

Les Amis de Marigny

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

Planning the FMIA 2017 Spring Home and Garden Tour

The tour is our only fundraiser of the year which supports our all-volunteer organization, helping us stand up for the integrity of our Historic District, pay rent for our General Meetings, publish our Newsletters, maintain our Website, store the materials we reuse, including the Holiday decorations for Washington Square Park, and other ancillary fees.

The FMIA's 45th Annual Home Tour will take place on Sunday, May 14th, 2017, from Noon to 4 p.m. The Tour will feature homes and businesses in the Triangle.

Tickets will be \$25.00 and will only be available on the day of the Tour, at Washington Square Park.

FMIA's traditional Tour Brochures always have current photos of the participating properties, with detailed histories of each, along with some historical photos, and a map to plan your walk.

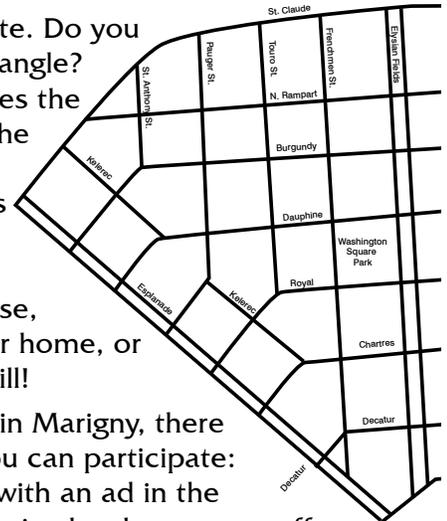
We need committee members for the event, which begins with finding the Homes and Businesses who

would like to participate. Do you know people in the Triangle? Although everyone loves the showplaces, we love the people who live here, and are just as anxious to show how you live in your historic home, fancy or plain. So please, volunteer to show your home, or help find those who will!

If you own a business in Marigny, there are numerous ways you can participate: You can be a sponsor with an ad in the Tour Guide at various price levels, you can offer specials to tour goers on the day of the event, and be marked on the Tour map, and you can place a poster in the window of your business.

First committee meeting will be SOON, so call now!

Leave a message for Lisa, 504-947-0918 , or email her, vicepresident@faubourgmarigny.org.



FMIA's Lawsuit Settlement of Riverfront Overlay Amendment

On December 15th, the New Orleans City Council voted on two motions which refer a controversial zoning amendment—the Riverfront Overlay—to the City Planning Commission (CPC) for review, public hearing, and recommendation.

The motions represent a victory and some vindication for the Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association (FMIA), which sued the City for violation of state and local laws based on the City's previous failure to have the CPC review certain boundaries, massing, height and density bonuses, for development along the Lower Riverfront in the final draft of the 2015 Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO).

Importantly, the move by the City Council to refer the Riverfront Overlay to the Planning Commission for a public hearing within the next 60 days is a call for citizens and neighborhood groups to step up and declare that "CBD-style" zoning in the Bywater and Marigny is inappropriate,

and that it also violates the integrity of the Master Plan (The Plan for the 21st Century), which is supposed to protect Historic Neighborhood Character.

Continued on page 2

What's Inside this edition of Les Amis de Marigny Home Tour 2017 Public Safety Report Interview with Richard Sacher Marigny Green Speaking Volumes . . . and More!

. . . to not allow the citizens of a neighborhood to have comment on things they're going to have to live with is abhorrent to me. I think that it denigrates our entire system of government when you don't allow the citizens to have comment.

In the 2015 approval, the City Council made several controversial last-minute zoning amendments to the new CZO. The controversial zoning amendment, MJL-6, included some draft sections of the CZO never formally presented to the public and additions never before seen. "MJL-6" allowed building developers to ignore underlying zoning rules within a Lower Riverfront section of the "Riverfront Overlay." "Conditional Use", the review safeguard for zoning variances allowing for citizen input for specific projects, was also eliminated from all "Overlay" areas. The people who were most affected by the amendment had been placated with repeated (and false) assurances from city officials that the height and density bonuses had been removed from Marigny; subsequently MJL-6 greatly expanded the "Riverfront Overlay" by geographic reach and more bonuses. The residents of the Bywater and Marigny were overwhelmingly against this zoning change. FMIA invested donors' time and money, to legally challenge the City's violation of its own rules.

