

EAST NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION (ENONAC)

GENERAL MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, August 10, 2021 @ 6:00pm

MINUTES

Executive Board Members:

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

E	Dawn Hebert, President	P	Brenda Jackson, 1 st Vice President
P	Marcia McWilliams, 2nd Vice President	P	Karol Sanders, Treasurer
P	Carroll Denesse, Member At Large	P	Maxine Weaver, 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 First Vice President Brenda Jackson at 6:05 p.m. After roll call, we had a quorum.
- II. **Introduction of Special Guest(s):** State Rep. Jason Hughes, CM Cyndi Nguyen District E
- III. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Comm. Jourdain moved to approve the agenda. Comm. Sanders seconded the motion. After the vote, the motion passed without any objections.
- IV. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** Comm. Busby moved to approve the minutes. Comm. Blouin seconded the motion. After the vote, the motion passed without any objections.
- V. **Treasurer’s report:** Comm. Sanders made a report of expenses and balances for the period of July 1-30, 2021. Comm. Jourdain moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Comm. Knott seconded the motion. After the vote, the motion passed without any objections.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- A. **Help Not Handcuffs:** Meghsha Barner, Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition spoke of a push for increased healthcare for prisons. Comm. Legaux asked is handouts from the meeting and presentation from CM Moreno who is pushing for mental health. Yes, she will send it.
- B. **New Links Project:** Angele Wilson, RTA Dir. Of Intergovernmental Affairs spoke. She said that transportation has more things to come, thanks to President Biden’s infrastructure money. This project will connect Jefferson to Orleans. 1) Transit Service – will provide better service for neighborhoods that need access to connecting bus service and those that need it most. 2) Right size streetcar service to pay for improved bus service. 3) Reduce redundant and overlapping service. 4) Graph was shown on New Links versus old one with improvement in timing on bus service. Improved frequency on key corridors. Improved neighborhood connections. Greater access to non-CBD destinations. Updating schedules for East and West Bank on June 30, 2021. Also updates on Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Winter 2021, Spring, Summer and Fall 2022. Comm. Jackson thanked RTA for considering the less fortunate and people in need of RTA transportation. Comm. Legaux said that they should consider schedules for senior citizens and our kids in school using RTA. Improve the bus schedules and timing on businesses. They said that late night and evening services are also being addressed. Comm. Landrum asked if benches and shelters are included in this project. The answer was no, but he will check on it. Bus shelters are needed at NOE Hospital. Comm. Hamilton said that they need paved walkways for people using bus so they do not have to walk in mud and overgrown grass. There are too many dangerous locations that are bus stops. Also, trash cans need to be placed at bus stops. Comm. Legaux said that her subdivision bought trash cans with grant money but the areas are still overgrown with grass. Why are they not cutting the grass in a timely manner? A phone number of 248-3000 was given for complaints about bus stop issues. Rep. Hughes said that we are tired of being told to call this number and that number. Trash cans should be emptied on a regular basis and area around bus stops should be maintained in a timely manner.

C. Orleans Housing Investment Program: Brenda Breaux, NORA spoke about the Orleans Housing Investment homeownership program. She said that there are 46 properties to become available. Financing to homebuyer will be subsidized. 20 homes are to be built with 1300 – 1500 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, and 2-2.5 baths. Price range will be \$180,000 to \$210,000. Construction to begin in Jan of 2022 and be completed by the end of 2023. Comm. Hamilton said that given the highest square footage and lowest price per square foot seems to be overpricing by the developer. Kyle Gilmore said that sales prices of two houses in the area are selling for \$185,000 and that range is correct for that area. Comm. Weaver asked if any of the houses are pre-sold. She is worried about houses sitting empty for a long period of time. They said this has happened but is not always the rule of thumb. A few partners do pre-sell their houses but none that he knows of for these properties. Comm. Legaux asked about interest rate and length of loan. Answer: 15-20 years as with normal loans. Home owner only pays on 75% of the loan and the other 25% is held and after a certain length of time that part is forgiven. Wendell Pierce has a similar program where the loan is forgiven after 5 years. Comm. Henry said that in that program, the cost of houses were much lower and people had to qualify and many could not qualify, so this method is made simpler. Comm. McWilliams asked for a copy of the presentation be sent to ENONAC.

