

Friends of Lafitte Corridor Meeting

Sunday September 10, 2006

Call to order ~2:10 pm, Adjourned at ~4:15 pm

Present:

Daniel Winkert
Russelle Fraise
Daniel Samuels
Leonetta Terrel
Lake Douglas
Marco Rosamano
Alva Chase
Janet Pease
Audrey Warren
Bart Everson
Wendy Laker

Posted agenda:

- Introductions
- Minutes from Last Meeting
- Reports from Committees
- Organization Committee
 1. Discussion of Mission Statement and Vision Statement (including Vote)
 2. Status of incorporation, non profit status, bylaws
 3. Discussion of membership - what does it mean, should there be a charge, etc?
- Outreach Committee
 1. Update from City Council Recreation Committee presentation
 2. Addition of any groups/individuals not yet reached.
 3. Festival of Neighborhoods Sept 29-30, Convention Center
 4. Creation of Logo
- Planning & Design
 1. Update from Design/Zoning Committee (design ideas for Tom Bauer Project)
 2. Update from Zyscovich presentation
 3. Update on Lafitte Housing meeting
 4. Idea for Charrette – N. Broad and the Bayou (Project for Public Spaces)
- Implementation Strategies
 1. Update from State Transportation Enhancement Funds Grant
 2. Tourism Cares grant (see next page)
 3. American Hiking Society / National Trails Fund (see next page)
- Other Announcements
- Next Steps: Assignments, who will do what before next meeting?
- Next Meeting: time, date, and location (Saturdays vs. Sundays)

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### Introductions:

Everyone introduced themselves. There were no new faces in the group.

**Minutes from last meeting:**

No one had the minutes so approval was tabled until next meeting.

**Check In From Organizational Committee:***Mission and Vision*

Janet and Daniel Samuels have been working on a draft of the Mission Statement and Vision Statement. Everyone spent a few minutes reading the two statements silently. Lake complimented the four mission statement points because each bullet started in action words. He suggested that we use similar action words in the mission statement. Janet responded that the vision statement expresses a desired future whereas the mission reflects current actions. She will change the verbs in the vision to reflect a more active role for the organization.

In a discussion about whether to bullet the statements or not, Audrey mentioned that in the font “webdings” the lower case b is a bicycle (good for bulleting). 🚲

In response to the mission/vision, and general communications about the project, Audrey suggested that we explicitly avoid using the phrase “*creating* open space” but instead emphasize that we would like to “*preserve* existing open space”.

There was general discussion about the details of the mission statement, largely focusing on the first point. Lake says a mission statement should be 10-15 words and suggested that the first point alone should be the mission statement. After much discussion, the group voted to adopt the mission statement as “The Friends of Lafitte Corridor aim to preserve the open space of the Lafitte Corridor for public use by advocating for the creation of a handicapped accessible public linear park, including walking and biking trails, stretching from the French Quarter to Canal Boulevard”

Wink wanted to see more about reconnecting the neighborhoods in the vision statement. Others suggested that it was already explicit in the language. Lake asked if we should explicitly highlight the historic nature of the corridor so that historical organizations might be interested in supporting the project. Janet suggested not adding to the vision statement, but rather moving up the second to last point up in the Vision Statement list. The group voted to adopt the vision statement as a working document.

*Incorporation and 501 c3 status*

Wink updated the group. Friends of Lafitte Corridor has already filed as a non-profit corporation with the Secretary of State. We will need to complete the paperwork to become a 501 c3 corporation. Amy and Wendy will use the sample bylaws to develop some for FOLC.

There was general discussion about becoming a member-based organization verses a non-membership based organization. Janet suggests tabling the discussion until the sample bylaws are in place.

### *Name discussion*

A very short discussion of the name “Friends of Lafitte Corridor” ended with the comment that the name of the group, for better or worse, seems to stick, but that as we move forward, we may want to call “the corridor” something else. This discussion was tabled and no action was taken.