The laws at issue in the FMIA lawsuit are foundational to the rights of citizens, neighborhood groups, preservationists, and the planning process for Land Use in general. State and local laws require the full process: all zoning changes must be referred to the City Planning Commission, must be subject to public notice, must be subject to a public hearing, must be reviewed by the Planning Commission, and must be the subject of a recommendation from the Planning Commission. All this must take place before the City Council may vote on a zoning change. The City argued that a local "germane" ordinance allowed them to bypass these requirements. But the Civil District Court judge who reviewed the case concluded that "to not allow the citizens of a neighborhood to have comment on things they're going to have to live with is abhorrent to me. I think that it denigrates our entire system of government when you don't allow the citizens to have comment." Those strong words reflect the importance of the civic principles at stake.

Continued on page 3

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

All advertising must be received by the 15th of each month for publication in the next month's issue. For information regarding advertising, contact us at secretary@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.

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Lawsuit continued from page 2

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals then issued a ruling that thoroughly upheld the FMIA's arguments, that every single zoning change must be referred to City Planning Commission. As a result of the Fourth Circuit ruling, citizens' rights throughout the state have been protected. According to FMIA's attorney, Andrew Jacoby, "Cities and parishes across the state can no longer sidestep the rights of citizens and neighborhood groups in the zoning process."

As a result of the Fourth Circuit ruling, citizens' rights throughout the state have been protected.

The outcome of the litigation reinforces these legal principles by blocking the City from passing zoning changes without input from citizens and the City Planning Commission. These procedural requirements apply to every zoning entity in the state, and, happily, will apply in the City of New Orleans going forward. The FMIA's victory preserves the integrity of citizens' and City Planning Commission's roles in the zoning amendment process. For this reason, FMIA's victory today will help every citizen in the state, every preservationist group, and every neighborhood association.

The Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association, a 45-year-old organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Marigny's Historic Character, has had other wins beneficial to the community. Most recently, and notably, in 2010 it prevented a Chicken Freezing Plant from being built at the Governor Nicholls wharf, which could have put the French Quarter and Marigny in danger of accidental Ammonia Poisoning, and in 2012, won City Council favor in preventing a 75-foot building from being developed on Elysian Fields Avenue at Decatur Street. The FMIA has been fighting the discounting of citizen input as specifically relates to over-development of the Lower Riverfront since the pre- and post-Katrina plans of the Nagin Administration's "Reinventing the Crescent."

Unfortunately, this current fight is not entirely won. The City Council can still approve the controversial amendment

by completing the legally required process without including the community. Having referred the controversial zoning amendment to the Planning Commission for a review, a public hearing will take place within 60 days, and the Planning Commission's subsequent feedback to City Council is due within 120 days. Every citizen, every neighborhood group, and every preservationist group interested in preserving the integrity of the Master Plan, or who doesn't want to see out-of-scale, high-density, and high-massing buildings in the Bywater and Marigny, and eventually their neighborhoods, should attend the public hearing and submit comments to the City Planning Commission and City Council. Let them know that the historic neighborhood character of New Orleans is something that should be fiercely defended, and not jettisoned in favor of special interests.

Unfortunately, this current fight is not entirely won. The City Council can still approve the controversial amendment by completing the legally required process without including the community.

The FMIA is thankful for the support of all neighborhoods across the city that recognize that a threat to the Historic Integrity of one neighborhood can soon be a threat to the Historic Integrity of all neighborhoods.

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NOPD Boundaries Changed, 8th covers Triangle, 5th covers all Rectangle

Beginning this month, the dividing line of the Faubourg Marigny between the 8th (French Quarter, CBD, part of Tremé) District and the 5th (7th, 8th, and 9th wards-Upper and Lower) District, moved back to the pre-Katrina border of Elysian Fields Avenue, from where it had been since re-districting in 2010, at Franklin Avenue.

8th District Commander Nicholas Gernon is certain this will give better protection to both sections, with the Triangle receiving more tourist-centric coverage, especially with visitors migrating between Bourbon Street and Frenchmen Street, as stated at the January 10th MAX (formerly COMSTAT) meeting, attended by FMIA President Allen Johnson.

