



**Wednesday, November 1, 2023 Minutes**  
6:00 pm Board Meeting / 6:30 - 7:30 pm General Meeting  
Zoom

**6:00 pm - Board meeting begins**

**Attendees:** Tomas Rey, Tori Emmerling, Rob Denny, Nicole Williamson, Stacey Ducombs, Elise Williams, Alexandre Raymond, Marc Weiss, Melisa Rey

Discussing logistics about government notifications for the meetings.

Need to figure out administrative rights to the ARNA social media accounts. Jim and Marc trying to figure out permissions. Melisa is able to access the Facebook account and added herself as an administrator. Jim has overall control of the accounts. The Facebook and Instagram accounts are linked.

Tom letting everyone know the minutes from last month's meeting are on the Google Drive.

NOAC review-

Stacey gives kudos to everyone who worked so hard on the Night Out, it was a great success.

Tori - it shows what we can do.

We sold about 1000 tickets. Shows we can potentially raise money other ways too, even just donations. Stacey likes the raffle much better than the silent auction. MRey - it opens to everyone at any price levels. Tori - park lends itself to families participating.

Membership table was right next to the raffle tickets. It was all together and we had QR codes for payment. Cash, checks, Venmo.

Find another system for writing names as people got a bit tired of writing so many times.

Membership - coming up with a time period or term for renewals.

Marc - Previously there was a grace period of a month. They got emails a month before their memberships expired. Once a month a form email went out to people whose memberships expired the following month.

Need automatic tracking of membership and renewal notices. Need it as a part of the website. The website we are using now is currently lacking.

Tori - we need to help Melisa, and Rob/Jim are getting up to speed on Vinteum. We need to figure out the potential of the Vinteum.

Jim & Melisa are getting together when he gets back to go over it.

Need to cross-reference Venmo new memberships and the list that Melisa has. Keep track on the Google Drive. Target January 1 as a good time to renew membership and give lagniappe to the people who signed up in October or November.

Board meeting is supposed to be set for 6:30 pm / 7:00 pm general meeting. Every other meeting at Monkey Hill

Make sure board emails include Melisa and Mary.

### **6:30 pm General Meeting**

Attendees: same as above with Lou Hose, Kris Pottharst, Andree Fant, Doug Kohnke, Monica Clark

### **Rob Night Out Against Crime financial report:**

Here are the final totals for night out against crime:

Raffle Venmo - \$351.46

Raffle Cash - \$461

Raffle Check - \$120

Total: 932.46

Rob has suggested we round that up to a \$1000 donation to Cops2. Stacey adding another \$500.

We also got a few new memberships and membership renewals.

### **Minutes from last meeting - summary**

- Mostly about Night Out Against Crime

- Terry St. Germain gave us information on how to report crimes. Nicole will format it in a way so we can easily share it with the information.
- Stacey - we need to promote WRAP as well so we have more off-duty officers to include. Boundaries don't perfectly align but we can encourage our members to join as well.
- Night Out Against Crime - great turnout, got new members, got to know our neighbors, build community. It was at Alma Peters Playspot. We hope to have a spring get-together as well.

### **Elise Williams - District A liaison for the Mayor's Office**

- Introduces herself.
- November 14 - 10-12 - Senior turkey giveaway. Have to present an ID showing you are a senior.
- If you'd like to join the email list, please let her know.
- November 15 - last community outreach meeting
- Otherwise you can reach out to her until January for any additional needs.
- Neighborhood Summit - over 1200 in attendance. Grants were awarded. Councilmember Green spoke. A resource fair. 10 city agencies and 10 neighborhood associations attended. Very well-received.

### **Doug Kohnke - presentation**

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Uptown Car Wash - 5500 Tchoupitoulas St. Been there for 21 years. There are 3 shotgun houses owned by the car wash in front, which have been vacant for some time. In deplorable condition. Petitioning to tear them down and expand the detailing area. Response to the market, more car washes in the area. Houses have gone up in insurance and taxes, hard to keep up.

From residents -

Please include landscaping, permeable concrete.

He has not gotten that far in the plans. Plan to have hedges to obscure the detail area.

Is any flooding management required?

He isn't sure quite what is required.

May of 2022, February of 2021. Last time they were residents in the houses. Cost of renovations is cost-prohibitive.

Timeline - He has to apply for conditional use. Have to do a re-subdivision. 5 separate

lots will be combined into one. Apply for all various permits. Will be two public hearings. They no longer allow you to develop across line lots. Now the building codes won't let you cross property lines. Will be applying imminently.

