

ARNA

AUDUBON RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 Minutes

6:30 pm Board Meeting / 7:00 pm General Membership Meeting
via Zoom (link noted below)

6:30 pm

Attendees: Tom Rey, Jim McCutcheon, Nicole Williamson, Monica Clark, Melisa Rey, Mark Weiss, Mary Fanning Horaist, Holly Groh

Board business

David - Alma Peters

Imaginarium

- CDC approved the Imaginarium for CHNOLA. If we want to appeal that, we have to decide as a board soon and submit.
- Issues are that they don't have water management and traffic plans beforehand, they haven't been updated in many years.
- Appeal will be to the City Council.
- Is there a cost associated with filing an appeal?
- Is there a protocol done in other neighborhoods, precedent for traffic and water studies being required beforehand.
- Tom taking notes with questions to ask Tori.

Alma Peters Anniversary

- David leading the committee. Working with Valerie.
- Looking at the facility reservation application.
- May 14 - Tuesday evening 5-7:30 pm. Cake and live music. Trying to book live music.
- Would like to make a flyer for families at the playground to see beforehand.
- Don't want media notified necessarily, don't want a bunch of outside of the neighborhood people there.
- Monica said we need a 501(c)(3) number for NORD application.
- Will there be a programming aspect - e.g. history of the park?
- Have a neighbor who has been around for decades, she knew Alma Peters. Perhaps she can speak or we can get information from her.
- Tom trying to find out his family's relationship with the playground.

- Is there a role for ARNA, similar to NOAC, to do more than cake and live music?
- We can donate drinks, do we have enough time to produce it?
- Melisa - asking why on the anniversary vs. the weekend when more people can attend.
David - want to have it on the actual anniversary. May 14th, a Tuesday night.
- Food truck - we'd have to know how many people will attend to guarantee business for the truck.
- Tuesday - early evening, lower key. Do we want to spend a lot of money on a band for something low key, not a high visibility event?
- Grohs - perhaps we can get an idea from them how much bands might cost. It depends on how big, what kind of music, etc. She can connect us with Clive Wilson if you're interested.
- Trad jazz might be best - not using amps, mics
- Students at UNO?
- Maybe we can ask for funding with NO Engagement Office - we haven't accessed that.
- Just looking for people who use the park, not interested in pulling people from all over the city to the park.
- Keep it simple - cake and a student band.
- Committee - Valerie, Ann by Alma Peters, Monica
- Sheet cake from Costco or Rouses.
- Delgado, Tulane, Loyola - all great music programs

Next meeting - in person

- Nicole cannot attend. Will others be available? Not sure if we will have a quorum.
- Majority of the board can be there.

Can other board members have access to the Instagram account? Need to connect the Instagram & Facebook accounts.

General Meeting - 7:00 pm

Treasurer - Rob can't make the meeting but here is his report:

\$4500 in the account

\$100 month in expenses - we no longer pay for Vinteam, that saves us some money

Communications / Membership

- Jim & Melisa trying to work through our member and resident lists and get them coordinated.

- Using Google Sheets list - Working to increase active members
- 9 people recently expired that need to renew

Zoning

- City Planning Commission last month - approved CHNOLA Imaginarium
- CHNOLA had 4 designated areas to build on, they removed three as there were no concrete plans. The Imaginarium is on there, to be built in front of the old heliport.
- ARNA objected because of old/out-of-date traffic studies and water management. Neighborhood bending with the weight of additional traffic and more flooding.
- CPC approved Imaginarium. We can appeal.
- It will make the old heliport unusable.

FLUM amendments - looking to Joe for any updates.

- Joe - no updates. CPC wants to submit all the FLUM amendments at once, rather than as they come up. Joe will follow the neighbors recommendation.
- CPC is overworked, under siege and under-staffed. They make policy but don't talk to people about their policy.
- It could be two months, it could be six months, no way to know. We will let you know.
- Future Land-Use Management - Non-binding designation how the city sees land being developed eventually.
- Most high density residential - most of our neighborhood. If the FLUM is changed, it can be a step to making some commercial designations.
- Most residents don't trust the government to manage these changes.

