. He reminded the board that recent trends in development in the Marigny have been from light industrial to light commercial and residential. Bringing back industrial uses is going in the opposite direction. Second, Gary said the lot is being overbuilt. There is no setback whatsoever. That means there is only 28" - 30" from the side of the neighbor's house to the wall of the building. That wall is 28' tall made of solid cinderblock with no windows. This is twice the height of all other nearby buildings and will be seen from throughout the Marigny. Third, Gary raised the issue of flooding. There are no drains on Press Street and those on North Rampart are not close. All drainage must run down the block toward St. Ferdinand.

Gary stated that it is new construction; it shouldn't need any waivers. He asked: "If this weren't Hubig's, would we support it?" He asked the board to oppose the plan.

Rita Chapman lives adjacent to the lot. She said that she took no issue with Hubig's but her primary concern was flooding. Her property already floods. There must be an environmental impact study but it has not been done yet. She wants the issue addressed before any construction begins. She also stated that the current plan (which will require 18 wheelers to stop in Press St.) will create a traffic congestion. Lastly, she mentioned that NOCCA's vision of a Press St. "promenade" as it was originally promoted is not consistent with an oversized industrial building. Also,

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Hubig's architectural plans have changed and she doesn't know if they have seen the latest version. The Chapmans have talked with the Ramseys (Hubig's owners) but it is premature to talk about details since the final site selection has not yet taken place.

Robin Chapman was not happy about the size of the proposed building which is massive compared to the surrounding buildings. Further, it is a solid block wall of modern design which is not pleasing and doesn't fit with anything else in the Marigny – especially a 28 foot tall concrete wall. Mr. Chapman also asked if it were not Hubig's would it be as welcome?

The board thanked all three neighbors for coming to the meeting to share their views.

3) CHERYL COOK: Cheryl Cook does contracting work and was asked to examine the Washington Square Park gate and fence. The Frenchmen/Dauphine gate is in very bad condition and is in danger of collapse. Ms. Cook asked the board what the scope of the project is, e.g., gate only, adjoining fence, etc. She wanted some general parameters before writing up any estimates. Bill Walker asked whether or not she could give us various options and we could compare and choose between them. She said she would do that. She emphasized that the priority should be gate which is in very bad condition. Ms. Cook does not have a contractor's license but she works through a licensed contractor. She will work up a proposal.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**1. APPROVALS BY E-MAIL:**

6/18/13 We changed the Meet the Neighbors to second Wednesday in order to allow people to attend Bywater's meeting. 6 in favor, passed.

7/16/13 Letter of support for Greener Bywater re Public Land. 5 in favor, passed.

7/17/13 Letter of position on Bike Taxi ordinance. 5 in favor, passed.

7/23/13 Vote to sign on to Tax Rehab letter. 6 in favor, passed.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Alex Vialou did not attend the board meeting due to illness. There was no president's report for June.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Mark Malouse reported the following checks since last meeting:

Flowers for home tour owners: \$400.00, May Newsletter: \$570.60, Home Tour Flyers (Vista Print) and miscellaneous Home Tour supplies: \$477.00, Home Tour booklets: \$1127.19, John Gutekunst – FMIA website maintenance, Pot-O-Gold toilet (Home Tour): \$475.00

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

a) Marigny Green: Nothing new to report.

b) Blight: Nothing new to report.

c) Parking: Committee chair Donna Wakeman distributed her committee's report to the board. She reported that she has re-contacted (email) all relevant contacts at City Hall in an attempt to get a response to the request to expand the Residential Parking District. She has not received response except a cc on a forward of her e-mail. She reported that the survey of on-street parking is complete. The inventory of parking spaces is not yet finished.

Donna reviewed the Residential On-Street Parking Survey done by the committee. There were a total of 162 respondents. Marigny residents were asked the following questions: What block is your residence on? How many cars do you normally park on the street? How often do you have to park 100 ft. or more away from your home? If you have difficulty parking near your home, what time of day do you experience difficulty parking? When is your car normally parked on the street? Do you currently have a parking permit?

There was also space to post comments about specific parking problems or issues which garnered 36 responses. The full report will be posted on the FMIA website at faubourgmarigny.org.

Should we post the results on the website? The results are interesting and informative but I'm nervous that people draw conclusions from the 162 respondents (out of three thousand?). I don't know if that is statistically adequate to draw conclusions.

Donna stated that once the parking inventory is done and the "big picture" is clearer the committee will draft a comprehensive report.

She asked the board to a) support the ferries, b) support using the parking lot at Sts. Peter and Paul for Colton school employees, and c) ask for more specific language to the Riverfront Park Policies and Procedures which suggests 24 hour permit parking. Donna would like to see permit parking, 7 days a week, in place before the park opens. She believes the parking policy in regards to the Park can be used to leverage the RPD into the rectangle.

In conclusion, Donna stated that the committee needs to complete the survey analysis, analyze the results and present recommendations to the board. It also needs to revisit those areas in the triangle which would like to re-vote on joining the RPD, as well as continue working on the issue of parking lots on vacant lots as conditional uses in the Marigny.

The board reported that it had already approved supporting the ferries. However, it did not support using Sts. Peter and Paul parking lot for Colton school employees. Similarly, there was little support for using vacant lots as parking lots. Because there were only five board members

present Donna was invited to present her case to the full board next month.

d) Zoning: Marshall Gries, co-chair of the zoning committee explained that the preliminary research (comparison of existing zoning to the new draft CZO) was nearly complete and the next step is to put the comparison in chart form and present it to the entire committee. The entire committee will then be responsible for making recommendations to the board.

e) Washington Square Park: See CHERYL COOK, above.

f) Fête Marigny: This year's fête organizer is Luke Hoar de Galvan who stopped by to ask the board if it could make another e-blast announcement for volunteers as well as the date/time/location of the first organizational meeting. John Gutekunst to arrange for e-blast.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PROJECTS:**

a) Riverfront Park: Deferred.

b) Café Istanbul: Deferred.

c) New Parking Lot at 500 Marigny: Deferred for further investigation.

d) Amicus Curiae brief: Deferred.