Commander Frank Young of the 5th District, at the Jan. 11th New Orleans Neighbors & Police Anti-Crime Council (NONPACC), was equally as positive that protecting the Rectangle, without having it split at Franklin, would be advantageous for two reasons. One, alleged perpetrators fleeing the "Tourist Areas" would no longer be tracked by 8th District officers having to stop at Franklin (NOPD cars do not cross boundaries, but radio the other Districts), and two, the 5th District will be receiving up to four new recruits, around February 3rd, because of the added area.

The 5th District is the largest District, population-wise. The 4th District (Algiers) is larger by land area, but they only have half the crime.

The 5th District was down in overall crime by seven percent in 2016.

Other information, as reported by Lisa Suarez and Myra Harris, from January 11th:

Lt. Roberts was commended for his participation in the 3rd Annual Teddy Bear Drive, created by NOPD, Arnaud's Restaurant and the New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation, which collected 1500 stuffed animals distributed throughout NOPD districts and in Baton Rouge.

Sergeant Travis Brooks, new to the 5th, just completed his Supervisor Training, and is the General Assignment Sergeant of the Eighth Platoon, who answer the 911 calls. (The Consent Decree requires Supervisor presence in almost all instances with use of force.)

Commander Young reviewed required procedure for the start of all shifts, which includes logging into and testing car and body cameras and microphones.

The Commander reported the 2017 overtime budget "allotments," which will allow for extra coverage of Sunday

night club activity near Claiborne and Elysian Fields, as well as rotating Officers around Dollar Generals, where many robberies take place.

The extension of the boundary to Elysian Fields also means better coverage around the Healing Center, which has been plagued by recent crime. The Commander took time

personally to meet with the manager to discuss the purse snatching and property crimes. He does not anticipate that the reserved parking spaces for NOPD cars will continue to be used.

FMIA would like to sponsor a meal or snacks for the 5th District during Mardi Gras, possibly on Endymion Saturday. The Commander will let us know what's most needed by his officers, and FMIA will contact you through NextDoor and Eblast to let you know how to participate.

All Districts are gearing up for Mardi Gras. Shifts, from February 22 to Fat Tuesday, the 28th, go from three eight-hour shifts to two twelve-hour shifts, as all Districts are required to share officers for parade duty.

Commander Young asks that you not hesitate to call 911 if you see any unusual or suspicious activity. "Let the emergency operators sort it out, that's what they're trained to do. I don't want you to put yourself in danger by making the wrong decision. Call 911."

The next 5th District NONPACC will be Wednesday, February 8th, 2017.



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8th District MAX, 12-13-16

We were introduced to the new Commander, Nicholas L. Gernon, who got down to business right away. He addressed Marigny problems immediately, which included a rash of attempted and completed robberies in the 2000 block of N. Rampart (Triangle), between Touro and Kerlerec. There was a description of the perpetrator, but NOPD could not be certain of his identity through surveillance cameras.

On 12-12-16, about 9 p.m. a backpack and purse were snatched on the 2100 block of Chartres. The victim reported a baggy sweat shirt and a black Honda Civic that continued to cross Elysian Fields down Chartres Street.

Presence of the Louisiana Bureau of investigation at the meeting was noted, along with a Downtown Development District (DDD) "Ranger."

Part-time resident on Kerlerec reported a ransacked bedroom, though residential burglaries are down, even the week of the Bayou Classic.

On Dec. 2 a car was stolen from a driveway in Marigny; the key had been in the console. Auto burglaries are down in general, and in particular by the levee wall because of a patrol in place, but NOPD implores you not to leave your keys in your car or to leave it unlocked.

Along with the usual narcotics, guns, purse/phone snatchings, and robbery arrests, there is more emphasis being put on "Aggressive panhandling" activity in the French Quarter.

Sue Hall, Allen Johnson, and Lisa Suarez reporting.

5th District NONPACC, 11-9-16

Commander Young reviewed the statistics which included catching a three-time felon, and assisting the 8th District in clearing eight robberies. A "personal crime" in the 800 Block of Port was solved, and an Officer was assigned to watch a house near the Homer Plessy school for trouble.

We were informed that of the three shifts of the working schedule, Night Shift begins at 10 p.m., and works on the backlog of calls for service until 3 a.m.

A question was asked if security systems are effective. The answer was that they absolutely can be, but crimes of violence are always the priority, with trespassing also a priority, but property crimes without potential victims of violence, less so. 911 Operators usually make the judgments on priorities.

