

Lake Forest Estates Improvement Association, Inc.

MINUTES

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church Monsignor Gautreaux Center

Saturday, January 23, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Steven Knott.

II. AGENDA ADOPTION

It was moved by Sylvia Scioneaux and seconded by George Baker to adopt the agenda. The motion passed.

III. MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes. The motion passed.

IV. GUESTS

Tracey Flemings Davillier, a candidate for juvenile court, introduced herself and asked for the members' support.

Rep. Austin Badon reported on developments in the area. A deal has been signed by Walmart for the Plaza site. Walmart has sent paperwork to the Plaza owners; the owners executed it and sent it back to Walmart for approval. The Plaza owners also are in discussions with other stores. Sam's Club will not reopen in the New Orleans East area. Rouses Supermarket is planning to open on Bullard either at the old Sav-A-Center site or the Circuit City site. The project is moving slowly because of pending litigation among the Schwegmann family. The City has taken ownership control of the Six Flags site. The Methodist Hospital project is hampered by an appraisal problem. The City cannot pay one cent more than the appraised value of a property. The price requested exceed the appraised value established. Rep. Badon reported that Ochsner is exploring putting a 24-hour emergency room in the old Walgreens Building on Read; however, Rep Badon is encouraging Ochsner to consider the old AT&T building on Bundy, which did not flood. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that New Orleans East does need a full service hospital, and officials are working toward that goal. Joe Brown Park projects (the gym, pool, skating rink) have been put out for bid by the city. The Nature Center building will be torn down. It has been proposed to rebuild the building closer to Lake Forest and to allow it to serve as a nature center and a bulding like the Audubon Tea Room, which can be used for receptions.

V. REPORTS

A. Beautification Committee. Brenda Badon reported for the committee in Joan Heisser's and Lorraine Dinvaute's absences. The Committee is working with a plan designer regarding the landscaping around the Lake Forest Estates sign. President Knott reported on the status of the electrical problems concerning the sign.

- B. Block Captains. The full report was tabled because Trina McCormick was not present to report. Some members reported on occupancy statistics of some streets.
- C. Board of Directors. President Knott reported that the Board has not met. The Board will meet to go through the budget and identify any discrepancies between the budget and spending.
- D. Bylaws. The report was tabled because Kelly McNeil Legier was not present to report.
- E. Website. Carla Baker reported on the \$14.00 website fee required for renewal. She reminded that the meeting reminder flyer will no longer be distributed. Members were urged to check the website or refer to the newsletter, listing meeting dates, that was sent during December.
- F. Community News. Sylvia Scioneaux gave the report. She discussed some of the recent work of ENONAC regarding evaluating information pertaining to New Orleans East and monitoring multi-family units (such as creating a packet detailing what a developer must do before establishing multi-family housing) and the need for contributions of time, talents, and treasure/money to allow us to continue getting benefits from ENONAC. Ms. Scioneaux noted the importance of ENONAC in maintaining the property values and that ENONAC incurred \$20,000 challenging the recent multi-family projects. The members discussed proposals to fund ENONAC in the future in light of the resolution executed by the association presidents (such as donations from associations in the East, dues from each association, and amending legislation requiring all associations to contribute a fee). Ms. Scioneaux also discussed the City's proposed master plan, some of the items in the plan that can impact our neighborhood, and the categories that will trigger the zoning provisions. Members discussed the suggestion of asking each household to donate individually to ENONAC as well as potential problems of generating participation. Members noted that another Family Dollar is being built on Morrison, and a Dominos Pizza is opening on Chef Menteur Highway.
- G. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Wayne McCormick gave the report. The Association spent a total amount of \$78,602.98 from January 1 to December 31, 2009, and \$72,200 of this amount was spent on security last year. He raised questions regarding the amount the Association is paying for security out of the entire budget and also the amount it is spending versus the \$60,000 the Association is actually collecting from about 58 homes. He noted that the Association still has an excess of \$67,000 from the Katrina year when we expended no money on security. There was discussion regarding finding a company to utilize the money better. The Association can start looking at other companies; however, a serious investigation cannot occur until the tax is renewed.
- H. Security. Mr. Doucette encouraged members to get to know their neighbors. If we do not cooperate as neighbors, we will never have enough money for security. Members discussed complaints regarding the current security company, such as extended breaks, parking too long in driveways rather than patrolling, driving too fast down streets, and not looking closely at the houses while patrolling. Mr. Doucette suggested that the Association consider crime cameras in its evaluation of future security proposals.

- I. Social Committee. Ms. Badon expressed concern regarding the amount of money budgeted for the Christmas party considering the number of members who actually attended. Members discussed possibly planning a smaller scaled event or changing the type of event or venue.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Taxing District Resolution. President Knott reported on the status of the tax proposal. If the tax is not approved, members will not have another opportunity to vote again on the taxing issue for another seven years. A member who works at city hall reported that the vote will not occur in February because the paperwork concerning the taxing resolution was mishandled. There was a change in personnel and the City changed how it wanted the taxing resolution processed. President Knott will clarify the election date.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Signs. The members briefly discussed signs on properties. This issue will have to be clarified in the bylaws. Some members do not mind small signs. Some members do not want any signs at all.

Renaissance Market. The market will resume soon on the fourth Saturday of the month.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2010.

It was moved by Mr. Doucette and seconded by Ms. Badon to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

KELLY MCNEIL LEGIER
Secretary
Date:_____

ACCEPTED BY:

STEVEN KNOTT
President
Date: _____