D. Subdivision Developments in NOE:

- 1. Project on Dwyer (between Read and Bullard):** Sam Meredith, Pres. Nouvelle Vie said that the project will be located across from Joe Brown Park on Dwyer across the canal. He showed a slide show of the model home on Nottingham Drive. He said that he felt that slab is better than raised and brick is better with some siding. They will be 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. They will be 12-1400 sq. ft. with a price range at \$180,000. Doing a home giveaway for someone in need or first responder or single mother. The project will increase the beauty and value to surrounding neighborhood. Quality homes that are affordable. Provide more job opportunity in this current uncertain economic environment. Comm. Jourdain asked how many variations of homes will there be. Mr. Meredith said that there will be many variations so that each home is different.
- 2. 11900 Dwyer Rd. Re-subdivision:** Alex Modinger, Architect of the project spoke about a 32 acre site located at 11900 Dwyer at Bullard back to I-510. There will be 63 lots built in Phase 1. Some features will be: lots are 60 x 120; gated site with sensor gates; 10 homes with 5-6 different floor plans; 2500 – 4500 sq. ft.; all brick and stucco. Will have bylaws & rules for the subdivision. There will be an option to purchase land and build their home as long as they follow the bylaws. Will there be a buffer put up or landscaping for noise at the service road. He said landscaping will be done.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. CPC: Reconsideration of Subdivision Docket 136/20 – Crowder Subdivision:** It is on today's CPC agenda. NOE representative on CPC Diane Alexander had no comment. Comm. McWilliams and Pres. Hebert are upset that she had no comment. Comm. McWilliams said that they were told that they were supposed to repaint the 4 houses at Curran and Crowder and nothing has been done. She said that the gray house sold for \$239,000 and the yellow one is supposed to be sold by found no info on it. Terrie Guerin, CM Nguyen Chief of Staff, said they will not let him build those houses without our input. Comm. McWilliams wants the builder to look at the homes from Sam Meredith to see what houses should look like in NOE. Ms. Guerin said that Miles Granderson is representing the Crowder subdivision homes and we should get a meeting with him. She said she will set up the meeting. She said that this will not pass City Council without change to houses that we will accept in NOE.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Press Conference to address Crime in NOE and the present danger at Gannon & Morrison Rds.**
Comm. McWilliams spoke about the drowning of the family at the canal at Gannon Rd. She said that Dept. of Public Works is supposed to put up lights and guard rails. Rep. Hughes said that no one has contacted him but this is the responsibility of the City. Ms. Guerin has been trying to reach out to the area. Will reach out directly to his office and tell him of issues involving NOE. Rep. Hughes gave his cell phone number of 504-715-8525 and said that you can call him directly.
- B. Purchase of Bern Mas Apts by Patriot Services Group:** Comm. Jackson said that they are asking for \$35 million in bond money for apartment renovation. It is a 98 unit apartment complex on Chef Hwy.

IX. COMMUNITY INFO

- A. Voters East of the Industrial Canal (VEOTIC) presents Candidate Forums**
Aug. 11-14, Access VEOTIC Facebook Page to view
- B. NOE Matters, Katrina Anniversary Remembrance: 16 Years Later**
Sat. Aug 28; 10a – 4p; 9701 Lake Forest Blvd., #103 (Outdoor Patio)
- C.** In reference to the Jazzland project, Comm. Blouin said that the City said it will be another 45-60 days on two projects on Chef Hwy. Comm. Henry said that they have no other info since their May meeting. He received a letter saying they qualified and nothing else has been told to them.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Drive-thru Covid Testing, UNO Lakefront Arena; 8a – 6p**

- XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Comm. Weaver made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Sanders seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection. Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Submitted by Lydia Leon, Recording Secretary