

EAST NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION (ENONAC)

GENERAL MEETING

St. Maria Goretti Community Center, 7300 Crowder Blvd.

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 @ 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	A	Romona Baudy , 1 st Vice President
P	Brenda Jackson, 2 nd Vice President	P	Karol Sanders, Treasurer
P	Carroll Denesse, Member At Large	P	Joan Heisser, Member At Large
P	Arthur Busby, Parliamentarian	A	Lydia Leon, Secretary

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheets.

I. Call to order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by President, Scineaux-Richard at 6:15 p.m. After the roll call, we had a quorum.

II. Introduction of Special Guests

Kimberly Beshears, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

Matthew Hendrickson, Ride New Orleans

III. Review & Approval of Agenda: Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda and Comm. Hebert seconded the motion. After the vote, the motion passed with no objections.

IV. Review & Approval of Minutes of the July minutes: The minutes from the September meeting was read by Comm. Jackson. Comm. Weaver made a motion to approve the agenda and Comm. Legaux seconded the motion. After the vote, the motion passed with no objections.

V. Review & Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Comm. Sanders passed out and read the report from August 1 through August 31, 2016. Comm. Busby made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s and Comm. DeGrasse seconded the motion. After the vote, the motion passed with no objections.

VI. New Business

A. Orleans Parish Juvenile Court: Kimberly Beshears and Suzie the dog presented. They have 3 proactive programs for kids. 1) Suzie the dog, senses changes in mood in the kids. An example, 6 year old Josie was badly abused by her mother. The child had to go to court and face her mother. The dog calmed the child. She told all the things she had experienced to the dog. 2) Suzie also teaches 10-17 year olds to develop self-respect and self-esteem. When given images of Michelle Obama and Kim Kardashian they are asked who they want to model after and these images are discussed. 3) Male program teaches boys to be young men. They talk about culture, self-esteem, things which happen in their culture. Young people have no role models in their neighborhood. There are talks about drug abuse, dress. In addition when they are visited by Senators they are encouraged to ask questions about their concerns in their neighborhoods. Young people are the voice of change. Susie encourages kids to read. She turns the pages for the kids to read. They will read faster because of the dog.

If you want a reading session with Suzie the dog, they will arrange this for your community. This is available for families who are having trouble with their kids’ behavior. JDAI – Improve the Juvenile Detention System. The number for Juvenile Court is 658-9500. The webpage can give all the different programs at the City of New Orleans website and go to Juvenile Court.

B. Ride New Orleans – Matthew Hendrickson, a public transit advocate, spoke about bringing transit to New Orleans East. He said we have a 50 ½ % increase in population since 2005, streetcar service increase of 103%; 95% bus service increase; 89% increase in jobs in the region. 30 minutes of transit can only reach 30%. They are doing outreach with coalition group who will meet at Whole Foods on Broad St. on Saturday, October 15. RTA has launched a strategic

plan and they need us to help complete the goals. There is a transit community forum on November 15 at the Read Library from 6-7:30pm. Transportation amendments and safety issues will be discussed.

VII. Old Business

A. BZA 074/16: Request for variance to permit construction of a multi-family development that does not retain storm water runoff at 14558 Dwyer Rd.: Comms. Hebert, Busby, Blouin and Scineaux-Richard attended this meeting. Developer did not include Village de l'Est community in their initial discussions. Something as large as a 400-tenant building should have considered that community. Now they need a variance to permit construction and protection of the community with storm water drainage. They don't want to obey the law and are just now considering input from the community. The process of getting money did not include the affected community. The playground being considered is from 1970 and water run-off is being used instead of current standards. Builder does not respect community request to follow the law. We need to speak to our political representatives to reject the variance request. In the BZA meeting, 2 Commissioners voted against granting the variance with the majority voting for deference for 30 days. The developers are asking to be excused from following the law on storm water drain requirement. Maurice Baird from CM Gray's office said they asked the developers to consider other alternatives with added enhancements. Baird stated that they chose to go to BZA and ask for a deal to be accepted 'as is' with no waivers. They violated 9 criteria of BZA guidelines and CPC Staff recommended denial because their request did not protect the community. Planting free trees will not work. They need to follow the rules of engineers who are familiar with drainage in NOE. Drainage is bad in that area. Vegetation makes drainage hard. This causes flooding. Need to follow current guidelines about subsidence and drainage. If they do not come back with things that work, BZA should deny plans. Our concerns are not about their costs but the quality of life and protection of Village de l'Est community. Current codes need to be followed. Drainage requirements were in place when funding was provided and should have been included in their original budget. There was a motion by Comm. Legaux which was seconded by Comm. Penny for the President to write a letter of opposition to BZA 074/16 and send copies to all concerned including the developer, City Council, etc. Motion Carried.

B. Issues with Discount Stores: Discount stores in Kenner request permits to sell alcohol. This was denied by Kenner City Council due to present problems with litter, vagrancy, etc. We need to be prepared that this issue request will come to ENO soon from the discount stores.

VIII. Community Info

A. Master Plan Amendments Public Meeting: Comms. Hebert, McWilliams, DeGrasse, Penny and Cliff Robinson attended this meeting. Ms. Editha Amacker spoke. She said that NOLA Parks For All is supportive of parks and he will contact those involved. Everything we asked for should fit in with Master Plan. In December, City Planning Commission will make recommendations and will go to the City Council for consideration. There will be things that need to be considered. Current document was approved in July 2012 and will be approved by July 2017. We have asked for suburban areas to be considered for development in urban areas. Resources and money should be directed to these areas of the East. Comment cards were given and we want service to the areas which have parks that are not attended to. Comments can be sent to CPC at cpcinfo@nola.gov.

IX. Announcements

A. The Cocktail & Blues Gala for Lake Forest Charter School is on Saturday, October 15, 2016

B. NOPD requests residents input on Neighborhood Public Safety Concerns on Thursday, October 13 from 6-7:30pm at Joe Brown Park

C. ENONAC's Holiday Extravaganza is on Friday, December 16, from 8-12pm at Crystal Palace. It was voted to make one table available for first 10 CAB members to pay for a table as early as possible not later than October 31st.

D. Young Leadership Council (YLC) of Lafayette Square is having a Saints Watch Party at Messina's at the Lakefront on Sunday October 23 from 11-1pm. Cost is \$35

E. Change of meeting date for November meeting: Comm. Denesse made a motion to change the date of the November meeting from November 15 to November 29 (after Thanksgiving) and that December 13 would be the last meeting of the year. This was seconded by Comm. Weaver. Motion Carried.

X. Adjournment: Comm. Heisser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Comm. Sanders. Motion Carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
Carroll Denesse
Acting Secretary