### **Check In From Outreach Committee:**

#### *Update from the City Council presentation*

Daniel Samuels said that he was a little disappointed that that only Arnie Feilkow and Stacy Head were there. Bart noticed that he was the only district B resident and Stacy Head got up and left in the middle of his comment. Russelle said that we should follow up by meeting individually with the council people in the future and others agreed. He has had previously had contact with one of Shelly Midura’s assistants, Enrico (last name unknown). Lake said that the primary function of the meetings are to broadcast the information to the public, not to communicate with lawmakers, and that most of the decisions in government are done in smaller meetings.

Daniel announced that he has hard copies of the materials that were passed out in the meeting. He suggested that we set up a meeting with Oliver Thomas next.

#### *Addition of any groups/individuals not yet reached.*

Janet reoffered to build a website. Bart asked if the website will be used to advertise our meetings or are we trying to build up a list of people that support FOLC. Janet asked for people to send her ideas about the website.

Then there was general discussion about outreach tools and specific personal contacts. Russelle suggested advertising in the African American newspapers: Tribune, Data Weekly, and Louisiana Weekly. Lake has made a connection with the pastor at the Methodist church at Canal and Jeff Davis. The pastor is interested in outreach and community involvement and Lake suggested that we look at that as a possible meeting place. Wendy knows someone at New Orleans Historical Society. Daniel said that he has already talked with Pricilla Lawrence at NOHS and she was interested in helping but from a more academic perspective. Daniel also talked to National Park Service and they said “that’s great, keep us informed” but didn’t offer to help in any other way. Leonetta suggested sending our information out to the newspapers to get some press. Russelle suggested contacting Allen Johnson Jr. from Gambit, and Natasha Robins from News Channel 6. Wendy suggested contacting Frank Ethridge at Gambit.

Audrey asked if we are ready to go to the press just yet. Are we ready to respond to all of the positive and negative feedback we could receive? Bart suggested we wait until we have a system in place to plug people in to become official members or supporters, otherwise we may generate enthusiasm but not be able to take advantage of it. Others agreed that we should wait a little while longer to put out a press release.

For creating a marketing strategy, Wink suggested asking Geoff Coats to do a logo. Wendy knows another artist through MidCity Art Market that may be able to do it if Geoff can't.

Priority outreach for the next month

- St Peter Claver (Leonetta will ask this Wednesday if we can come make a presentation)
- St. Augustine (Janet has a contact and will ask if we can present to them)
- Festival of Neighborhoods is happening again on September 29-30. Daniel Winkert will register.
- Mike Valentino with New Orleans Welcome Center(will Lake do that?)
- Parks and Parkways (should be a phone conversation – will Lake do that?)
- Parkway Partners (also should be a phone call – Lake?)

In conjunction with the Mid City Art Market (September 30), there is a general membership meeting for Mid City Neighborhood Organization. Audrey will print another presentation board so that there can be representation at both the Festival of Neighborhoods and Mid City Neighborhood Organization even though they are at the same time.

Audrey announced that she is getting married and moving to Austin at the end of the month. She expressed her appreciation for being able to work with such an amazing group and looks forward to coming back to visit and seeing progress on the corridor

Audrey gave an update on the C3 meeting she attended last month an effort to open communication after some difficult email exchanges with members of that group. In the C3 meeting, everyone from that group agreed that it would be very helpful for C3 if they had a letter from FOLC expressing FOLC's support for public housing residents in their efforts to return. Audrey had created a draft letter for today's FOLC meeting and read it aloud. The FOLC group was in favor of approving the letter, but wanted some more time to look carefully at the language. This will be worked out through off-list emails with those who were present at this FOLC meeting. If anyone from FOLC who was not present at the meeting wants to review the letter, contact Audrey at [audreykwarren@yahoo.com](mailto:audreykwarren@yahoo.com).

### **Check In From Planning and Design Committee:**

#### *Bauer Site*

Jennifer has come up with historical surveys, how much public land was purchased for the LIFT site, how much of the WinnDixie site is owned by the city and how much is owned by Bauer Development. In Daniel's opinion, the Bauer site is going to be the most difficult and important piece of the whole project because he controls the piece of property right at Basin Street that should be the gateway to the corridor. Audrey suggested that we talk with James Carter specifically about the Bauer development and get his support in championing this project as the zoning change for this property goes

before the City Council. Daniel Samuels suggests that we set up a meeting AFTER we meet with a few more community groups.