Because only 5 board members were in attendance, important issues could be decided by as few as three board members. It was decided to defer discussion and voting on the above issues until the full board could deliberate.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ORCHIDS & ONIONS:**

Orchids: None proposed. Onions: None proposed.

**MOTIONS:**

1) Motion to approve minutes for May board and general meetings.

Moved: John Gutekunst Seconded: Mark Malouse Vote: 5 Support, passed.

Meeting Adjourned Time: 8:37 p.m.

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## FMIA Special Board Meeting Minutes June 13, 2013

Members Present: Miles Swanson, Bill Walker, John Gutekunst, Mark Malouse, Alex Vialou, Gretchen Bomboy, Peter Horjus, Chris Costello  
Members Absent: Marshall Gries

Guests, Organization:

Hannah Krieger, Representative MACCNO (Music and Culture Coalition of N.O.)

Meeting called to order: 7:05 p.m. By: Alex Vialou

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Special session to address 8 outstanding issues postponed from 6/5/13 board meeting.

### COMMUNITY REQUESTS/PRESENTATIONS

1) Bike Taxi Unlimited: Bike Taxi Unlimited: The owners of Bike Taxi Unlimited had requested the FMIA write a letter of support to the City Council supporting the current limit of 45 as the number of permitted pedicabs. Chris Costello read Bike Taxi Unlimited owner's presentation from the minutes of the June 5th, 2013, board meeting for benefit of those who missed the meeting. The owners based their request on insufficient demand, diminished wages for current drivers, and increased congestion. Mark Malouse moved to send the letter of support, Gretchen Bomboy seconded the motion.

Discussion: Chris Costello read board member Marshall Gries' concerns about the current system including widespread disregard of traffic regulations, added congestion, and uncertain or undisclosed rates/fares. Chris favored extending the pedicab pilot program to allow them time to resolve the current issues. The need for public transportation was raised as well as the problems with appropriateness of pedicabs on the narrow streets of the historic districts. Bill Walker expressed sympathy for drivers who do not have enough work with the current 45 cabs. Peter Horjus suggested supporting the continuation of the program while the kinks are worked out and then revisit the question of overall numbers. It was proposed that the letter of support to keep the 45 cab limit should be sent but that it should also outline our concerns. All voted in favor.

2) REQUEST TO OPPOSE HUBIG'S PIES CURRENT PROPOSAL: Chris Costello read the neighbors' comments from the minutes of the June 5th, 2013, board meeting. Resident Gary Delaumont had emphasized the neighbors' desire to see Hubig's Pies stay in the neighborhood but did not favor this particular site/lot. His primary concerns were: (1) Bringing industrial use back into the Marigny runs counter to the recent trend toward light commercial and residential redevelopment, (2) the narrow lot is being overbuilt (no setback from the neighbors' property, a 28' tall solid block wall with no windows, etc.), (3) the absence of storm drains on Press Street raising the issue of flooding neighbors' properties. All drainage must run down the block toward St. Ferdinand.

Discussion - Alex Vialou stated that the HDLC's Architectural Review Committee had asked the architect and owners to consider modifications. A brief discussion about size and shape of this particular lot brought a comment from Peter Horjus who had seen the hearing when flooding was addressed. The issue of flooding was not concretely answered but assurances were given that the issue would be addressed. Chris Costello noted the history of Walgreen's drainage problems. He favored concretely addressing drainage/flooding before support is considered.

Gretchen Bomboy noted the lack of foresight and consideration for the neighbors. She stated that residents are only permitted to build a 7' tall fence on their property but Hubig's is planning to go 28' straight up directly on the neighbors' property line. Gretchen also mentioned Hubig's consideration of the Standard Coffee building on S. Peters but the 88,000 square foot facility is far more than Hubig's needs.

Alex Vialou opined that this is a great opportunity to design and build the building more appropriately. Chris Costello stated that it could be made to fit the neighborhood but would cost more. Miles Swanson stated that it was important to keep a mix of uses in the Marigny where it is appropriate and he believes it is appropriate next to the railroad tracks. He believes there are ways of mitigating the sound and traffic issues and wants to keep Hubig's in the Marigny. That said, he would support appropriate modifications.

Chris Costello proposed writing a letter that the FMIA does not support the design as it is currently proposed, with a list of our concerns. With appropriate design changes we could revisit the proposal. Chris so moved, Gretchen seconded. All voted in favor.

3) PARKING COMMITTEE SURVEY: Parking committee chairperson Donna Wakeman attended the June 5, 2013, board meeting where she presented the results of the FMIA's on-line parking survey. The question had been posed whether or not to post the results on the website. Chris Costello moved to post the survey results. Mark Malouse seconded. All voted in favor.

4) RIVERFRONT PARK POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: Alex Vialou attended a meeting of the Riverfront Advisory group on Monday. He was surprised by the latest draft. It appears that a Bywater representative had made an edit to the P&Ps changing the Mandeville wharf closing time to 11:00 p.m. The previous draft had established the closing time at 8:00.

Alex reminded board members that Jazz Fest closes at 7. The newest draft reflected 11 p.m. for both wharves. The last draft essentially assigned the Mandeville wharf as the daytime venue and the Piety wharf as the nighttime venue for events. The Bywater did not confer with FMIA on this change.

