

EAST NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION (ENONAC)
GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 6:00pm

Location: St. Maria Goretti, 7300 Crowder Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70127

Executive Board Members:

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

P	Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, President	A	Brian Egana, 1 st Vice President
P	Brenda Jackson, 2 nd Vice President	P	Karol Sanders, Treasurer
P	Ed Blouin, Member At Large	P	Joan Heisser, Member At Large
E	Romona Baudy, Parliamentarian	P	Lydia Leon, Secretary

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheets.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by President, Sylvia Scineaux-Richard at 6.10 p.m. After roll call, a quorum was established. There were no special guests this evening.

II. Commissioner Swearing In Ceremony

Attorney Kara Johnson performed the Oath of Office for all the CAB Commissioners for 2013.

III. Review and Approval of Agenda

Comm. Busby made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of adding Councilman Gray and the Nature Center to the agenda for this meeting and it was seconded by Comm. Norris. After the vote, the motion passed.

IV. Review and Approval of March 12, 2013 General Meeting Minutes

Minutes will be posted on the website due to computer problems.

V. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was read and copies were given to the CAB Members. Comm. Norris made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Comm. Daste seconded. After the vote, the motion passed.

VI. New Business

A. There is unofficial information that an off-track betting facility is being planned to locate on Bullard. If the project becomes firm we will ask that they come to present to community. Scineaux-Richard said it was on the agenda because she wanted to give the community a heads up of the proposed project.

B. The HLUZ Committee had a meeting on the Claiborne Corridor to put together the comments from all the areas that were not included in the meetings. Investigate whether NPN would pay to facilitate a conversation among the various areas of New Orleans that were excluded from the study area and how they would be impacted. They need a motion from the Commissioners that they are in agreement to consult with other neighborhoods that were not involved in the study. Comm. Heisser made the motion to agree to consult with the other neighborhoods not involved in the study and Comm. Daste seconded. After the vote, the motion carried.

C. On the proposed budget for 2013, we need to have some monies to carry us from now to the end of this year. ENONAC has filed for the 501c3. Comm. Egana said that all the commissioners should do something to assist ENONAC financially for this year. Either the Commissioners themselves or their associations should be willing to help with finances. Comm. from Fauberg asked that ENONAC give them something in writing to bring to their associations for the donation. Scineaux-Richard said they could use the information that was distributed during the parcel fee ballot.

D. Open Issues

1. Dawn Hebert from the Blight Committee had some information about the blight in NO East. The lot between the service station and the Waffle House on Read Blvd. is being cleaned and cleared of trash but it is a slow process. Dawn said she would have more information on the Race Trac Gas Station that is going on Read at the next meeting. She and Sylvia went to a CPC meeting at City Hall on the project. She said that there is a school down the block from that property and that there are already other stores in the area that sell alcohol, which is a concern. CPC deferred the discussion for 30 days to allow Race Trac Gasoline Station to meet with the community. They were asked to come to the HLUZ Committee with their project for discussion and feedback and to obtain more details for community input on the proposal. This will be the first Race Trac Gasoline Station/Market in New Orleans.

2. The Eastover subdivision has concerns about the Reception Hall on Bullard where Fun Factory was previously located due to the loud music, noise and loitering. They want to know if the business is operating in compliance with code enforcement laws. ENONAC will check into this issue through the Code Enforcement Committee.

3. Joe Brown Park is open and the gym has dance classes and Clarissa said that she passed and saw a group of teenagers hanging out around the gym. This issue will be discussed with the Director of Joe Brown Park.

VII. Old Business

A. Zoning Ordinance 81/12: Ordinance 80/12- Interim Zoning Ordinance (IZD) will expire on May 3, 2013. It contains specific guidelines and Standards for businesses to follow when they want to do business in the East. ENONAC had worked with the previous District E Council members to develop the overlay districts to protect quality of life issues and planned sustainable guidelines and standards that promoted business growth and conformity. We developed design standards and landscaping rules. This needs to be made permanent for the East. We are being told that Interim ordinance is frowned upon by the Mayor due to legal concerns. The extension of the IZD in its present form we are told cannot be extended again. Scineaux-Richard stated that we have been expecting some acceptable form of compromise maintaining the basics of the work that was put in place by the community from Councilman Gray's office shortly. She stated we will continue to work with Erin Spears, Gray's Chief of Staff in perfecting an Ordinance we can accept and support.