Daniel suggested that we draft some cross-sections and specifications for the Bauer site.

*Lafitte Development*

Providence Community Housing (local) is partnering with Enterprise Group to redevelop Lafitte Housing Development. Have hired Urban Design Associates out of Pittsburg. The groups have a deadline of October 20<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for tax credits so the design must be completed by then and the process will be *very* fast. Daniel already went to one meeting with the architect and they were very interested in the idea of the corridor. There will be a design charrette on Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup>- October 6<sup>th</sup>. Audrey suggested that FOLC send representatives that live specifically in the neighborhoods under consideration in the charrette, and that we limit the number of representatives from our organization so that it is balance with the number of residents of the community.

**Implementation Strategies:**

Project for Public Spaces is doing some work with the Crescent City Farmers market ([www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org)) and Daniel has contacted them to see if we can get them to facilitate a charrette on Lafitte Corridor.

*Discussion of Three Grants*

TE grant will be announced in the fall

Audrey suggested asking Jake et al if they could take the lead in applying for the other two grants (Tourism Cares grant, American Hiking Society / National Trails Fund)

| Next steps                                                                                                                                                                       |          |                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Action                                                                                                                                                                           | Lead     | Deadline                                                     |
| Ask First Methodist on Jeff Davis/Canal if we can use their facility for a meeting on October 8 <sup>th</sup> or 15 <sup>th</sup> . Send out announcement to group when decided. | Lake     | By the beginning of October                                  |
| Ask St. Peter Claver if we can give a presentation to the congregation                                                                                                           | Leonetta | Ask this Wednesday and schedule a time for presentation asap |
| Ask St. Augustine if we can give a presentation to the congregation                                                                                                              | Janet    | By next meeting                                              |
| Sign up for Festival of Neighborhoods                                                                                                                                            | Wink     | Before deadline                                              |
| Coordinate volunteers for Festival of                                                                                                                                            | Wink     | Before September 29                                          |

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| Neighborhoods (September 29 & 30)                                                                                                                          |                  |                     |
| Secure place at Mid City Art Market/Neighborhood Organization festival and organize volunteers                                                             | Wendy            | Before September 30 |
| Contact Mike Valentino (owner of Basin Street Welcome Center) to introduce project                                                                         | Lake (?)         | Before next meeting |
| Call Parks and Parkways to introduce project                                                                                                               | Lake (?)         | Before next meeting |
| Call Parkway Partners to introduce project                                                                                                                 | Lake (?)         | Before next meeting |
| Send Shelly Midura a follow-up package with new outreach materials and a copy of the Transportation Enhancements grant                                     | Daniel Samuels   | Before next meeting |
| Print and mount additional copy of easel-size map. Give one board to Wink and one to Wendy.                                                                | Audrey           | Before September 29 |
| Post new language for mission and vision statements on the listserv                                                                                        | Janet            | Before next meeting |
| Ask Geoff if he could produce a logo. If not, ask Wendy's contact                                                                                          | Wink, then Wendy | Before next meeting |
| Ask Jake to take a look at the two new grant opportunities                                                                                                 | Audrey           | Next few weeks      |
| Coordinate who should attend the design charrette for Lafitte Community as a representative from FOLC (October 3 <sup>rd</sup> - October 6 <sup>th</sup> ) | Daniel Samuels   | Before 10/3         |
| Collect ideas about website content and possible start to design it                                                                                        | Janet            | Ongoing             |
| Send out copy of C3 letter of support for review                                                                                                           | Audrey           | Next week           |

| Mid- and Long-term steps                                                                                                                                          |                |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Future Actions                                                                                                                                                    | Possible Lead  | Timeline                                                               |
| Set up meeting with Oliver Thomas to introduce the project                                                                                                        | Daniel Samuels | October or November                                                    |
| Set up meeting with James Carter to introduce project and ask for assistance with Bauer to ensure that there is connectivity to Armstrong Park/FQ                 | Wendy          | In October or November, unless there is new movement on the Bauer deal |
| Draft specs and cross-sectional design with measurements of the proposed Basin Street connection through the Bauer property for discussions with Bauer and others | Daniel Samuels | Soon                                                                   |