

FOLC Board Meeting January 25, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Present: Larry Lagarde, Daniel Samuels, Bart Everson, Linda Landesberg, Edgar Chase, Erin Baker, Jennifer Ruley, Janet Ward Pease

Absent: Lake Douglas, Leonetta Terrell, Wendy Laker

1. Call to Order – Daniel Samuels

2. Approval of minutes (n.a.)

3. Old Business (n.a.)

4. New Business

- **Election of officers and terms of service** – The following slate of officers were nominated at the informal meeting held on January 5, 2007:

President – Daniel Samuels
Vice President – Larry Lagarde
Treasurer – Linda Landesberg
Secretary – Erin Baker

Bart moved to accept these nominations; Linda seconded. They were passed unanimously. Janet reminded us that officers' terms are for one year.

Terms of service were determined, at Bart's suggestion, by alphabetizing the Board members, assigning heads as one year, tails as two years, and flipping a coin. The first four names in the alphabetized list would be whichever side landed up. It was heads, so the first four people in the alphabetized list will serve one-year terms. The last five people will serve two-year terms. Erin, Edgar, Lake, and Bart will serve one-year terms. Larry, Wendy, Linda, Daniel, and Leonetta will serve two-year terms.

- **Committee assignments** – We reviewed committees and nominated chairs:

Outreach – Leonetta
Development (fundraising/grant writing) – Larry
Planning/Design/Implementation – Lake

Bart moved to accept the nominations; Linda seconded. The nominations passed unanimously. Edgar will serve on the development committee. He also pointed out the important connections between the planning and development committees and encouraged close working relationships between them.

- **Schedule for Board meetings and general membership meetings** – We reviewed the past schedule for FOLC meetings. Usually we had met on Sundays about once per month. We are required to have a minimum of six Board meetings plus one election meeting. Daniel suggested that we continue to have monthly meetings since we have lots to cover. There was general agreement for that suggestion. Edgar moved that we hold them on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30. Erin seconded. It passed unanimously. Linda offered to use her house as the default location if we can't find a larger venue. The next meeting will be February 22, 2007 at 7:30 pm.

General membership meetings must be held at least four times per year, including an annual meeting in January. Bart suggested making every third Board meeting a general membership meeting. Those will be in January (annual meeting), April, July, and October. We will likely skip the December Board meeting on December 27, 2007, unless the meeting is necessary.

- **Resolution to hire accountant, proceed with application for 501c 3 status** – Daniel moved to retain Cindy Cancienne as an accountant to administer our application for 501c3 status with the understanding that her fee will be \$300.00 or less; Bart seconded. It passed unanimously. Cindy has done work for the Louisiana Himalaya Association and was recommended by Daniel Winkert.
- **Resolution to open bank account** – Edgar moved to open an account at Whitney Bank; Erin seconded. It passed unanimously. To open the account, we'll need our articles of incorporation and a resolution statement, which we all signed at this meeting. Edgar and Linda suggested that we establish a pool of people who would be allowed to sign checks as well as determining an amount above which would require two signers. Linda also indicated that we could do electronic transfers through the bank for one-signature checks, but would have to print out two-signature checks. Daniel moved that all officers would be authorized to sign checks for FOLC with the understanding that any checks over \$500 will require two signatures. Edgar seconded. It passed unanimously.

During this discussion, Daniel broached the topic of liability as Board members. He and Bart said that FSJNA and MCNO Board members have insurance. Janet described a couple of different types of insurance – personal loss and single event. Erin will ask her dad to make recommendations about the type of coverage we need.

- **Management of website and email accounts** – Janet will continue as webmaster for the FOLC website and will administer the info@folc-nola.org email account. She will also make sure that the officers' accounts are forward accounts rather than POP accounts. She will set up president@folc-nola.org, vicepresident@folc-nola.org, treasurer@folc-nola.org, and secretary@folc-nola.org. There will also be a membership@folc-nola.org account.

For the content on the website, whoever is in charge of a particular item that should be included will send it to Janet. If there starts to be a problem with errors, we can change this process. For now, Janet will be the gatekeeper of information on the website. Janet will also add links back to our supporters with their logos as well as photos and short bios of FOLC officers and Board members.

