

**Friends of Lafitte Corridor
Board Meeting
January 5, 2007**

In attendance: Daniel Samuels, Lake Douglas, Marco Rosamano, Larry Lagarde, Leonetta Terrell, Erin Baker

1. Officers:

Daniel Samuels – President
Larry Lagarde – Vice President
Erin Baker – Secretary

Linda Landesberg was nominated for Treasurer in her absence. We are waiting to see if she will accept that position. Once she does, we can open a bank account for FOLC. We agreed that Board members not elected as officers as well as those serving as officers are responsible for speaking and advocating for the greenway.

2. Committees:

Outreach – Leonetta will chair. Daniel mentioned that we still need to speak to a number of different groups – Lakeview in particular.

Development (fundraising/grant writing) – Larry will chair. Audrey Warren will be contacted about previous grants from bicycle manufacturers. A bike manufacturer has offered a large number of folding bicycles at a steeply discounted price as long as they are used for the development of this project and purchased all at once. We discussed getting a business to buy them and donate them to FOLC so that we could auction them for a total profit. We discussed potential fundraiser for the spring which would include an auction/event and 5K run. Some possible locations might be City Park – Botanical Garden buildings (Lake will look into this), banks of Bayou St. John, Pitot House, Holy Rosary's Vincent Hall, and Christian Brothers' blacktop (Erin will look into this).

Planning/Design/Implementation – Lake will chair. We discussed the need for a master plan that will be done quickly and well. We also agreed to join the Thunderbird Alliance. See notes below.

3. Master plan:

We discussed allocating money to hire landscape architects with experience in bicycle-path planning/design and opportunity to get pro bono services through the cooperative agreement between ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) and National Park Service for a project such as ours. LD and DS will meet with Dana Brown (Brown/Danos landscape architects, BR) about their firm

providing these services. Their office has experience and technical expertise (GIS) that would be useful; in addition, Tanner Robinson - who did his 5th year project (LSU's School of Landscape Architecture) - works in that office. From what DS has seen, what was done was excellent.

We need to weigh the costs and benefits of pro bono services. Hiring people means that we're in charge. Pro bono can mean less commitment on the part of the people performing the service. This might not be the case, however, if Tanner from Brown/Danos is really passionate about the project.

4. Project for Public Spaces proposal:

We decided that we can do a charrette much more cheaply than PPS's proposal. We discussed hiring a local person like Lisa Amoss to run a charrette that feeds into the planner/designer's work.

5. Other Business:

For the master plan, we discussed including the area where the brake tag station is as a venue to be offered to the Lake Ponchartrain Basin Foundation and/or other related groups for usage.

Daniel and Lake are talking to a Tulane professor, John Klingman, about holding a design workshop on the corridor.

Leonetta led a discussion on what we need to do to make sure the corridor stays intact:

- * Keep contacting our elected officials
- * Get local and outside groups to support us. Erin will talk to Eric Baumgartner at LPHI about possible support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Public health seems to be the most compelling argument to outside sources of money and support.
- * Make an effort to connect with neighbors of the corridor. We need to do a PR blitz now that we have officers and Leonetta to chair the Outreach committee. Involve Providence Community Housing.
- * Perhaps involve surrounding schools with the history and public health angle. Look into Safe Routes to Schools grant money. Perhaps Wicker or Dibert would be interested in getting involved and applying.

Next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 25th 2007, 7:30 pm at Lake's house. We are looking at then holding an open public meeting of the Board after Mardi Gras at the First United Methodist Church on Canal on Thursday, March 1.