Myra Harris of Bywater reporting.

Calendar of Events

February 2017

Board Meeting

February 1, 7 pm,
2509 Burgundy St.

Meet the Neighbors

February 8, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Stand for Children
2374 St Claude Avenue

General Meeting

February 20, 6:30 Potluck, 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street

March 2017

Board Meeting

March 1, 7 pm,
2509 Burgundy St.

Meet the Neighbors

March 8, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Artisan Café & Bar
2514 St Claude Avenue

General Meeting

March 20, 6:30 Potluck, 7:15 Meeting
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street

NONPACC MEETINGS

*5th District — 2nd Wednesday, 6 pm,
3900 N. Claiborne*

*8th District — 4th Tuesday 6 pm,
location varies between 334 Royal
and the Healing Center*

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

FMIA Dues

Not sure when your FMIA dues were paid? The date you paid is conveniently located on the mailing label of your newsletter. Just one more service from your friendly neighborhood association.

Interview with Richard Sacher of Aquatic Gardens

By Madison Louviere, FMIA Newsletter Intern, Class of 2018, Nicholls State

Q Are you originally from the area?

A I am an import. I came here right after college; I was originally born in New York, raised in New Jersey and I came to New Orleans in 1968. I've been here ever since. So, that makes me a transplant.

Q How long ago did you decide to locate your business in Faubourg Marigny, and why?

A I located here about 25 years ago; we are having our 25th anniversary this year. I was looking for a place where I could put up a building and have room for a greenhouse and also have parking for customers. This particular property was on the market for 2 years. It was a burned out women's dance bar and nobody wanted it, so I bought it. It was perfect because I could see I had room for everything I wanted. It was for sale fairly inexpensively. I thought that this would be great and would work well for me.

Q Did you originally come to New Orleans for work?

A When I came to New Orleans, I was right out of college so I didn't have a job. I had nothing to lose. My degree was in horticulture, so I knew I wanted to do something with plants. That first 7 years or so, I worked for a nursery before I could start my first business.

Q We've heard it was a complicated process and also that Gene Cizek was involved in the planning and design. Can you tell us about that?

A Because it's a historic area, you have to be careful about what kind of building you put up. So we looked around and we knew that Gene had been on the board of the Historic District Landmarks Commission. We also knew that he was very involved in restoration. We thought that he would be a perfect architect to design the building, so it would meet the requirements in a historic district. The building we were tearing down wasn't historic but when you put up something new, the city would like it to blend or harmonize with what's already there. That's why we used Gene to design this building. This has been extremely successful. It has needed no maintenance in 25 years.

Q Were you always interested in plants and gardens?

A I started getting interested in plants when I was 5 years old. My grandmother cut open an orange and



there was a seed inside that had started to sprout. I didn't know what it was so she explained it to me. We took out the seed and planted it inside of a little empty Dixie cup. Every time I went to visit her, since she was in New York and I was in New Jersey, I would see it growing. So my grandmother "planted the seed."

Q What's your favorite part of the business?

A The customers. They enjoy what we do so much. They are very complimentary. I feel we are providing people with something that they really enjoy and it fills a need in their homes and estates. We just have wonderful customers.

Q What's the hardest part of the business?

A Employees. We are very fortunate that we have a core group, some of whom have been with us for 10 or 12 years. It's always hard finding someone with a good work ethic, who is very reliable, and willing to learn as well as working well with customers. We really ask a lot of our employees. They have to be well-trained, well-spoken, they have to be on time, willing to be patient and answer a lot of questions. We are very fortunate to have a core group that is pretty much permanent.

Q What are your favorite public gardens anywhere in the world, and did you work on any of your favorite private gardens?

A I guess my favorite public garden would be Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. It's a huge botanic garden near Philadelphia. People in the business say it's the kind of garden God would build if He had enough money. It is wonderful. Here in New Orleans I worked for a while when I first came at Longview Gardens which is out near Metairie. It's the former Stern Estate and Edith Stern was alive. She actually hired me. I guess those are 2 of my favorite gardens. It's funny how they have similar names as well. We don't do private gardens but I have been volunteering to donate and take care of the waterlilies at the botanic garden here for 38 years. I go there once a week to take care of them after donating them for years. It's a public garden obviously.



