

EAST NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION (ENONAC) www.enonac.org

GENERAL MEETING

St. Maria Gorreti Community Center ~ 7300 Crowder Blvd

Tuesday, July 14, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Executive Board Members:

P – Denotes member present, E – Denotes member excused, A – Denotes member absent, V – vacant position

P	Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, President	P	Romona Baudy, 1 st Vice President
P	Brenda Jackson, 2 nd Vice President	A	Karol Sanders, Treasurer
P	Carroll Denesse, Member At Large	P	Joan Heisser, Member At Large
P	Arthur Busby, Parliamentarian	P	Lydia Leon, Secretary

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheets.

I. Call to order/Roll Call --- Meeting was called to order by the President, Scineaux Richard at 6:10 p.m. After roll call, we had a quorum.

II. Review and Approval of Agenda --- Comm. Daste made a motion to accept the agenda and Comm. Hebert seconded. After the vote, the motion passed with no objections.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes --- The minutes from 6/9/15 required a correction: change the \$4.00 to \$5.00 on the parcel fee. Comm. LaCour-Duckworth made a motion to accept the minutes with the above correction and Comm. Baudy seconded. After the vote, the motion passed with no objections.

IV. Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report --- The treasurer's report was tabled because Karol Sanders had not arrived yet.

V. New Business

A. NORBP Millage -- Barbara Hornsby, ENONAC representative on the NO Regional Business Park (NORBP) and Westley Bayas also from N O Regional Business Park came to address the community reference the millage for the business park which will only be paid by the businesses housed in the business park. They are trying to get the millage on the November ballot. They need the residents to go out and vote for the millage. There is a lot of construction going on at the Business Park. It is the largest area for industrial Companies in the city.

QUESTIONS: Comm. Heisser asked if the new millage will be the same as before or will it be more? The last vote was in 2010 and there is no millage at this time. The new millage is 20-22 mills. How much is that mileage in dollars and cents? She did not know but would find out. There only funding is revenues from 15 spots that they rent out in the Park. Why are the businesses not coming out to support it so we can have a letter or something in writing to give to our residents about the millage? She will see what she can do.

B. Community Roundtable for Education in N O East: There will be a vote In November for School Board Members for our district. John Brown (now in that position) can be elected to the position again. The Education Committee urges ENONAC to work with homeowners subdivisions to bring them on board about this position. It is very critical to get the information out to the community to be sure we elect an individual who will help us to have a good representation on the board. It was suggested that ENONAC have a forum once all the candidates that are in the race so we can ask questions and get their positions on the issues important to our community. We need to be aware of who they are and what they will do in that position. This goes beyond the school board and all the way to Baton Rouge. Many of the School Board members are lawyers and business owners with a variety of professional knowledge. One app application is one issue with the school system. Some of us are in Brown's District and some are in Mrs. Cade's district. Comm. Penny made a motion to go forward with the suggestion made by the education Committee for ENONAC to do a forum on the School Board Election with the candidates once they are known to us and Comm. Legaux seconded. After the vote, the motion passed.

Questions: Ed Blouin stated to first give the residents an opportunity to have input on what they want the criteria of the candidates to be and second do the forum with all the candidates and ENONAC. Another question was where are all these children coming from to fill all these big new schools?

Mrs. Mardele Early, Director of Lake Forest Charter said that RSD and OPSB handle that part. Lake Forest Charter is part of OPSB and has never been a district school and has open admission. The RSD is transporting children to their schools and was started by the RSD Charter. We need to make sure our children's education is our most important issue. Look at everything very carefully. The motion on the floor by Comm. Penny was amended to include the recommendations made by Ed Blouin in two parts and the first part passed. There was a motion made by Comm. Penny on the second part of the amended motion which was seconded by Comm. Legaux and after the vote the motion passed. How many schools are in the N O East area? In anticipation of more residents moving to the East is why more schools are being built here. Comm. Legaux said do the motions in two parts because we as CAB Members will bring the information as we get it to our residents and our goal is to have quality education in the East for our children so that they will not have to be transported by bus to get to school. Ask the people who are running to meet our needs for our children and schools. The Education Committee now has 12 items of concern that should be addressed by the candidates running for the ENO position on the School Board.

C. Zoning change request at 10112 Plainfield Dr.: James Ramsey, the developer for the project on Plainfield Drive came to speak on the zoning change he is requesting from low density residential (RM-2E) to General Commercial (C-2) at 10112 Plainfield Dr. in N O East. He is proposing a hotel, 2 restaurants and a medical center and sports complex on this site and I-10 Service Rd. Changing this zoning goes against the Master Plan that is in place now. This site backs up to residential properties at Lake Willow, Lake Barrington and Spring Lake.

QUESTIONS: Mr. Ramsey was asked: Was he planning to sub-divide the property or is it going to be one lot on record? Yes, each business will have its own parcel after the zoning is changed. Once sub-divided then each parcel is commercially separate. The concern is that once zoned commercial it would allow any type of business that falls under the commercial zoning i.e., less community participation, more traffic, late hours of operation, etc. Warwick East subdivision is totally against the zoning change. Mr. Ramsey owns the property since 2001 as Bern Mas Apartments. Comm. Bickham from Donna Villa subdivision said it has been 10 years since Katrina and if he has a legitimate business venture and it is not an apartment complex, give him a chance. Comm. Daste from Spring Lake asked that we look closely at the project first before we condemn it. It is not the low income apartments that we don't want or need. Sylvia said the change in zoning is very critical because it is now residential and part of our Master Plan. Noah Lewis asked Mr. Ramsey what he will do with the property if the zoning change does not win. He said that he would wait until something else came along for the property. State Representative Wesley Bishop asked what guarantee did he have of the financial backing and commitment of the businesses that would locate there? Has a study been done that you can share with us? He stated that a study was done and he would share it with us. Charlene Smith said that at the first meeting they asked how many jobs this project would have and he could not answer. Warwick East said that it was a good idea but not valid for a zoning change for that site. She suggested he use some of the many already commercial areas that are now available for his project. Mr. Ramsey said no one will build houses on the service road. John Waggaman said that new homes will increase property value but this project would bring their property value down.