Tom shares presentation for the Car Wash expansion. Two detail tents expanding to three, each tent houses multiple vehicles. Need the building permits for the awning. Retaining wall along the awnings. Houses are built at street level.

Melisa: What increase in capacity will you be able to accommodate?

It's just increase in detail space. No longer doing 400-500 cars per day. We would love to be open 7 days a week, it's been a labor shortage.

Alexandre Raymond - live on Joseph right by the car wash and would like to see the improvements. Had great support from the neighbors. Want to address any issues.

Tori - it's a long process for permitting, conditional use, safety & permits, HDLC, etc. There will be other neighborhood meetings. Doug wants to be as transparent as possible.

Nicole - please consider adding trees along Joseph and at the Arabella corner. It will provide shade for your workers and costumes, lower the temperature of the concrete.

Melisa - what is your contact information, point of contact for neighbors. We want you for you to become a business member.

Kris - wants trees added as well. Your business could be a model/showpiece to have some evergreen trees and get some green back on Tchoupitoulas.

Contact for Doug Kohnke: [doug@jwdrennanllc.com](mailto:doug@jwdrennanllc.com)

**Councilmember Joe Giarrusso**

**Aimee McCarron - District A Policy Director**

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- Nice to see everyone at NOAC.
- First budget meeting went well. Presentations were very streamlined. Administration did a good job presenting.
- Thursday - council meeting - slated to give the Council approval to the trash contracts. IV will be your provider. Think it will pass.
- Tori asked if service areas can be smaller.

Joe - the issue is everything has gotten more expensive. The last contract was not economically good for the vendor. Richard's couldn't compete.

- Public safety agencies - Friday, Monday & Tuesday on council agenda. It will take a long while.
- Code Enforcement has its own department, own budget.
- Safety & Permits - lost half of their staff, it's a huge concern. He isn't sure what happened. They are the epicenter where enforcement meets efficiency. Zoning Administration - determination of whether a property has a non-confirming use. We have them on the agenda for next week to get some answers.
- Joe - we don't know why the report/budget shows smaller staff. It is out there in the ether, that there is a noticeable decrease and we don't understand why.
- NOPD Chief had her ceremony today.
- Proposal to hire a DPW Director, got a notice from the Administration. Candidate looks promising, hope that moves along.
- Sophie Gumbel property - don't like the idea of selling the property. Two options. Language is tricky. Property is on Loyola right behind Willow. Right next to Arc.
- Tom - Pothole - Calhoun & Tchoupitoulas - been a year since the hospital put barricades around it. It's getting bigger.
- Webster & Perrier should be fixed soon.
- Elise - will give you a call tomorrow about that pothole.
- Monica - traffic calming efforts citywide, are there any? Crosswalks - any repainting, missing signage, pedestrian safety.  
Joe - two areas we have struggled with DPW - erecting stop signs somewhere new, they don't want to. Striping and signage, they are not good at it. And it hasn't happened as much as we'd like. We mandated a couple of months ago that DPW create a dashboard to update on projects and how long it's taking to deal with it. There is supposed to be money for striping. There is only one major contractor who does striping, that is their excuse. Joe will take it up with the new director.
- Kris - does the City Planning Commission scheduled a hearing for the master plan amendments.  
Joe - good question, I don't know. Council delayed it a bit - short-term rentals and Doubles2Dorms have gummed up the works. We will let you know when we expect it to come up.
- The batture development - just because you can do something doesn't mean you don't have to talk to people. Joe will try to facilitate communication with the neighbors.

- They acquired Bisso property - maritime/industrial zoned. It does allow zoning for other things, a wide definition. Kris asking about park area, if it will be cut off. The park area will not be a part of it.
- Tori - doesn't seem like buffer zones haven't been updated in the modern era. It hasn't been addressed. People piggyback on zoning - old industrial zones because the modern uses haven't been updated.
- Joe - Quiet Zone - think it's just a question of dollar and cents right now, getting very close.
- Traffic studies - definitely a consideration of new development but it's not necessarily tied together in city planning. Neighbors will have to work with them on traffic patterns.
- Story was published in the paper before it was told to the neighborhood. Not very cool. Meeting with some neighbors in the area next Tuesday.
- Joe is in contact with a lot of the interested parties. Neighbors, Audubon, Port, etc.

Kris congratulating everyone on NOAC, it was really wonderful. It was a lot of work. Seeing young and old. Largest one that Joe went to. Makes us look vigorous to the council and other city players. Monica expresses it was a group effort, made easier with so much support.

December 6th next meeting at Monkey Hill. 6:30 board / 7:00 general meeting

**7:38 pm - meeting adjourned**