Continued on page 7

Q *Where is your clientele mostly from?*

A We get people from all over; we have at least a few hundred customers that come from Baton Rouge. We get a lot of people from Houston. There's a lot of back and forth. Our main customer base is within 60 miles of New Orleans. We get a surprising number of people from the Florida Panhandle. We have something that a lot of places don't have, which is the waterlilies. That is our specialty. Anyone who has a pond, if they are looking for an excuse to come to New Orleans and need waterlilies, they come to us.

Q *People are still curious about how businesses made it through Katrina. How did the storm affect business for you?*

A We were lucky. There was no damage to the building. All of the plants were dead because we were kept out of the city for about 6 weeks and after Katrina it didn't rain for even one day. Plus, a lot of plants had been blown over. The only plants that were alive were the waterlilies because they were in water, and the cacti and succulents because they don't need water. We spent a lot of time cleaning up, restocking and we reopened around November 1st. We did a television commercial to let people know that we were back in business. We had a lot of customers coming in. Not all of them bought something but a lot of them were just happy to see that something from pre-Katrina was still here. I would say that the year after Katrina was our best year ever because so many people were replacing so many things.

Q *Can you talk about creating hybrid plants?*

A I started about 20 years ago playing with waterlilies thinking I would like something different. I would like a certain color on a different type of lily. So I started hybridizing them. It's like anything else, if you do it long enough, you become an expert in it. Now people in Thailand, Korea, Australia and all over the world send me pictures of their hybrids and I send pictures of mine to them. We share a lot of information. I have a lot of fun doing it. Some of the waterlilies that I have created are still only found here until I multiply enough to actually send them around.

Q *Anything else you'd like the readers to know?*

A I think I was extremely lucky, although I didn't realize it at the time, to find this location. It was just so perfect and such a great neighborhood for us. I consider myself a preservationist, and in fact recently we bought a house that was in foreclosure on Elysian Fields about 10 blocks from here and renovated it. I love old houses and neighborhoods. So we were very lucky to have landed here. The property was available and was the perfect size. I feel like we are a good fit for the area.

Board Members

- Allen Johnson, President
- Lisa Suarez, Vice-President
- Joel Ross, Recording Secretary
- Gretchen Bomboy, Corresponding Secretary
- Troy Gant, Treasurer
- Jeff Bromberger
- Simone Cifuentes
- Matt Del Vecchio
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- Newsletter: editor@faubourgmarigny.org

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Meet the Neighbors

December MTN was held at Performance Network/Visual Artists Network. They served up an amazing array of cocktails and lite appetizers in their beautiful building on Elysian Fields. Really the food was so good I forgot to take pictures.



January MTN was held at Buffa's Back Room. The large crowd enjoyed open-mike night (every Wednesday), food and were even given discount-drink tokens along with Buffa's tote bags to put them in! Thanks to Chuck Rogers for hosting.



Next Meet the Neighbors: February 8, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.
Stand for Children, 2374 St. Claude Avenue

Their mission is to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, graduate from high school prepared for, and with access to, college or career training. They are located at 2374 St. Claude Avenue, in the purple building (Shown in gray here) above Fatoush. Use the green door by the bus stop at the corner of St. Claude and St. Roch.



If you have a suggestion for a future Meet the Neighbors venue, email secretary@faubourgmarigny.org

If someone broke into your house, or attacked you on the street - - could you defend yourself?



Our citizen-volunteer group sponsors FREE self defense classes. Our motto is "Neighbors Teaching Neighbors." Above are several students who attended a "Ladies Night" where they learned about fire-arm safety and tried a **very easy to use** home defense firearm. Check out our website and come to a class. Our neighborhood is safer when we can protect each other.

HdfNola.org



A Simple Technique That Could Save Bicyclists' Lives

Bike traffic in New Orleans has increased 52 percent recorded researchers at the University of New Orleans' Transportation Institute between 2010 and 2014. Last year, the League of American Bicyclists recognized New Orleans as a silver-rated "bike friendly" community. There are over 100 miles of bikeways including the 2.6-mile bicycle and pedestrian Lafitte Greenway. Bike lanes have been installed on St. Claude Avenue (2010),



South Carrollton Avenue (2012) and Esplanade Avenue (2013). Bike lanes are designed to give space on the road to the bicyclists. However, bike lanes in New Orleans are dangerous because they are sandwiching the parked cars between the bicyclists and vehicle lanes. Documented studies indicated that 1 in 5 bike accidents involve

car doors. The number of fatalities in New Orleans are not current but appears to be on the rise from the quantity of stark white "ghost bikes" seen throughout the city. This informal ritual of placing a "ghost bike" memorializes the spot where the deadly encounter occurred. If you don't bike, it is easy not to think of the bicyclist passing you when you open your car door. How to reach to open the car door can save injuries and lives. Please consider the following to minimize your chances of accidentally injuring a bicyclist when you are opening a car door.