VII. Old Business

A. Hidden Lake Apartment Issue-

1. The first **hearing** was held in Baton Rouge and advertised in the Advocate on this issue. There was no one from the East there because we were unaware and wondered why Rev Hamlet of Global Ministries Foundation (GMF) would hold a community meeting in a location outside the community being impacted. Not convenient or fair for GMF to conduct the meeting in an area outside of New Orleans if the residents were expected to attend for resident input, consequently no one from the East New Orleans was there. They have

had several meetings on this issue and did not tell the attorney about getting the information to get in touch with the residents of the surrounding subdivisions.

Rev Hamlet presently has other properties that are not well kept. Wednesday there were people picketing outside "The Willows" apartment Complex who claimed to be residents. On Saturday someone removed Dawn Hebert's and her neighbor's fence separating the complex from the privacy of her back yard. Senator Murray and Sylvia contacted them to put the fences back up. One of the maintenance people stated he was instructed by management to remove the fence but he refused and now he is no longer working there. Rev Hamlet intimidated at the Bond hearing that the community wanted him to give him money and that was the reason for the opposition, which was absolutely not true. It was obvious he was trying to turn the Bond Commission against the N O East residents so that he can get his bond money to purchase the Hidden Lake Apartment Complex. The next hearing will be in Baton Rouge on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Senate Committee 900 N. North Street Senate C on ground floor. Phone # is 1-225-342-0020 and email is lfolse@treasury.state.la.us or danderson@treasury.state.la.us and send before 7/16/15. If GMF purchases and keeps the same management, we will have a problem. Pearl Cantrelle said that they are trying to make this a section 8 argument and that is not our intention. He also tried to get the vote that day since no one was there to oppose it. His bond request is for 24 million dollars in tax credit money.

Why approve a project when the money that they get from the bond money is put back into his ministry and not used to maintain the property. Wesley will be at the meeting on Thursday and they are looking at it very carefully. Let the Bond Committee know how we feel about this project. Comm Hebert has submitted 40 criminal acts that have taken place at this complex.

2. Resolution R-15 on Hidden Lake Issue.....Comm. Hebert made a motion to oppose GMF purchasing the Hidden Lake property using bond money because of the following reasons:

1) Rev Hamlet's creditability is questionable due to his failure to address previous requests from the community to improve the quality of life for his tenants and the surrounding communities. In the application to the bond commission he stated that beneficial supportive services would be provided on the site and none has been scheduled since ownership of the Willow's property in November of 2014.

2) Safety and Health concerns in relation to the heavy foot traffic along the I-10 Service Road and the residential neighborhoods. Several homes have swimming pools that children can easily access.

3) High amount of police incident reports in the Willow's Complex.

4) Bond money issued for the Willow's and Hidden Lake processed without Apartment and community input. ALL INFO TO BE PUT IN THE RESOLUTION.

Question: Is there anyone here from Councilman Gray's Office? No. Residents state that this is a problem.

Comm. Baudy seconded the motion by Comm. Hebert. Comm. Heisser said that GMF is a sham and to get approval of bond money and not put it back into the property shows damaged creditability. After the vote, the motion passed on the resolution.

B. Calvin Lopes--- spoke on the negative impact **Short Term Rentals/Bed and Breakfast** would have on our residential subdivisions. The rental committee is now bigger than before. What is short term rental? Renting out houses in neighborhoods and not a Bed & Breakfast so they are not paying taxes. They are renting under 30 days. Local organization credited ANP (Alliance for Prosperity) with wiping out zoning for hotel. The Bed and Breakfast do not have to be zoned as a hotel. They want to regulate the Bed and Breakfast. Their proposal is to make people with properties rent as if they are a hotel and in neighborhoods like ours. He wants us to help to stop this proposal and address the issues. There is a committee meeting on July 30, 2015. There is no venue at this time. The email is www.insiderunp.com.

C. Rev. Crocket for **Zoning Docket 061/15** a request for Conditional Use to permit transient vocational rental at 7520 Haynes Blvd. The CPC staff recommended approving it with provisos.

D. Katrina 10th Anniversary Remembrance and Celebration of Families & Neighborhoods will be at Victory Field in Joe Brown Park on Saturday, August 22, 2015 from 11.00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each CAB Member will have their own tent and have residents to come out and help them. There will be free food for the kids and they must be accompanied by their parents. There will be hot dogs, drinks, chips, water and desserts. Community Legion will have the drinks and water and will teach chess in their tent. Each CAB Member must have a theme for their tent and decide what they will do. There will be food vendors for the adults to purchase their food. There will be food, games, arts and crafts and activities for the kids. There will be live music on the stage.

VIII. Community Info

A. A request to have a petition on the opposition to the rezoning of the area on I-10 Service Road from Crowder to Bullard (the Ramsey request) was made by Comm. DeGrasse. She will handle the petition.

IX. Adjournment --- Comm. Baudy made a motion to adjourn meeting and Comm. DeGrasse seconded. After the vote, the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Submitted by Lydia Leon, Secretary 9-7-2015