- **Accounting software for FOLC Treasurer** – Linda suggested that we use the non-profit-specific version of QuickBooks. Edgar indicated that he has used it before and was very pleased. It is \$320.00 for one user or \$20.00 per month to use the web-based program for multiple users. Linda will see if we can get that fee donated. She and Janet will look at the demo and talk to Cindy, our newly retained accountant.

During this discussion, Larry moved that we open a PO box; Daniel seconded. It passed unanimously. Linda will set it up and check it since most of the correspondence will likely be financial in nature.

We also discussed the logo. We need to finalize it to get letterhead and envelopes. Janet will email what we're using now for us to take a look and either give approval or make suggestions. Jeff will finalize an image for replication.

- **Memorial sculpture site on the Greenway** – Bart proposed making the greenway a site for a sculpture memorializing Helen Hill, a former Mid-City resident and supporter of the greenway. It would be a small, tree-shaped sculpture. He also mentioned perhaps honoring Dick Shavers with a memorial sculpture. Larry agreed that these could really fit into the vision of perhaps having pocket parks along the greenway and that this would emphasize this project as a unifying concept. Daniel said that we should identify a site that really does these memorials justice. He recalled Wink's

idea of a “peace park.” There was general agreement that these were good ideas and that we should make places to acknowledge how this greenway will work to bring the community together. Jennifer noted that the city has a great history of monument-making and that this greenway could help revive this tradition in New Orleans. Erin also noted that well-lit, beautiful art works along the corridor would also create a safer environment and be an example of crime prevention through environmental design, a fitting tribute to Helen and Dick.

5. Committee Reports

- **Outreach**

We will work on developing relationships with Wicker and Dibert elementary schools, particularly to see if they have any interest in partnering with us to apply for Safe Routes to Schools funding.

Daniel and Lake made a presentation to the Louisiana Landmarks Society. They will be giving us a general letter of support as well as a letter supporting our efforts to secure a servitude through the corridor. They want us to apply for their NO 9, a most endangered sites list that they put out. We discussed whether this would be appropriate. On the positive side, it might generate more support, more awareness, and more momentum. On the negative side, it might antagonize city officials and/or give the impression that the group is fading away. No decision was made.

Daniel and Lake also met with Anne Reams, Deputy Director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation to discuss forming a partnership with them. We discussed having a facility along the corridor to serve as an outreach center for groups like LPBF and LA Landmark Society, the Historic New Orleans Collection, etc. The greenway could also be a model for storm water management.

- **Planning, Design, Implementation**

Daniel proposed a resolution to approve the Brown+Danos proposal to develop a schematic master plan for Basin St. to Canal Blvd. Larry seconded. It passed unanimously with the understanding that we can't assure them of getting paid work. They have a three-month time line and will work in concert with the Tulane School of Architecture design studio. We are also encouraged to send our comments to John Klingman. Erin will send her suggestions about CPTED.

Daniel showed us a “preliminary multi-use bike path layout” from LIFT. We thanked Jennifer for making sure that we got to see the plans and decided to focus our efforts on the rest of the corridor. We will continue to

work with LIFT and will facilitate having Brown+Danos work with them as well.

Rails to Trails – Billy Fields is coming to town with a Vice President of Rails to Trails on the weekend of February 3. RPC, CPC, FOLC, MCNO, and other major players supporting this greenway will be coming together. Dana Brown from Brown+Danos will be attending. Linda suggested having a casual dinner or Sunday brunch for them that weekend.

Servitude – At Bart's suggestion, this was tabled and will be at the top of the next meeting's agenda.

Status and management of grants – We need information about MCNO's Governor's Recreational Trails grant. Janet, Jennifer, and Bart will see about getting this info from Amy Lafont. The Bikes Belong grant is being considered now. This is a \$10,000 grant that we should hear about by the end of January. This money will go to development professional renderings of the corridor. We're unclear as to who the agent of record is for this money. Brown+Danos needs to get involved with whomever it is. Further discussion of grants was tabled until the next meeting.

- **Development**

We decided that we will send the two guys from Ride the Spine FOLC t-shirts since they are dedicating their ride from Alaska to the southern tip of South America to us. We also discussed how to help them raise money. Selling t-shirts for them was suggested along with linking our website to theirs with a plea for donations. Linda will take care of getting t-shirts made and sending them to them. Janet will also spotlight donations made to us for our auction such as the wooden poster donated recently.

6. Adjourn – Daniel adjourned the meeting.