

ARNA

AUDUBON RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 Minutes

6:30 pm Board Meeting / 7:00 pm General Membership Meeting
In Person at Monkey Hill Theater

6:30 pm

Attendees: Tom Rey, Tori Emmerling, Rob Denny, Jim McCutcheon, Nicole Williamson, Monica Clark, Melisa Rey, Mark Weiss, Mary Fanning Horaist

Board business

- Approval of March minutes.
- Go over the printing options - yard signs, pole signs, door hangers. Trying to compile information but hard to find exactly what we want, so far.
- Vinteum - are we doing away with this?
- Payments are through Stripe.
- People only get an email if we verify their payment.
- Can we have an automatic email as a welcome, this is when we have meetings, etc. when someone signs up?
- ConvertKit is what WRAP and Laurel St. Music uses.
- All agree to get rid of Vinteum.
- Night Out - hand out the check to Cops2 at May meeting, and gift certificates for people who helped us at Night Out.

Meetings

- Meetings - odd months in person at Monkey Hill, even months on Zoom.
- General Meeting - 7:00 pm will be the time on the website calendar.
- May meeting is in the middle of Jazz Fest.

Car Wash update from Tori Emmerling

- Tori keeps reaching out to their reps about the deed restriction, but they are slow-playing responses.
- Giarrusso's office is talking to the car wash about conditional use stuff. Our issue is that it needs to be consistent with the neighborhood. Rather than specifying on short-term rentals, for example.
- Giarrusso's reversed the HDLC decision and houses will be demolished.

- We are trying to limit the impact of what goes on there so it's fitting the neighborhood.
- Susan Johnson is doing a public records request to see who signed in support.

CHNOLA Master Plan changes

- CHNOLA sent a letter - in response to public comments about amending the master plan. They won't have the other developments on their plans. And Imaginarium on top of the helicopter pad. We want industrial development oriented towards the back, not closer to the neighborhood.
- There are no commitments to anything.
- We need to send a letter response to CHNOLA.
- CPC meeting - we need people to go. We will send email reminders.

General Meeting - 6:58 pm

Board introductions

- Agenda pass out, sign up sheet
- Tom talks a little about what ARNA does. Your advocate with the city. Keep you informed. We don't get involved in neighbor-to-neighbor disputes. We will add contact information on our website. Our boundaries. General information.
- Meetings are always the first Wednesday of every month.

Treasury report

- \$4500 in the bank
- Monthly - is about \$120 in expenses
- Donation to Cops2- we will make \$1000 from Night Out Against Crime at the May meeting

Thank you to Johnny of Monkey Hill for donating this space.

Jim McCutcheon - communications

On our website, you can email us at audubonriverside@gmail.com or click on a board member to email someone directly.

Tori Emmerling - Zoning

Car Wash

- Car Wash - summary of the issues, and their desire to demolish the homes. It went before HDLC. HDLC denied the demolition, owners appealed to the City Council. Joe Giarrusso reversed the HDLC and allowed demolition.

- They aimed for an expansion of conditional use, and resubdivision of everything into one lot. The danger is it allows for future redevelopment, that is one of our main concerns. We want limitations placed. We are watching the steps as it's ongoing.

Future Land Use Map

- Zoning for specific lots. People can make a request for a change i.e. residential to commercial. Request has to go before the City Planning Commission. Riverside Marketplace is C2 commercial, with businesses residentially facing. Owners want to change it to Medium High Density. We opposed but it was granted anyway. Saying they want to allow for residential. There will never be residential there on the first floor.

State Street apartments

City Planning Commission ruled it can't increase the commercial use.

CHNOLA

- CHNOLA wants to amend their Master Plan. There was a community meeting some months ago. They are proceeding on March 12th before the CPC.
- We opposed it for various reasons.
 - They had 4 future development plans. You are supposed to have specifics and a storm water management plan, and a traffic analysis. Traffic and stormwater management plan hasn't changed for new development.
 - Some of the new plans are on top of bioswales.
 - The traffic study is from 2016, We all know it's very different now. May of 2020 was the end of new construction, they added 250,000 square feet of building and expanded their services. 2016 already had failing traffic grades in several areas. Our position is you have to have an updated traffic plan. We are a confined area with limited ingress and egress and traffic/parking are already a nightmare..
- Helicopter issue - our hope is that any master plan amendment specifies that any industrial use be confined to the rear of the property. Not on the residential side of the property. They are currently planning to put the Imaginarium on top of the old heliport at the rear of the property. If they eliminate that rear landing pad, there is no option to move the heliport back to its original and less intrusive/impactful location. They want to grow their helicopter operations as they originally asked for two helicopters to be able to land, FAA denied that request. We have filed formal opposition to their master plan amendment request..

- CHNOLA responded today. They will remove other potential development sites and only have the Imaginarium. We haven't seen an amended master plan. Saying they will move the Imaginarium next to the heliport, not on top of it. But it's meaningless as they would never have helicopters landing and taking right off next to their new building..
- Hearing is on March 12th, CPC.