Lucas Diaz of the Office of Neighborhood Engagement is revising the document. Much clarification is still needed: e.g., defining what constitutes an "event" (currently 500 people or more), removing language regarding tickets, addressing blocking access to the Park during events, revised sound levels, etc. The document is still in the drafting stage and the latest version has not been released yet. Alex suggested waiting until a final version was released before submitting formal comment.

5) COURSE OF ACTION - CAFE ISTANBUL: Nicole Webre of Cmr. Palmer's office met with Carling Dinkler, the new executive director of the New Orleans Healing Center (NOHC) regarding disturbances at the Healing Center. She has not reported back on the meeting.

Discussion: Nicole inquired if the FMIA could use its Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) to enforce the restrictions that Café Istanbul agreed to. However, the CBA has limitations. The violation reporting process is involved. It requires written notification letters, a delay period to address the problem, then mediation if the violations are not of a certain type. Recent experience is that the violations are continuing but are less frequent, perhaps once a month. Marshall Gries had mentioned that any violation under the CBA would be a violation of the City's conditional use provisos and could trigger reconsideration of the provisos by the City.

Bill Walker mentioned that Maple Street books may be closing or leaving the NOHC. The fact that they have an open floor space within the building has been cited as a reason why Café Istanbul patrons aren't allowed to leave through the front doors. Bill suggested that this might be a good time to urge NOHC to force people to exit through the front doors onto St. Claude.

Gretchen Bomboy suggested that as a preliminary change we should ask that the floater might be eliminated. Sunday evening performances in particular have been a problem.

Alex Vialou stated that the FMIA should look into hiring the services of a lawyer to see if violations of our CBA could trigger violations of the conditional uses which the City could then enforce. He/she could also be helpful in instructing us in what to look for in future, for enforcement. Peter Horjus emphasized the need to know how neighbors can address problems without fear of retribution. Neighbors have already moved out of their apartments because of the noise from Café Istanbul.

Alex moved that we look into hiring an attorney who is familiar with CBAs to provide us advice and recommendations related to enforcing our CBA. Gretchen Bomboy seconded. All voted in favor. Marshall Gries to contact the attorney.

6) PARKING LOT AT 500 MARIGNY ST: 500 Marigny is the location where Sean Cummings had proposed to build the Elysio Lofts project last year. It is currently being used as a parking lot; complete with ticket dispenser machine. Parking lots are not a permitted or conditional use in the Marigny. Bill Walker spoke to a person who works for the company that installs the parking machines. He said that property owners with a vacant lot can contact his company and the company will install a machine on their lot.

Bill Walker suggested sending a letter to Sean Cummings asking him to close the parking lot. Gretchen Bomboy suggested sending a letter to the City to enforce the zoning. Chris Costello suggested sending a letter to the City since they are the enforcement organism, with a cc to Sean Cummings. Chris reminded board members that Sean Cummings is not the sole owner and that all owners should be notified. Gretchen mentioned that the property is now blighted with graffiti and that should also be addressed.

Miles Swanson was selected to write two separate letters (blight/graffiti and illegal parking lot) to the appropriate City agencies with a cc to Sean Cummings.

7) AMICUS CURIAE VOTE: The FMIA has been asked to sign an Amicus Curiae brief in support of an association's right to sue without having to prove that the association itself had suffered any injury. A case out of the French Quarter will be going to the Supreme Court and the issue of a neighborhood association's standing to sue has been raised. (The suit does not involve the Marigny.)

Chris Costello moved to sign on to the Amicus Curiae brief. Mark and Gretchen both seconded.

Discussion: The discussion centered around the right of an association to sue on behalf of its members versus the possibility that an association might abuse its right to sue when it had not, itself, been injured. Miles Swanson and Peter Horjus were confused about the details of the court case. Miles indicated he would have to abstain from voting. All agreed to postpone the vote until everyone had read the case history. All board members are to be prepared for a vote by next board meeting.

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8) SUPPORT OF NOISE PROPOSAL: Currently, a set of seven recommendations which were purportedly designed to solve the inefficacy of the City's current noise ordinance are being circulated by VCPORA. The FMIA's support for the recommendations has been solicited.

Ms. Hanna Krieger, spokesperson for the Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MACCNO) came to the special board meeting to present her organization's position on the issue. MACCNO is a broad based coalition of musicians and performers.

She stated that her organization had many concerns about the current recommendations. One of the principal concerns is the lack of actual science behind the recommendations. She stated that sound is scientific. For example, sound engineers indicate that taking accurate sound readings requires a lot of time and skill. Distance from the source changes the impact of sound as does the difference between high and low frequencies.

Secondly, the recommendations are too vague and too specific at the same time, leaving unanswered questions for those who are forced to comply. At first only live entertainment was singled out when clearly excessive sound can come from non-live sources.

Third, sound measurement should be taken at the receiving party's property's line, not the source. Measuring from the source does not give an accurate reading as to how it affects others farther away. Again, she emphasized the lack of scientific accuracy behind the recommendation.

Ms. Krieger stated that her organization believes that the recommendations could be much improved.

Further, there is a need to reframe the conversation away from the current contentious approach. The issue need not pit one group against another. For example, using the word "sound" instead of "noise" would be less inflammatory. There needs to be an effort to bridge the gap between groups. MACCNO is drafting its own set of recommendations and will forward a copy of them by end of weekend. She thanked the board for the opportunity to speak.

