

Algiers Point Association Board of Directors

Minutes of Meeting of February 22, 2018

Board Members in attendance were: Judge Anderson-Trahan, Susan Aspinwall, Leighton Barrett-Strong, Joe Bonney, Rob Booms, Connie Burks, Brian Dufour, Kelsey Foster, Skip Gallagher, Vlad Ghelase, Virginia Hebert, Paul Langenwalter, Leann Logsdon, Gary Mouton, Marty Stroble, and Austin Wilty. Sheila Joy and Reagan Reynolds Wilty were absent.

City Representative Introduction: Justyn Hawkins of the Mayor's Neighborhood Engagement Office introduced himself and shared his phone and e-mail contact information with the board.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 18, 2018 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Income activity since the last report included memberships (\$459.75) and a donation (\$500.00), while expenses (\$600.00) represented donations for the ALLA Brunch and Free Lil Pantry as well as dues to the Algiers Neighborhood Presidents Council. The bank balance is \$31,546.95. The report was approved.

Guest Introduction: Richard Perque, candidate for Civil District Court Judge, introduced himself and passed out information cards with a summary of his qualifications and the Early Voting and Election Day dates.

Committee Reports

Civic Engagement: Rob reported that two important issues affecting Algiers Point are Short-Term Rentals and the Riverfront Overlay District. He proposed organizing a committee dedicated to studying in depth the ordinances and associated rules pertaining to these areas of local concern. Those interested in joining this committee were asked to contact Rob so that he could send committee members pertinent documents to review. It was noted that the APA membership software platform has the capability of polling the membership on specific questions related to these two issues.

APA representatives testified before the City Planning Commission, arguing that the developer of a proposed apartment complex in Riverview along Brooklyn Avenue has not met the criteria for earning a density bonus. The City Planning Commission did not obtain the required five votes necessary for granting the development a "recommended" designation before it moves on for consideration by the City Council on March 8, 2018. The project will be discussed at the Old Algiers Leadership Council meeting on February

24, 2018. Vlad pointed out that the board needs to clarify exactly which policy points would be acceptable in evaluating proposed developments. Kelsey noted that the newly formed APA Civic Engagement Committee will address precisely this question.

As the APA increasingly engages with non-profit partners in working on civic matters with broad impact, it was noted that the APA By-Laws may need to be amended to expand membership. Rob will draw up a proposed amendment for board review.

Events Committee: The manager at the **LSU Fitness Center** in Federal City is open to jointly sponsoring a **Pool Party** with the APA to kick off the summer and boost both gym and APA membership. (APA members get a monthly discount on gym membership.) The First Anniversary celebration for the **Free Lil Pantry** was marked by the presentation to founder Becky Hicks of a \$350 donation, an amount that represented a \$250 grant from the APA and additional outside donations. Three APA board members plus many neighborhood residents volunteered at the annual **ALLA Brunch** for officers at the NOPD Fourth District. Gary asked for volunteers to prepare free trees provided by **NOLA Tree Project** the night before their distribution in March. The Events Committee will have a table set up at **Friendship Day** on March 11 to give neighbors an opportunity to join the APA and ask questions about what the APA does to strengthen the community. Committee members will offer face painting and sell friendship-themed bracelets and wristbands to generate interest. The board approved an expenditure of \$152.67 for craft materials. The Preservation Resource Center has proposed sponsoring a **Shotgun House Tour** in Algiers Point on May 12. Requests for host homeowners will be sent out to the community. Judge Trahan will issue a proclamation concerning the event. There was interest among board members in pursuing the possibility of continuing the **Movies on the Point** monthly outdoor film screenings in the spring. A screen and projector both are needed.

Public Safety Committee: Video cameras continue to aid in solving and deterring incidences of crime in the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Improvement Committee: Kelsey reported that the Walk/Bike/Place 2018 Conference will be held in New Orleans in September and that professionals in the field will provide free consultation on the APA **Jazz Walk** restoration project. The APA will find out on February 28, 2018 whether we were awarded a Tricentennial Grant to kickstart the Jazz Walk project. Other potential grantors have been identified. The weekly collection of frozen **composting** scraps continues at Hubbell Library. A group has organized to **clean up** areas around the community and will tackle the batture on Saturday. The city is sponsoring a project called **Adopt-a-Catch Basin** to encourage New Orleans residents to name and clean drains in their neighborhoods. The Algiers Ferry Terminal is now a virtual station for **Blue Bikes**. Kelsey suggested that the APA invite a Blue Bikes representative to attend a future board meeting.

Membership and Communications Committee: The Algiers Point Association may now be the largest neighborhood association in the city.

Reports on Public Meetings: The RTA (Regional Transit Authority) held a community meeting to gain public input on the **pedestrian bridge** to be constructed next to the Aquarium over the railroad tracks as part of the new Canal Street Ferry Terminal project. Many attendees at the meeting questioned whether the emphasis on maintaining an open visual design concept might be taking precedence over the needs of ferry riders for shelter from sun and rain.

Vlad reported that, after examining Sewerage and Water Board (SWB) bills to determine the cause of billing errors, he will continue to urge individual residents to check their bills for math errors. Vlad also reported on **Entergy's proposed \$200 million natural gas plant** to be constructed in New Orleans East. The project was approved by the City Council Utility Committee and now will be forwarded to the full City Council. The board asked Vlad to draft a letter of opposition to the plant, which the APA will sign.

Leann asked for volunteers to assist in directing visitors to the premiere of **Kara Walker's Katastwóf Karavan** calliope located on the batture near the Algiers Ferry Terminal. The artist has international stature and her installation is expected to draw hundreds to the neighborhood from throughout the city and beyond, particularly since this will be **Prospect.4's** closing weekend.

Skip asked the board to forward notices of filming happenings in the neighborhood so that he can contact the location personnel for donations to the APA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.