B. Ordinance 81/12, 80/12 of the IZD is also going to expire on May 3, 2013. The 7500 sq. ft. for businesses in the East will also be affected by this ruling. ENONAC cannot afford to let these expire. There was a lot of hard work and time spent getting these ordinances together. Our design standards need to be made permanent in NO East. Our then Councilwoman Cynthia Willard –Lewis helped the community to get these overlays done to protect the quality of life and property value of ENO residents and it has been in place in some form since 2007. It was a long, hard task and many hours of residential and community time was expended getting their input in setting up these standards. The CAB wants Councilman Gray to be aware that we want this to be made permanent. Erin from Councilman Gray's office was asked if any resolution or proposals been accomplished on getting the IZD made permanent. She said they have met with the City Planning Commission and are trying to come up with a permanent solution. It cannot be renewed as it is and they need to design a new one without having to renew it every 6 months. Erin was asked when the document will be ready for the community to see it. She will get together with Sylvia and have a meeting. She is aware of our concerns and is working on them. Comm. Carriere asked for an estimated date when they will have a draft for us to review. Comm. Weaver asked who had the final say. Erin said they are trying to get a draft to address it and make sure that it can be made permanent and find out what cannot be made permanent. Comm. Cantrell asked why if we were allowed to extend it every 6 months is it that it cannot be made permanent. Can we use the Lakeview one as an example and change ours to the same standard as theirs? Erin said there are substantial changes that are different as to what is standard. Scineaux-Richard stated that ENO has many differences that make it unique; more affordable land is just one of them. Erin said they want businesses to get in and out of the process faster. CAB stated it critically important that standards and guidelines for business construction be encouraged and maintained.

C. **ENORC IZD—Document:** Comm. Evans made a motion to send a resolution to have Councilman Gray to join us in getting the IZD Ordinance made permanent and Comm. Weaver seconded. After the vote, the motion passed. In addition to the motion, Comm. Cantrell made a motion that she wants the interim zoning to be added to the above motion giving specific dates and that was seconded by Comm. Daste. After the vote, that motion passed unanimously.

D. Audubon Institute—Gerald Belles, the architect for the Audubon Nature Center, made an update presentation on the construction. The first phase has a total cost of \$7.3 Million and FEMA is funding \$6.5 Million. There is a \$700,000 gap in funds and Audubon is trying to raise the difference because FEMA money only covers the buildings. New Boardwalk costs \$1million to remove and replace. The second phase is funded by funds from Councilman’s Budget. There are items not funded by FEMA such as, reopening the main entrance, parking area, entrance area to the buildings, greenhouse and maintenance building, the deck around the building that connects to the wetlands. We were shown drawings of how the buildings will be combined. Patrick Pratt, one of the presenters, with Belles said that the materials are designed like the building was before the storm. There will be a breezeway. The third phase is to develop the wetlands, new wetland discovery center, and a new family park and new flight animal sanctuary. The fourth phase will be Camp Audubon Campground and these will be later at a cost of \$17.4 million. The construction should start Sept.1, 2013 and take about 18 months to complete the first two phases. Steve Durand and Bill Kurts from Audubon Institute were also at the meeting. They were given 90 days to get these designs done. All the old buildings will be demolished. City inspectors and FEMA will watch construction to be sure everything is up to par. We asked if Audubon had a millage for this project and they said no but they will fund the operations.

E. ENONAC’s ENO Families Get Fit is on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at St. Maria Goretti, from 8:00am -2:00 pm. You can walk, run or ride a bike. We will have registration starting at 8:00 am that morning and early registration by calling the office. We will leave from St. Maria Goretti’s parking lot at 7300 Crowder Blvd. and end up at lakefront South Shore Harbor Marina. Scineaux-Richard asked all the CAB to encourage their neighbors to participate so that we will have a successful event. It is not a fundraiser but an event to bring families together to raise awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

VII. Announcements

A. The CAB Retreat is planned for May 28, 2013 at 6:00 pm. at our regular CAB meeting. We need to have goals and suggestions from the CAB members for the coming year. Please send all comments to Scineaux-Richard.

IX. Adjournment

Comm. Jackson made a motion to adjourn meeting and it was seconded by Comm. Daste. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Lydia Leon, Secretary