Discussion:

Chris Costello: Chris reiterated that these were merely recommendations. They were suggestions – not the text of an ordinance. The recommendations are from the prospective of residents, based on their experience with a noise ordinance does not work. The city has been unable to control rogue businesses in various neighborhoods. He reminded board members that the issue started at the behest of Cmbr. Palmer who was looking for a solution to all of the problems and complaints she was receiving. He also reminded everyone that the first version had already been voted on and approved. However, that version only mentioned live entertainment but not establishments with amplified sound. Cmbr. Cantrell added "amplified sound" to close that loophole. That is the only change from the first version and that is what is being voted on. Chris asked if we have to wait for everyone to come up with their own suggestions? He stated that MACCNO's suggestions will not be perfect either. He also said that the recommendations would not apply to every mom and pop shop – that would be taking the recommendations out of context.

Bill Walker: Bill expressed his concern that the recommendations would apply to every business in the city. The context of "entertainment" venues is not written in the text. The penalties are punitive and, as written, apply to every business - citywide. Each business would have to spend \$600 to \$1000 for a sound meter and would need to hire people to put the recommended monitoring system in place. Bill estimated it would cost approximately \$22,000 per year (based on an hourly employee cost). He believes that vague laws usually end up as bad laws. If it's limited to live entertainment establishments then that should be stated in the text. For Bill, all of the recommendations need to be changed. Bill asked why the

FMIA was moving forward with recommendations that are very oppressive for businesses. He noted that the City is making a detailed report on sound in the city. Bill prefers to wait for the results of the City's report and then tailor a better response. There is no urgency to approve the recommendations.

Mark Malouse: Mark added that the seven recommendations may not be perfect but, as recommendations, he didn't see the point of postponing a vote until a perfect version appeared. It is a starting point and others are free to suggest better language and other alternatives. He stated that he would prefer to move the matter forward than to do nothing.

Peter Horjus: Peter stated that adding amplified sound changes the entire meaning and scope of the document. This could apply to a barbershop. Every business that is playing music could be forced to implement the requirements. Peter said that the context of the recommendations is not known by people who were not part of the process. By simply reading the text it applies to everyone. Leaving the requirements to inference is a huge problem. Peter wanted to wait until MACCNO's version was circulated.

Miles Swanson: Miles asked if a poetry reading would have to take sound measurements. He stated that that is an issue that could be cured by a very small correction. It would be easy to resolve the issue. He also said that even though they were just "suggestions", they sounded burdensome. Miles also noted that the text was imperfect and asked why we were even voting on it.

Alex Vialou: Alex said that MACCNO is planning to release its own recommendations. We might also agree with MACCNO. There is no reason the FMIA could not support these recommendations and other recommendations too. For Alex, it is not either/or, there is middle ground.

Chris Costello moved to support the recommendations. Mark Malouse seconded. Alex Vialou reminded everyone that the only change from the first version was the addition of "and/or amplified sound."

Vote: In favor: 4 – Mark, CC, Marshall, Gretchen Opposed: 4 - Peter, Bill, Miles, John Tie.

Alex Vialou breaks tie with "Opposed".

Miles urged the board to address letters to the neighborhood coalition group & also MACCNO explaining our concerns. The letter should ask them to come up with solutions.

Alex asked Bill to move the ball forward and draft the outstanding issues.

Adjourned.

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# FMIA General Meeting Minutes June 17, 2013

Meeting Called to Order: 7:15 P.M. by President Alex Vialou.

## WELCOME / INTRODUCTION

President Alex Vialou welcomed all to the June 17th General Meeting of the FMIA and reviewed the relatively light agenda for the evening.

New Faces / New Members: None.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPEAKERS

Announcements: President Alex Vialou thanked Kajun's Pub for hosting the June Meet the Neighbors gathering. There was a lot of food and everyone had a good time. The location of July's MTN get together has not been decided but will likely be Buffa's on Esplanade Avenue. An announcement will be sent by e-blast as soon as details are finalized.

### Speakers:

1) LUCAS DIAZ: Mr. Diaz is the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement and came to the monthly meeting to update the membership on the City's efforts to improve citywide recreation. Mr. Diaz briefly summarized the history of the Office of Neighborhood Engagement. Management of the City's recreation department was taken over by the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) in 2011. This a private/public enterprise run with City funding. It is overseen by the City through a Commission of 13 members which includes the Mayor, City Council Committee Chair for Youth and Recreation, Chairman of the Orleans Parish School Board, Chairman of the City Planning Commission, one resident from each of the five City Council Districts, and others.

Mr. Diaz explained that the idea behind the Commission is to have better access to public input through the Commission rather than have the more opaque process within City Hall. The Commission allows direct input from citizens into the City's recreation programs.

Mr. Diaz is looking for community volunteers to engage in this new process and set up advisory teams. The volunteers will be involved in decision making process and will be an official component of the process. The 15 teams (3 per council district) will help bring people together to talk about recreation in their areas. Although there are no NORDC facilities in the Marigny there are parks and facilities in the greater District C area. The teams will discuss the area's needs and make recommendations. Under the current system there is no organized reporting by the community. Mr. Diaz left applications for anyone interested in volunteering for one of the area teams. Teams can be any size but it is a commitment of 12 months. Applications must be submitted by July 15 and volunteers will receive training.

FMIA vice president Miles Swanson expressed his concern about the lack of NORDC facilities for dogs. He stated that there were virtually no green spaces for dogs. Cabrini Park in the French Quarter is the only Park nearby that allows dogs. Markey Park in the Bywater is no longer available and Riverfront Park will not be ready for the immediate future. Miles pointed out that recommendations from a previous task force had been ignored. Mr. Diaz responded that having public participation doesn't guarantee that the City will respond. This new program is meant to change the entire process. Under the new system staff and management will have to document team recommendations and then make decisions. Discussions will be recorded. There will also be a grievance process which will go to the Commission.