This technique inspired by bike-friendly Netherlands could prevent a collision or even save a cyclist's life from getting 'doored'. This technique is called the DUTCH REACH.

As you are opening the car door, automatically think of this mantra:

Safer to open car door with far hand

Sharing this technique with your friends, colleagues and young adults is simple, costs nothing and the unquantifiable benefit in saving a bicyclist from injury or demise.

Dutch Reach

The driver reaches around to open the car door with the right hand instead of the left hand. This encourages you to look behind you before opening your door. Opening the car door with the opposite hand forces the body to swivel, your eyes to look backward and to spot a cyclist.

*In remembrance of my friend
John C. Parrott*

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Letter from the President

By Allen Johnson

Even though there is not an FMIA General Meeting in December, nor a January Newsletter, that does not mean that it's been quiet in the neighborhood.

Lawsuit Settlement

On December 15, the City Council voted to approve a legal settlement of the FMIA's lawsuit regarding the City Council's failure to properly pass amendments to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. Please read the press release, which is on the front page of this newsletter. Be assured that Neighborhood Organizations across the city have contacted us with "thank yous" and "congratulations". I would like to especially thank Lisa Suarez (FMIA President when the lawsuit began and a named plaintiff), Ray Kern (a named plaintiff), Bryan Lockett (Zoning Guru Extraordinaire) and Andy Jacoby (our attorney), for their dedication and the many hours of work they put in. I would also like to thank the many people that donated to our cause. The fact that this lawsuit was funded solely by donations is truly inspiring and shows the citizens' dedication to the protection of the unique character of New Orleans' neighborhoods.

Hampton Inn

On December 20, architect Franco Alecha appeared before the Architectural Review Committee to present a second set of plans for a proposed Hampton Inn at Elysian Fields and Chartres, which is the site of the original de Marigny mansion.

The ARC deferred their decision and asked the architect to present new plans at the next meeting on January 17. At that meeting, per the previous recommendations of the ARC, Mr. Alecha presented plans that incorporated the existing historic warehouses at the site. The ARC was much more receptive to these plans. However, they still deferred, pending adjustments they recommended. The next meeting will be in February. Mr. Alecha and Mr. Patel have stayed in contact and worked with the FMIA throughout the process. They have met with us and submitted their plans so that we can share them on FaceBook. Please continue to follow our page for new drawings and relevant news as we strive to assure that we have the best building available for such an historic site.

Crime

The Marigny, like the rest of the city, continues to be plagued by crime, and an insufficient staffing of police officers. Until that happens, they are trying to find more creative ways to police the city. One change is to move the boundary for the 5th and the 8th Districts. The 8th District encompassed the CBD, French Quarter and Marigny all the way to Franklin Avenue, leaving a sliver of the Marigny (from Franklin to Press) in the 5th. The

new boundary is set at Elysian Fields (a thick and unmistakable dividing line) with the Triangle in the 8th and the Rectangle in the 5th. This will make the 8th District a tourist area centered District, and the Rectangle will join the Bywater in a mainly residential district. There seems to be many opinions of this change. I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

I hope to see everyone at our February meeting, and please continue to follow us on FaceBook and Nextdoor. Have a safe and happy Mardi Gras!!

Sincerely,
Allen Johnson, President



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Questions? Call 504-947-6155

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Speaking Volumes

By Sara Jacobelli, Assistant Branch Manager, Alvar Library

Looking for something fun to do with your family and friends? You can check out free passes to the **Ogden Museum of Art** and to the **Longue Vue House and Gardens** at any **NOPL location**. Passes are checked out for two weeks and provide free admission for up to two adults and seven children.

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Want to volunteer? Email lynneserpe.nola@gmail.com

This program will only happen on days when the library is open. Please do not drop off your scraps outside specified hours.

