

EAST NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

(ENONAC) www.enonac.org

GENERAL MEETING

St. Maria Gorreti Community Center ~ 7300 Crowder Blvd.

Tuesday, September 9, 2014 @ 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	P	Karol Sanders, Treasurer
P	Ed Blouin, Member At Large	P	Joan Heisser, Member At Large
		P	Lydia Leon, Secretary

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheets.

I. Call to order/Roll Call. Meeting was called to order by Ramona Baudy, 1st Vice President; in the absence of the President at 6:10 p.m. President Scineaux-Richard was representing ENONAC at another meeting. After the roll call, we did not have a quorum. Meeting will be for information until we have a quorum.

II. New Business

A. New Commander of 7th District. Our newly appointed, Police Superintendent Michael Harrison was presented to us. He presented the new 7th District Commander, Lawrence Dupree who was previously the Assistant Commander to Harrison when he served as the Commander of the 7th District. Commander Dupree has 15 years on the force and has spent the last 4 years in the East. Chief Harrison said that he met with State Legislators yesterday. They both said that they will continue to work with us in the East. Police Chief Harrison said that he will continue to work with Commander Dupree to keep ENO safe.

We now have a quorum.

B. Proposed purchase of The Willows Apt. Complex. Comm. Dawn Hebert discussed the proposed purchase of the Willows Apt. Complex. She said that they were not trying to stop the sale. She said that Global Ministries Fellowship (GMF) is in the process of purchasing the complex. The Willows Apartment Complex has 263 units and is listed by municipal address at 7001 Lawrence Rd even though it is actually on the I-10 Service Road. It was built in 1973 with 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apts. and has about 900 tenants. It generates a lot of revenue. The Finance Authority of N.O. provides tax exempt bond financing. The Finance Authority adopted the bonds on June 20, 2014. There is \$13 Million in Multi Family Bonds. On July 17, 2014 they approved the bonds for the Willow Apt. Complex. Senator Murray approved the sale of the bonds.

If GMF buys the Willow, they can reimburse themselves for all monies used and they do not pay a penny of their own money. Additionally, no taxes will be generated from this sale. GMF has not demonstrated any interest in speaking to the community on this issue. In Memphis, Tennessee, the Rev. Richard Hamlet showed pictures of the other complex that Global owns. One is Peace Lake Towers Property, and in March of this year, one of the GMF Managers was arrested. At August 25, 2014 hearing, Councilman Gray and the community requested information on the property and nothing has been sent as of today. Lloyd Kelly works with Dawn Hebert on this project. N O East residents cannot stop the sale and cannot change the \$13 Million in Bonds. The bonds pay all the cost associated with the sale and Global pays

nothing. There are \$2.5 Million in sales and \$2.9 Million into the economy. GMF has totally ignored the residents of the East. The deal as of today has not been signed. The Willows can be an asset to the East and their neighborhoods. Global will not make payments for 3-5 years. They lack management and vision and resources to help the Willows be an asset to our community.

ENONAC, Lake Willow, Spring Lake and other interested subdivisions can create a New Orleans East Betterment Corp. LLC and purchase and manage the Willows Apt. Complex. This is the suggestion of Lloyd Kelly. N O East deserves better contact and should have been informed when they had their first meeting.

Three questions that need to be answered are:

- 1) Can residents of the East decide what is best for their community?
- 2) Can we win this fight?
- 3) Can we make this deal happen?

The Executive Director of Finance Authority Mr. Mtumishi St. Julien said the Willows Apt. Complex was renovated in 2004 and improved the tenant mix and then Katrina came to the East. The Willows were the first owners to come back after the storm. They started work on the building in 2006. They preserved their tenants' property in pods and renovated the Apts. They had 51% vouchers and occupancy was at 93% at that time. There are no more funds available for more than about 2 years. It will help to invest in the Willows. The Market rate is at 49%. The voucher section is at 51% and there are 0% ON NO VOUCHER BUT LOW RENT.

Some questioned why can't we meet with GMF as a community instead of everyone meeting behind our backs? Corrine Villavaso said if everyone would have voted for our \$5.00 Parcel fee that we would have resources and be ahead of this process. Let's put our money where our mouth is and support ENONAC.

Comm. Baudy said that we need to take the time to work on some problems and wants to know what is going to happen. Pearl Cantrelle said that those questions were asked at the meeting and why didn't Mr. St. Julien come prepared to answer them? Why did the Director of Finance not come to the N O East Community with this issue beforehand?

Wesley Bishop has talked to a lot of people in the last two weeks about this issue. He said that he has some ideas on the issue. 80,000 people represented by ENONAC will not be ignored. If GMF needs help from the City and the State, then they need to meet with ENONAC and the community. Comm. Heisser wants to know who approved the sale of this issue and does it not have to go to the City Council. Letters and phone calls have been made by Comm. Baudy, Pearl Cantrelle, Dawn Hebert and others on this issue. Is the rumor about the Willows being 100% low income true and what guarantee do we have that it will not be 100% low income? The complex has been a problem in the past confirmed by the police having to go to the Willows 142 times on different issues.

To summarize--- The ENONAC organization will get together with GMF in a meeting. We want limited section 8, reduced rent and policing, on-site management; brick fence on the back of the complex and other commitments to insure they will be good neighbors.

Scineaux-Richard presented at the meeting and chaired the balance of the meeting.

III. Old Business

A. Resolution for ZD 072/14: Comm. Daste made a motion to approve resolution R-14-8 to object to **ZD 72/14** for the Luxe Reception Hall request for a liquor license and Comm. Baudy seconded. After the vote, the motion passed.

B. Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance---Corrine Villavaso—our recommendations were submitted and made a part of the record. We are trying to protect our property value.

C. Our Christmas Holiday Extravaganza is Friday, December 19, 2014 at Crystal Palace, 10020 Chef Menteur Hwy. from 8-12 p.m. and tickets are \$75 each. Please buy tickets early for reserved tables.

D. The Mayor's Budget Meeting is Thursday, August 21, 2014--- Comm. Greg Hamilton said many of the same issues were addressed.

IV. Announcements

A. Congratulations on opening of NO East Hospital – Many issues were talked about with representatives of the hospital on some issues. Our ENONAC Newsletter has more information.

V. Review & Approval of Agenda. Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda and Comm. Blouin second motion. After the vote, the motion passed with no objections.

VI. Review & Approval of Minutes from Aug. 12, 2014. Comm. Daste made a motion to accept the minutes and Comm. Legaux seconded. After the vote, the motion passed with no objections.

VII. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Sanders gave report for period 8/13 – 9/9/14

Beginning Balance - \$11,282.12

Late 2013 Extravaganza tickets --- \$150.00

Expenses - \$ 3,485.68

Ending Balance-- \$ 7,946.44

Comm. Heisser made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Comm. Penny seconded. After the vote, the motion passed with no objections.

VIII. Adjournment. Comm. Heisser made a motion to adjourn meeting and Comm. Bickham seconded. After the vote the motion passed with no objections.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lydia Leon
Secretary