President Alex Vialou stated that Mr. Lucas is also active in the Riverfront Advisory Group. Mr. Diaz reminded members that the Riverfront Park is not a NORDC park. He also stated that his Office is very much dependent on other government Departments. The Office of Neighborhood Engagement is a new entity and if is still developing.

2) QUALITY OF LIFE OFFICERS GUIDRY AND HARPER: NOPD Quality of Life officers Victoria Guidry (5th District) and Shereese Harper (8th District) were present but did not have any updates.

3) JONATHAN BERTSCH: Mr. Bertsch is the Director of Advocacy for KIPP Schools New Orleans. He stopped by to update the neighbors on the Colton School. KIPP has now moved materials and supplies for the fall semester into Colton school. The green space behind the school on N. Rampart St. will be sodded within the next two weeks. All construction fences that are still in place should be removed within the next 2 weeks also. However, contractors are still working inside the building. Staff members have started visiting the neighborhood coffee shops and cafes and report looking forward to being part of the neighborhood.

Regarding parking, Mr. Bertsch announced that there would be approximately 75 full time staff members. Most of them will be driving to the school. There are 35 spaces immediately adjacent to the school. If approximately 70 members drive, that means there is still a need for 35 additional spaces. Mr. Bertsch also stated that within 1 block of the school there are approximately 240 spaces available. While the school will have an impact on the neighborhood, the staff arrives from 6:15 to 7:30 a.m. so most residents will still be at home (and parked) when the staff arrives.

KIPP is looking at parking solutions: 1) Encourage teachers to live nearby, 2) working on incentives to carpool and bike, and 3) investigate possibility of using surface parking lots. Mr. Bertsch understood there is a zoning issue but he would like to discuss variances for the vacant lots. He would like to discuss options with the board.

Mr. Bertsch invited members and neighbors to come tour the school. He will coordinate a time and date with Alex Vialou.

4) LUKE HOAR DE GALVAN: Luke Hoar de Galvan is with Evacueer.org, a nonprofit organization which was formed to recruit, train and manage evacuation volunteers to assist with New Orleans' public evacuation, when needed. Mandatory evacuation is likely when hurricanes reach category 3 or higher.

As part of the overall City evacuation plan, there will be City assisted evacuation for those who do not have the ability or resources to evacuate on their own. The City has established 17 pick-up locations. Luke distributed cards with maps of all the points/stops in the City where people can be picked up and taken to Union Station. From Union Station they will be taken by bus to a shelter. (Pets can be taken.) Evacueer is looking for volunteers to staff those stops and help with the coordination.

Ideally, there will be 2 groups of 5 or one group of 10 volunteers for each of the 17 stops. They will form committees and take "ownership" of each stop (pick up point). The volunteers will be trained (approximately 2 hours) on how a city evacuates. Volunteer groups will activate 72 hours before hurricane level winds hit the LA coastline and will stay until hurricane winds are 24 hours from the coastline.

Luke asked everyone to look out for the distinctive statues which mark each evacuation stop. There is already a statue at the Armstrong Park stop.

5) MICHAEL PIZZOLATTO: Board chairman for the Homer Plessy School announced that the recent Open House for the school had raised nearly \$10,000. He wanted to stop by and thank everyone for their support. He reminded members that for the 2013-2014 school year, Homer Plessy will be operating in the Frederick Douglas School in the Bywater. There are still a few openings available for the first and second grades and anyone with a 6 or 7 year old is invited to look into the Plessy school.

## UPDATES / COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committees:

Blight Committee: There is a code enforcement hearing tomorrow at 9:15 at 1340 Poydras St., Ste. 2100 regarding 1518-1520 Pauger St. This is a two story house which abuts a vacant lot. The bottom of the house was built in the mid-1800s, the second floor was added in the 1930s. There is some suspicion that the house is being allowed to deteriorate so it can be demolished - which would allow combining it with the adjacent empty lot for future development. The owner was previously found guilty of blight but paid the fine within the allotted time. The matter was reset for a compliance hearing which has taken 2 years to come back around. Currently the rear of the second story is falling in. One neighbor asked members to attend and be as vocal as possible at this hearing. There are buyers interested in purchasing this property. The owner lives out of state.

Washington Square Park: Miles Swanson reported that a contractor has looked at the condition of Washington Square Park fence. The gate at Frenchmen and Dauphine streets is in terrible condition. It is chained together to hold it upright. Comprehensive repairs are estimated at \$70,000 or more. There is no official bid yet. Gary Delaumont said we need to engage Councilmember Palmer. There was a general discussion about using city funds or finding grant money for the repairs.

Security: Kash Schriefer, committee chair, reminded everyone how important video cameras have been in apprehending criminals, including apprehending suspects in the recent beating by the Friendly Bar. He asked for a show of hands of those who support or oppose the use of public cameras. Of those who raised their hands, nearly all supported the cameras. There may be grants available for public cameras. He reminded attendees that cameras aren't solely for one's own property but can capture images that help solve other crimes. Gene Cizek reported that two people were recently apprehended for crimes in his neighborhood with the help of citizens' cameras. For anyone seeking more information on video cameras for their properties, Kash urged them to visit <http://www.cops8.org/safecams8>.