Regular Programs at Alvar:

Toddler Story Time: Tuesdays, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Computer Tutoring: Thursdays, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Continued on page 13

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In the Garden Writers' Workshop:

Writers of all levels of experience and all genres are welcome, including Poetry, Fiction and Nonfiction Prose, and Plays. Local and visiting authors will periodically stop by to read their work and offer advice and encouragement. Participants will read their work at a public reading once or twice a year, either at Alvar Library or at a local venue. We will meet the second Saturday of every month from 2:00-3:30 pm, from September 2016 through May 2017. The sixth workshop will meet Saturday, February 11th and will focus on Poetry. **Our special guest this month is New Orleans performance artist/actor/poet Bobby Toomer.** You may sign up at the Circulation Desk, or just come to any session.

Local Author Birthday for January:

John Dufresne was born Jan. 30th, 1948 in Worcester, MA. His books have been set in a variety of places, including Monroe, LA. He has written six novels: Louisiana Power & Light, Love Warps the Mind a Little, Deep in the Shade of Paradise, Requiem, Mass., No Regrets, Coyote, and I Don't Like Where This is Going. He has also written two short story collections, three chapbooks, and two books on writing techniques. He was a 2012-2013 Guggenheim Fellow. Quote: "I take their money or someone else does. There's no room for sympathy in poker." Bay Lettigue, a character in the crime novel No Regrets, Coyote by John Dufresne.

Local Author Birthday for February:

Mo Willems was born February 11th, 1968 in Des Plaines, Illinois, but he grew up in New Orleans. The child of Dutch immigrants, he always loved to draw and tell stories. After five years of rejections, he published his first children's book Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! This was followed by more Pigeon stories, including Pigeon has Feelings Too! and other books such as Leonardo the Terrible Monster. Both children and adults love his deceptively simple drawings and whimsical stories. Quote: "His personality came from New York." (Speaking about that Famous Pigeon who launched his writing career.)

February Holiday Schedule for Alvar Library:

- Friday, February 17th, close at 4:00 pm
 - Saturday, February 18th, close at 5:00 pm
 - Wednesday, February 22nd, close at 5:00 pm
 - Thursday, February 23rd, close at 4:00 pm
 - Friday, February 24th, close at 4:00 pm
 - Saturday, February 25th, close at 2:00 pm
 - Monday, February 27th, close at 3:00 pm
- All NOPL Locations will be closed Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 for Mardi Gras.

Happy Mardi Gras!

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FMIA Board Meeting Minutes: January 4, 2017

Members in Attendance: Allen Johnson, Gretchen Bomboy, Jeff Bromberger, Mark Malouse, Joel Ross, Matt Del Vecchio, Simone Cifuentes

Late: Lisa Suarez,
Absent: Troy Gant,

Hampton Inn

The ARC was unanimously critical of the project with Wayne Troyer and Elliot Perkins as the most vocal opponents. On December 23rd, ARC deferred to the project to the next ARC meeting (January 17th) ARC wants to see him design something. Still waiting on the drawings from the follow up

HDLC agreed that the FMIA should continue to work with Patel to ensure that the building does right for the City.

Brian Luckett of Neighbors First for Bywater (NFB)

Brian is here to talk about the Cruise Ship Terminal. First of all, congratulations on the lawsuit, we should meet in the not-to-distant future to discuss the lawsuit. The Port is planning to put a cruise ship terminal in the Bywater. Cruise ships hold about 4500 passengers and 1500 crew

Planning on having cruise ship come and disembark, it would fill up and leave the next day. They want to do this two or three times per week. Previous passengers disembark in the morning and new passengers come on board in the afternoon. Businesses are involved in the cruise ship terminal. There are restaurant / bar complexes opening up here. The cruise ship terminal will be a transformative project.

Fred Tharp is a new hire as an engineer, Michelle Gannon is a new hire for PR. There is a new director of the Port as well.

Ports are essentially black boxes, it is not easy to find out what is going on there. There was a meeting at the Sanchez Center in the Lower 9th Ward last December. The Port is not forthcoming with information. There are two courses of action we can take:

1 – A section 106 review process, this is part of the NPS and preservation act. New roadway has already been installed along with new lighting. The army corps already has a "letter of no objection". The Port has also stabilized the bank. Ricky Boyett from the Army Corps has done some PR for the stabilization of the bank. He explained the wharf repairs and bank stabilization project. He doesn't think this work will require a Section 106 review.