Quiet Zones -

Joe and Amanda met with Port, Public Belt and city officials. There are

- Under federal rules, the city has to have one more walkthrough - April 18th.
- Port has a legal concern about if there is an accident, who is responsible. They don't want to be responsible if there is an accident. Lawyer working on that.
- Who is responsible for public crossings. CHNOLA is responsible for a private one. Joe says we can figure it out, not a lot of money.
- April 18th - all stakeholders. Biggest step is getting agreement between the City and Public Belt, weighing duties and responsibilities of all parties.
- Money will be approved tomorrow.
- Summer - likely cooperative endeavor agreement will be signed

- 2019 is when the first emails about this noise began, you can see how long the process takes.
- We are going to make some folks in districts B & C mad b/c we are way ahead of them in terms of addressing this issue.

Councilmember Joe Giarrusso

Short-term rental office is back up again, because of backlogs, they are just starting enforcement again. If you have problems, please report them to the office (e.g. noise, other offenses). Serial offenders will be enforced first.

Council chambers - **S&WB** four-hour meeting yesterday.

1. S&WB needs another 21 million for the substation
2. Turbines are 100+, 60+ old
3. Governor's task force - we agree with Landry that billing has to be top of the reform. S&WB was cagey about it, they are not complying with the law. Joe is meeting with them to get these billing issues more streamlined.
4. His office gets thousands of complaints about billing
5. S&WB will oppose a state-takeover of the agency. We all agree: it's not a good idea.
6. Rep Knox filed a bill to create a temporary board. Has a huge loophole that the board can make any decision. Not good policy.
7. Will be seeking the public's input on that.
8. \$140 million federal money came to NOLA but we haven't spent it yet, that's a huge concern, designated for Gentilly.
9. Joe pointed out that District A could use the money, we don't want to take from Gentilly but it should be used.
10. Tomorrow - 5:30-7:30 pm - Lakeview meeting about S&WB billing. Had them in other neighborhoods
11. April 29 - 6-8 pm, "departments come to you" meeting. Jesuit.
12. This administration has been bad at paying their vendors in a timely manner. Joe is filing a motion to have city officials and department heads who aren't paying their vendors by 30 days. Public shaming to make them responsible.

Various city issues

AirBnb - from Tom

- How to figure out if an STR is legit?
Joe - There is a website about STR's on the city website. Not sure if the data is updated since the moratorium went into place.

Mary - this administration has had a total breakdown in transparency.

Joe - citizens just want enforcement to make their lives easier, we don't trust the city to do it.

Tom - who should apply to be on S&WB board?

Joe - applicants should have a baseline understanding of what they do, independent, and willing to work very hard. Need caring and aptitude. No lawyers are currently on the board.

Holly Groh

- Back again with the problems with 5G, just sent a brief video about it, about 3 minutes.
- I hope everyone watches it - as a doctor, citizen, still pursuing this.
- Holly will email it to Joe.
- Tom - also concerned with power lines, high voltage, and its effect on our health. Saw a study out the UK
- Holly takes meter readings all along Magazine St, it's a huge concern. It's well established, and Holly has tried to talk to the council about it.
- Also noticeable effect on the wildlife along Magazine St.
- Data collection is also a concern.

May 1 for the next meeting - good day for Joe, not available other weeks in May.

Elise Williams, Mayor's liaison - via Tom

- Encouraging people to apply for the S&WB board position. Tom has the information if you are interested.
- Don't forget her community hours if you need to meet with her, at Nix Library often.
- Meeting attendees consensus: Elise is amazing!
- April 20th - 9 am -12 pm / 3400 Hamilton St, Hollygrove community day
- Wants us to host one in the future at Alma Peters, that would be cool

NOPD Captain

Had a conflict tonight, but will be at the next meeting

May 14th - Alma Peters 100th anniversary celebration

Monica - Public Safety

- Has been tracking the trucks in the neighborhood
- Had signage placed recently, has helped a little but not a cure-all.

- If you see trucks coming down, please take a video and send to Monica. She's created a file tracking all the trucks.
- To report neighbors who have over-paved their yards: Information for reporting: Safety & Permits are actually responding to calls about front yard over-paving-- you can now send in photos and address of new paving you think may be in violation of the 40% front yard paving rule to zoningviolations@nola.gov or call 504-658-7125.

Monkey Hill has given us 20 tickets to the Luther Kent show over Jazz Fest. We have to either use them or give them back.

Next Meeting: In-person meeting on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024** at Monkey Hill.

Meetings adjourned: 7:49 pm