Short Term Rentals: Vice President Miles Swanson is to start working on the issue of short term rentals and the erosion of residential neighborhoods. Anyone interested in the issue is encouraged to contact either Miles Swanson at MilesS@faubourgmarigny.org or Gretchen Bomboy at secretary@faubourgmarigny.org

Riverfront Park: Alex Vialou reported on a meeting held last week regarding the draft Riverfront Park Policies and Procedures. This draft Policies and Procedures is a semi-final draft which will be presented for a vote. In the current version, the Mandeville Wharf is limited to 30 "events", with an event being a per day occurrence. The Piety Street wharf will also have a 30 event limit, for a total of 60 "events" per year. The recommended hours for the Mandeville Wharf is: 10 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Recommended hours for the Piety St. Wharf are 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. There will be an overall park closing hour which will be 10:00 p.m. It is still unclear if the 30/60 rule is an absolute maximum. The definition of what constitutes an "event" was raised: Would a dog show be an event? A book fair? Art market? This still needs to be clarified. Neighborhood representatives

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IMPROVEMENT

ASSOCIATION

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have made it clear that private ticketed events must not block the public's access to the wharves.

Questions were raised regarding using the flood wall gates to access to the Park. Using the flood gates would require crossing the railroad tracks and the Public Belt railroad has opposed any at-grade crossings. The Public Belt will allow the Elysian Fields at-grade crossing for events only, but not for general access. Former President Gene Cizek stated that it is possible to leverage our position with the railroad. He reminded everyone that the Public Belt is public and should be amenable to public pressure. He suggested an organized campaign might be effective. He also believes that there may be EPA issues regarding the rail cars and products they are carrying through a public park. This should also be explored.

The issue of paying for the maintenance of the Park was raised. The discussion turned to funding sources and included the proposed parking garages on Elysian Fields, and paid events at the two wharves. The garage proposals have not moved forward and the danger of relying on events at the wharves for funding remains an important issue. The Advisory Group's position has been to leave the Riverfront Park as a "passive park".

The question was raised: Will the park open without funds? Lucas Diaz responded that there were no plans to delay the Park opening even if there is no permanent source of funding in place.

Hubig's Pies: The board voted not to approve the current design for Hubig's that was shown at the general meeting in May. It was felt that the proposed design did not adequately respect the neighbor's property (28' windowless wall, noise, and flooding issues) and had not incorporated any of the recommendations that the City Architectural Review Committee had suggested. In addition, a completely new building could be better designed. This is an opportunity to make a contextually appropriate building.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Rhonda Findlay: Rhonda Findlay, a Bywater resident, stopped by the general meeting regarding the need for dog areas within the neighborhoods. As a mini-fundraiser, she will be waiting tables at Fatoush Restaurant in the Healing Center on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, from 5-9 p.m. to help raise money for a dog area at Markey Park. There currently is no money to include one at the Park. She urged everyone to come to Fatoush to eat and contribute to a good cause.

NOPD Officer John Passaro: Officer John Passaro was shot during an armed robbery of the Dollar General store at 1111 Poland St. Claude on February 23, 2013. President Alex Vialou reminded the membership that although the majority of the board had voted against an official donation, individual FMIA members were free to and encouraged to do so. Officer Passaro's house is being renovated to accommodate his paraplegia.

Wine Shop/Wine Bar: Mr. Troy Gant who was previously seeking FMIA support in opening a wine shop/bar on Burgundy St. has applied for a conditional use permit for the property at 1027 Touro, at St. Claude. This building is currently zoned HMC-2 and a wine shop/bar is permitted as a conditional use. It is scheduled for the zoning docket and Mr. Gant will be coming back to the FMIA to discuss his current plans.

MiMi's: Neighbors of Mimi's who attended the meeting reported that now that the live music has stopped and DJ Soul Sister is no longer playing the noise problems have stopped for them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30

# FMIA Board Meeting Minutes July 10, 2012

Members Present: Miles Swanson, Bill Walker, John Gutekunst, Mark Malouse, Marshall Gries, Alex Vialou, Gretchen Bomboy, Peter Horjus, Chris Costello

Guests, Organization: Bridget Kelly, Greener Bywater; Troy Gant, Wine Bar and Shop; Brian St. Cyr, Neighbor/Resident; Lisa Suarez, Neighbor - Zoning Committee

Meeting called to order: 7:03 p.m. by Alex Vialou

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COMMUNITY REQUESTS/PRESENTATIONS**

1) BRIDGET KELLY: Bridget Kelly is a Bywater resident. She briefly gave her background which included a Masters degree from Tulane in epidemiology. She came to the FMIA board meeting to discuss the vacant land between Chartres, France, Royal and Mazant streets in the Bywater. The entire block is owned by HANO and currently has two blighted scattered-site apartment buildings which are set for demolition. HANO came to the Bywater Neighborhood Association's (BNA) meeting to get local input on the future of the property. Several nearby neighbors got together to discuss the potential for the land and subsequently decided to form "Greener Bywater" with the goal of obtaining the property for long term green space.

The three neighbors who are spearheading Greener Bywater's efforts hope to follow the model of Erica Amrine's Clouet Gardens and establish a permanent park/green space. Ms. Amrine's Clouet Gardens is a green space on Clouet Street between Royal and Dauphine streets, former site of a scattered-site housing project owned by HANO. Ms. Amrine was able to convince HANO to grant her a 10 year lease for the purpose of a green space/community garden.

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Ms. Kelly emphasized that a space the size of an entire block would be an asset not only the Bywater but for all of the downtown neighborhoods. Greener Bywater distributed 100 surveys to local residents regarding use of this space and 92% of respondents did not favor a large development on the site. Rather, they preferred the block to remain as green space in perpetuity. Subsequently, the organization submitted a request to HANO for a lease of the property. After meeting with HANO officials and discussing various options they anticipate signing a lease for 1 year for the half of the block that borders Chartres Street (the half without the buildings). Eventually they hope to lease the entire block.

