



AUDUBON RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, August 2, 2023 Minutes

6:15 pm – 6:30 pm Board Meeting / 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm General Meeting
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Board meeting in attendance: Tomas Rey, Tori Emmerling, Rob Denny, Mary Fanning Horaist, Monica Clark, Melisa Rey, Jim McCutcheon, Marc Weiss, Damon Franke, Nicole Williamson

New participation rules: two minutes to ask a question/express concerns, must raise your hand and be acknowledged by the president before speaking, one minute for response (e.g. resident asks a question of Councilmember Giarrusso, he responds, resident gets one minute following)

Rob / Treasury report:

- \$4004.85 balance
- \$55.86 deposits
- \$81.70 withdrawals

Board member discussion::

- From the website: 82 members listed, no idea if they are active, current. Marc Weiss says they are all for the most part expired.
- We must figure out a method of identifying the payee when a membership payment has been made. It's not obvious on the bank statements.
- If someone uses the Strike payment method, we can possibly go into the Strike account to figure it out.
- Marc to Jim - when we send out the emails to the existing list, we can set up automatic renewal announcements a week ahead of time when their dues expire.
- Jim has been in contact with the Vinteam folks and will inquire about membership payments.
- Monica - Night Out Against Crime - Tim Betzbee is the contact for that. It's October 17th. West Riverside area patrol are interested in participating. In the past, ARNA has hosted an event at Alma Peters. Different city agencies and city council usually attend. Pizza, Pinkberry, other food from neighborhood businesses. We give food tickets to members. Non-members pay for food. Kids

activities. Table for patrol services for people to sign up. Monica will assist with registering the event with the city.

- Need sub-committee for Night Out Against Crime. Monica will co-chair. Make a flyer for the neighborhood. Nicole will help with artwork. Need to get rolling on planning, it's approaching soon. Doesn't have to be grand, just have folks come out.
- Monica will find out if we need a permit. Have to ask for NORD permission to use Alma Peters playground.
- If you sign up with the official city NOAC site, they give you stuff to hand out, SWAG.

Main meeting additional attendance:

Councilmember Joe Giarrusso

Aimee McCarron - Policy Director, District A

(The LeeAnn referred to many times is LeeAnn Moss, Constituent Services Director.)

Tom explains the two-minute question/comment and raise hand rule to Giarrusso and McCarron.

Councilmember Giarrusso

- Property assessments. His office has received many calls about the increases. When we dealt with this previously, we were more reactive. Now we are being more proactive. City millages will not be rolled forward. He has been telling other tax entities to not roll forward either.

Millage entities -

- City tax entities: NOPD, NOFD, Early Childhood, NOPL, general alimony (funding)
- Untouchable: Board of Liquidation, they hold all the debt.
- Two questionable: S&WB and Audubon, state agencies.

Three others:

- School Board controls $\frac{1}{3}$ of all millages. Renewal of millage on the ballot this fall.
- Sheriff, two small millages.
- Flood Authority has millages.

Question from Tom - property assessments, I realize you have no control. This is the second raise in two years. The Assessor's letter says every four years. When

questioned, Errol Williams took issue with it, saying he can do it every year if he wants. As citizens, we have less NOPD, streets are deplorable, etc. Can't you ask him to follow the four-year guidelines?

Response from Giarrusso -

- The Assessor is supposed to assess every four years, it's out of line to do it every year. In 2020, the Assessor's office did the majority of the city. This year, the rest was done.
- Everyone should appeal. Bring as much as evidence with you as you can. Appraisal, photos, permits, etc.
- The council employs people to do (or review?) appeals on top of the assessor.

Question from Mary

Mary has been receiving texts coming from a 5-digit number, no one knows who it is. Considering the breaches lately, I am very sensitive to these things. Usually Roadwork NOLA, and included links are not secure. Only a couple have a nola.gov or full website address. We need the information, but we need it to be secure.

Response from Joe

That is a department-controlled issue. Either Ready.nola or Roadworks usually are the ones sending texts. You opt-in to that system. Collin Arnold, Director of the N.O. Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (NOHSEP), who runs that system, is generally very careful. I don't know what to say writ large about security issues. Joe will raise it with Cameron from the Mayor's office.

Comment from Mary

Roadworks has a real email address, Ready.Nola.gov is legitimate. Just asking it to be a concerted effort for secure email addresses. I've spoken to LeeAnn, she has this information.

Joe- various topics

- **Department of Public Works** - he passed an ordinance, they must publish the outreach specialists contact info, but also the project manager and the contractor's project manager. Another ordinance on the books, from 2018, was about DP's public dashboard. So many complaints about DPW, their dashboard should be up. DPW - Dashboard <https://roadwork.nola.gov>
- **Budgeting** will be ramping up in September.

- **Doubles to Dorms** - City Planning Commission report should be discussed next meeting. Haven't had time to review yet, but it will gear up next term. By the first or second week of September.
- **Quiet Zone** - There will be another meeting soon. The Uptown part of the Quiet zone is more built out than downtown parts. He will look to see when it's on the calendar. Asked a few people to be at the meeting, those who have been contributors to make it happen.
- **Quiet Zone Meeting** - Thursday, August 17th - an internal meeting. He is going to hold up things until it's done, gonna hold them hostage until he gets what he wants. Very much wants to the Quiet Zone to happen. City on board for the Quiet Zone. Finding money, just need to wrap it up.
- **NOPD Police Chief** - the Mayor has said she wants to interview someone who has pulled out of the running. She wants to interview everyone within the next month. Timeline keeps getting pushed out.

Tom - LCMC had a meeting about their Master Plan, about 50 of us went. There were no specifics. They had their meeting, but there was no substance. They say "things can change" from what we were presented with and we all know what happened the last time that happened. Just want you to know that we went in good faith. They checked off their box to have the meeting, but there was nothing learned, nothing substantial.

Mary - we got footprints, but no content of what the footprints may be.

Joe - no response regarding LCMC neighborhood meeting.

Joe signs off at 6:56 pm.

Rob for Tori/Zoning:

- Mayor's Coffee on Your Corner every month. August 24 is at Lakeview Brew - features Safety & Permits.
- CPC is studying D2D ordinance. Consistent with what Joe said.
- Damon questioned the permit for a house on Nashville. Curious about what they are doing. Not the facade.
- Tom - they want to tear down part of the new addition. They weren't happy with the design. Rob can double check.

Tom - next meeting information

Wednesday, September 6th

6:30 Board. 7:00 pm General Meeting

Monkey Hill

Check your calendars

Let him know about your attendance, if you can make it. We are going to try to have in-person every other month or every quarter.

We need to ask neighbors to help, get member numbers up.

Mary - we used to have a board meeting every month whether before and the general meeting after. Or the board met every month, general meeting every other month.

Tom will get back with Monica about block captains.

Adjourn: 7:05 pm