They are trying to partition the project into various stages to prevent a Section 106 review. Annabelle Loeb, from the BNA, called them on this partitioning of the scope of work and Michelle from the Port was surprised. Her husband John is on the BNA

Continued on page 15

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FMIA Board Meeting Minutes Speaking Volumes continued from page 14

as well. BNA is fairly concerned about this, but don't yet know if they are going to have a resolution. Fresh-water is a concern as is the idling of engines.

If the BNA, FMIA, NFB, and various other neighborhood organizations come together to paint a unified front, it will have strength. The idea is to just oppose it. Joe Jaeger wants to redevelop Holy Angels and the NSA. The plan on the port is to divert traffic around the NSA. Joe Jaeger hasn't spoken to the Port yet. Joe has a lease of the space. Joe alluded to meeting with Cedric Grant.

The BNA / NFB / FMIA / Louisiana Landmarks / neighborhood consortium would like to meet with Cedric to voice our concerns. This consortium should also meet with Joe Jaeger. We should be there. A letter to Joe Jaeger would be a good idea as well. We are going to have to meet with Nadine Ramsey as well. We should illustrate the problems with the proposed design. Need to illustrate what kind of impact this project will have. We need to fight to have a Section 106 review.

The Port doesn't want to spend the money, neither does the Army Corps, City, State, Federal dollars as part of this project. We also need a neighborhood consortium to show up to Port meetings and press them for better community engagement. They meet on the 2nd or 3rd Thursday of each month. The BNA believes that as this point, it is almost certainly going to get pushed through.

We shouldn't take the stance of direct opposition, which doesn't leave us with any negotiating position. "We are extremely concerned about the infrastructure being implemented without the input or understanding to the affect it will have on the neighborhood." FMIA is going to follow the stance of the BNA / NFB and create an alliance. The stance is to demand better transparency and voice concerns that the Cruise Ship terminal is not considered the impact on the neighborhood.

Train Safety Concerns

Should we sign on with the Uptown Triangle Neighborhood Association? This is homework for the Board. It is good to back up the uptown neighborhood. Good first step, as they've already submitted the suggested wording. Gretchen will add FMIA concerns, and submit to Board. Approved unanimously.

Advocate Newspaper /

We are not going to ask for a retraction. But it is important to note.

Raising of Dues

Allen to report. Raising of the Dues – Allen considers them to be low. The last time they were raised was before Katrina. Individual at \$15, raised to \$20. Household is raised to \$30. Seniors should stay \$5 and \$10 for household. Business should be

\$50, businesses get a website link and an advertising break. Have we thought about window stickers? Allen will look into the cost of printing window stickers

This would take effect on March 1. We can send an e-blast on Feb 1. Unanimously approved.

Changing of Police District Lines

Allen received a call from Ken Caron from COPS 8. The 8th and 5th Police Districts are changing their boundaries, moving the Franklin line to Elysian Fields, keeping the Triangle in the 8th and all of the Rectangle in the 5th. The 8th, in the French Quarter, is considered a tourist district.

We'll see what happens with the redistricting. Elysian Fields is probably a better line than Franklin. We want another car. Marigny needs its own district. If you're going to divide the Marigny, but Elysian Fields is the logical choice. Lisa and Gretchen do not like the divide between the Marigny. They think it should be Press Street. The concern is that the businesses will have to pay more in taxes, but will not get the attention.

Membership Drive Ideas

Lisa Suarez: Membership Drive Ideas include Door Hangers – no trouble with the post office, Welcome packages ?, Distribute to the realtors as welcome packets, Put FMIA flyer in "welcome to the neighborhood packet". Realtors discussed included Sam Armstrong, Dorian, Lane Lacey, Sam Poche, FQR, Latter and Blum, - need to reach out. Allen will write the letter up, and distribute to the realtors.

Interview with Lane Lacey coming up for the newsletter. We are going to wait for an intern for the fall semester.

Simone's Questions

Should Simone put forth some legislative draft to the State? She proposed something like "If you're domiciled outside the city of New Orleans, your property taxes will be 3x more than a homestead exemption."

Home Tour

Lisa will explain at General Meeting

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 8:14pm

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Meet the Neighbors: February 8
General Meeting: February 20



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