Ms. Kelly told the board that Greener Bywater was being absorbed into the Land Trust for Southeast Louisiana, a 501(c)(3) corporation. The Land Trust's purpose is the acquisition of land via donations, purchases, and conservation easements formed through collaborative partnerships. This project will be the Land Trust's first inner city project. She noted that there is intense interest in this property by developers. The former U.S. Navy property just downriver will be up for redevelopment and developer John Cummings owns property on both sides of this site. The value was recently appraised at \$1.4 million but developers may be willing to offer substantially more.

Ms. Kelly asked for a letter of support from the board supporting the group's eventual purchase of the entire block. She thanked the board for the opportunity to discuss the project. Anyone interested in more information should contact Bridget at greenerbywater@gmail.com.

TROY GANT: Mr. Gant originally wanted to open up a wine bar and shop at 1938 Burgundy St. but encountered substantial opposition from neighbors. He has since selected a new location at 1027 Touro Street which is zoned HMC-2 and currently permits wine bar/shops as a conditional use. He stopped by the board meeting to thank everyone for their participation in the process; a process that eventually ended up with his new location. Troy reported that he has extensive neighborhood support and is asking for a letter of support from the board for his application for a conditional use permit. The request is on the City Planning Commission docket for 7/23/13. His plans are to sell 75% wine and 25% spirits with complimentary grocery products – much as Faubourg Wines does.

BRIAN ST. CYR: Brian St. Cyr and his wife are neighbors of the proposed redevelopment of 1030 Port St. The property is blighted and has been an eyesore to the neighborhood for years. The vacant 8-plex was covered with graffiti and has been the site of regular drug sales and prostitution. The current owners proposed to renovate the eight-unit building but, because the lot is zoned residential, they were limited to two-family residences. Multi-family units are allowed, but only as a conditional use and are limited to 4 units.

The owner is now proposing a 4-plex conversion and is scheduled to present his application for the conditional use to the City Planning Commission in early August. Mr. St. Cyr stated that the current owner has not been a good neighbor and relations are strained. He believes the quality of renovation is poor and the increased density is not appropriate. Each of the 4 units is essentially a 3 bedroom apartment.

Because of the history between the neighbors and this particular developer Mr. Cyr stated that trust is a significant issue. Mr. Cyr urged the board to write a letter to the City Planning Commission opposing the developer's project. In the ensuing discussion it was pointed out that CVS had previously wanted to purchase this property as part of their proposed development. From a development perspective there may be other investors who would be interested in developing this property.

Mr. Cyr was asked if he could provide some documentation showing that the other neighbors also oppose the project. He said he would provide the board with neighbor input. The board thanked Mr. Cyr for his presentation.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**1. APPROVALS BY E-MAIL:**

- 6/18/13: We changed the Meet the Neighbors to second Wednesday in order to allow people to attend Bywater's meeting. 6 in favor, passed.
- 7/16/13: Letter of support for Greener Bywater re Public Land. 5 in favor, passed.
- 7/17/13: Letter of position on Bike Taxi ordinance. 5 in favor, passed.
- 7/23/13: Vote to sign on to Tax Rehab letter. 6 in favor, passed.

**2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Alex Vialou reported that he had been working with Frenchmen Street business owners, the Alliance Francaise, and the French Consulate, on a Bastille Day weekend celebration. There will be a series of food trucks at Washington Square Park on Sunday, July 14, as well as an assortment of French Cars on the Frenchmen Street side of the Park. In addition, sanitation company ACT agreed to pressure wash Frenchmen Street in anticipation of the event. The Frenchmen Street Art Market will provide decorations on Frenchmen Street. Other Bastille Day festivities will take place at the Old Mint. Alex believes that this slower time of the year is a good time for residents to reconnect with Frenchmen Street businesses.

Alex also stated that he had meet with Mat Sakakeeny of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Mr. Sakakeeny praised the FMIA for its efforts in mediating issues related to debate around excessive sound.

**3. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Mark Malouse distributed a list of all checks distributed since January 1, 2013. One new check was issued this month: \$224.00 to Chris Costello for insurance for the Home Tour.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

a) Newsletter/Communication: Editor John Gutekunst indicated that between content and advertising the size of the Newsletter would have to be increased from 16 to 20 pages. In addition, he received a bid from another printing company, Safeguard Printing, that would reduce the Newsletter printing cost from approximately \$600 to \$425.

b) Marigny Green: Nothing new to report.

c) Blight: Nothing new to report.

d) Parking: Nothing new to report.

d) Zoning: Peter Horjus has been reviewing the City's draft Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO). The Bywater Neighborhood Association's (BNA) zoning committee is meeting next Tuesday to discuss the CZO as it relates to a proposed Riverfront Overlay district. Peter asked that the board review the Riverfront Overlay portion of the draft CZO and be prepared to attend the Bywater meeting with the FMIA's preliminary comments and recommendations.

The Riverfront Overlay extends from Jackson Avenue to the Industrial Canal and would affect large areas of the Marigny and Bywater. Currently, there is no Riverfront Overlay. Most of the area affected by the overlay in the Marigny is between the flood wall and Decatur Street and is currently zoned Light Industrial.

Peter Horjus stated that the biggest problem with the proposed Overlay is the creation of "nodes" on Elysian Fields, Press Street and Poland Avenue which allow development to exceed the current 50' height limit. Development in these nodal areas may be eligible for height bonuses up to 75' under the proposed Riverfront Overlay. Additionally, this 75' height limit is extended for 2 blocks in all directions of a node. Two blocks from the base of Elysian Fields and two blocks from the base of Press Street would include virtually the entire stretch of South Peters Street in the Marigny. A line of buildings 75' tall along S. Peters could visually block off the river from the Marigny.