Big Green Easy

A plan for revitalization of the various parks around the city. We have a destination park in our neighborhood. It's an effort by the city to create a master plan for revitalizing parks around the city. We will be watching that as it plays out.

Councilmember Joe Giarrusso

- Commercial STRs were a potential issue.
- Having this process, we have a right to have input.
- Future Land Use Map (FLUM) - Joe is not supporting them unless the neighbors support them.
- S&WB - there will be two public meetings. UMC at 4-7 pm, Governor's task force. On March 14th and the 21st.
- Water Collaborative - at Tulane meeting tomorrow as a potential drainage fee. I agree with the what but not the how.
- Short-term rentals - judge ruled in favor of the council. 98% victory for council. Enforcement started back up on Monday. The lottery submission deadline is June 1. Lottery in July.
- Quiet Zones - meeting is March 26th. Capital budget introduced tomorrow. Your district will be funded. He will report after that meeting.
- S&WB Billing Meetings -vClose to ARNA: Monday, March 18 - 5:30-7:30 pm - Loyola University, Danna Student Center. April 29 - big meeting at Jesuit High School in the Student Commons with all quality of life agencies, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Chance to interact with those departments.
- Code enforcement - problems with demolishing destroyed properties. Going to put a time limit on how long these houses can sit. The city needs a code enforcement hub.
- Councilmember Harris - offering an ordinance for a charter change to allow for a certain amount of money to affordable housing. Sequestering money for a certain purpose.
- Master park / Big Green Easy - \$235 million over 10 years. A lot of money. Important to Joe, how do we anchor neighborhoods, build green infrastructure.

- New trash/recycling schedule - both will be collected on the same day. Beginning on April 1st pick up will be Wednesdays.

Elise Williams - District A liaison

- Goal to bring City Hall to you as frequently as we can. Bring city reps to you. Elise is in the neighborhood three times a week. Please go see her if you can't make it to city hall. She will get back in touch with you quickly.
- Emerging Leaders Professional Mixer
 - Young Adult engagement, 18-27 come out and meet other people in your fields or something you want to do on your professional journey. Wednesday, March 27 / 6:30 - 8:00 pm
 - New Orleans Business Alliance / 1250 Poydras, #2150

Officer Kelly Morrel - NOPD second district liaison

- Please don't leave firearms in your vehicles. Second district is really down in crime. Last week 0 vehicle break-ins.
- Lock your vehicles, park in a well lit area.
- Women drivers - carjackings/robberies target people they think are weak. Don't sit inside your vehicle on your phone. Walk with confidence. If you see anything suspicious or see a strange vehicle, call 911 and drive to a well-lit area or a police station.
- Package thefts - schedule with Amazon. Cut back bushes around your perimeter house. Get motion lights, cameras
- If you witness (not the victim) crimes on your cameras, please send to seconddistrictvideos@nola.gov

Truck Routes

Andree Fant (neighbor) - how to make enforcement on truck routes, would like to get with NOPD and Elise. Andree has ideas of how to make improvements to this ongoing problem. Going to talk to traffic enforcement. We need to do something permanent. Drivers aren't trying to get struck but it impacts the neighborhood so negatively.. Lots of violations - Jefferson Parish drivers using Henry Clay to get to Tchoupitoulas. Kelly posits using State Police, it's their wheelhouse.

Kevin Girard - Department of Public Works

- Traffic engineer, we handle traffic lights, road closures, signage...
- No truck route issue - looked at signage this week. There are signs instructing trucks to not take these routes.

- Looking into solutions for enforcement issues. Cameras won't do it. Has to be somebody physically there to give a ticket. To see where they are going. They are going to take the shortest route between two points, sometimes less impact than sticking to truck routes.
- If you can get specific schedules they can focus on vs. hey there is a truck there right now, it would help with enforcement.
- Andree has a year's worth of data.
- Jefferson Parish has a great signage of River Rd. We should be coordinating with them to stop trucks.
- Trying to get GPS to update the maps (Google, etc.).
- Port signage is too subtle, and needs to be much bigger and more prominent.
- Bigger signage at Felicity about Port traffic, you have to stay in the left hand lane.
- Lots of neighbor ideas and reports of what is happening with the trucks.

Neighbor asks if he should go to the CPC meeting on March 12. You don't have to sign up in advance to speak. Sign up when you get there, and you have two minutes.

Tori will check to see if you can cede time. But we can coordinate our messaging since the time is very limited for each speaker.

May 14 - 100th anniversary of dedication of Alma Peters. It used to be a pond on Tom's great great grandfather's farm. Perhaps ARNA can host an event.

Membership plug by Melisa Rey. If you haven't joined, please do so.

Next Meeting: Virtual Meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. (Zoom invite to follow)

Meetings adjourned: 8:04 pm