Lisa Suarez, who is on the FMIA's zoning committee, reminded the board that developer John Cummings was CEO of the New Orleans Building Corporation which assisted in the drafting of the Riverfront Vision plan in 2005 which introduced these "nodes". Both John Cummings and his son Sean Cummings have significant land holdings within the proposed Overlay in both the Marigny and Bywater.

The board agreed that 75' tall buildings in these Nodal areas were inappropriate for our historic neighborhood. Chris Costello moved to give Lisa Suarez and Peter Horjus permission to represent the FMIA at the BNA zoning committee meeting and to convey 1) FMIA opposition to any increase in the height limit from 50 feet to 75 feet, 2) make certain the HDLC is involved in the development process, and 3) oppose the concept of "nodes". Miles Swanson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Peter reminded Chris Costello and Gretchen Bomboy that they are responsible for a comparison of the current zoning maps and the proposed CZO maps. This should include changes to all areas where the zoning has changed as well as their recommendations. There was a brief discussion of how to present the findings to general membership. It was agreed that all findings should first be reviewed by the zoning committee who will be responsible for summarizing the findings for final presentation including recommendations to the board.

e) Washington Square Park: Vice President Miles Swanson is to summarize everything that needs to be done in Washington Square Park for Councilmember Palmer. The possibility of a special fundraiser for Park was mentioned. Alex Vialou reminded board members that 20% of the profits from the Fête Marigny are to be dedicated to WSP.

f) Fête Marigny: Preparations are progressing.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PROJECTS:**

a) Amicus Brief: The FMIA was asked if it would sign on as amicus curiae (friend of the court) for the right of French Quarter Citizens (FQC) and VCPORA to file suit on behalf of their members. Miles Swanson indicated he had not read the new amicus brief and had not seen it in the e-mail correspondence. He also stated that he did not agree with the logic that was used in the first amicus brief and did not support those conclusions.

The ensuing discussion focused on the issue of whether or not a neighborhood association should be able to file a lawsuit (have "standing") on behalf of its members even if the organization itself had not been injured. Gretchen Bomboy moved to add FMIA support to the amicus brief. Mark Malouse seconded. Seven members voted for. One member voted against. One member abstained.

b) Riverfront Park: Nothing new to report.

c) Café Istanbul: Nothing new to report.



FMIA Board Meeting Minutes July 10, 2012 — continued from page 18

d) New Parking Lot at 500 Marigny: Miles Swanson volunteered to draft two separate letters addressing the blighted condition of 500 Marigny St. and also the illegal parking lot that is being operated there. Property owners are to be cc'd on the letters.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a) Sound/Noise: The Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO) sent the board a set of recommendations it drafted related to a noise ordinance. MaCCNO's recommendations and whether or not the FMIA will support them was reset for next month's board meeting for further discussion and vote. The MaCCNO letter will be published in the next newsletter and posted to the FMIA website.

Chris Costello presented a draft letter which explained the FMIA board's position on the 7 suggestions for a better sound ordinance. The text of Chris' letter was discussed. Bill Walker wanted it clarified that these final 7 suggestions were not the result of Cmbr. Palmer's request but rather was a document that was a later product of an independent group. Chris Costello responded that the suggestions were an outgrowth of the original committee which was initially convened by Cmbr. Palmer's office.

Mark Malouse moved to use the letter as presented. Gretchen Bomboy seconded. Eight voted in favor. One against.

b) Ban the Bins: A letter explaining the neighborhood's dilemma with trash cans and recycle bins that do not fit into alleys has been drafted. Alex Vialou is to sign and submit the letter to Cmbr. Palmer.

c) Bastille Day Fete. Alex Vialou stated that because there will be no activity in Washington Square Park itself no special event permit will be required. A French car club will need to rent the Frenchmen Street section of the Park and the food truck vendors will need to pay rental on the Elysian Fields section of the Park. Parks and Parkways has asked for a refundable check in the amount of \$100 for trash cleanup in the event there is an

excessive amount left in the Park. Gretchen Bomboy moved to issue a \$100 check to parks and Parkways. Chris Costello seconded. All voted in favor.

**ORCHIDS & ONIONS:**

Orchids: None proposed.

Onions: None proposed.

**MOTIONS:**

1) Motion to authorize Lisa Suarez and Peter Horjus to represent FMIA at Bywater zoning committee meeting and convey FMIA opposition to 75' height increase, insist on HDLC involvement, and oppose nodes.

Moved: Chris Costello Seconded: Miles Swanson Vote: Approved unanimously

2) Motion to add FMIA support to the amicus brief.

Moved: Gretchen Bomboy Seconded: Mark Malouse Vote: 7 in favor 1 opposed

One abstention.

3) Motion to publish explanatory letter regarding 7 suggestions to improve New Orleans sound ordinance as drafted by Chris Costello.

Moved: Mark Malouse Seconded: Gretchen Bomboy Vote: 8 in favor 1 opposed

4) Motion to issue \$100 refundable check to Park and Parkways for trash cleanup fee.

Moved: Gretchen Bomboy Seconded: Chris Costello Vote: Approved unanimously

Meeting Adjourned Time: 9:05 p.m.

**Memberships in FAUBOURG MARIGNY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION :**

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Individual \$15  Household \$20  Individual Senior \$5  Household Senior\_ \$10

NAME # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  Homeowner

Landlord Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS:**

\$25

NAME of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address in Marigny \_\_\_\_\_

Individual with voting privileges: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERENCES:**

Newsletter by U.S. Mail

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