

# FOLC December 2009 Board Meeting Minutes<sup>3/3/10 4:12 PM</sup>

12/17/09

*Board members in attendance:* Linda Landesberg, Daniel Samuels, Edgar Chase, Lake Douglas, Amita Toprani, Bart Everson, Jeffrey Schwartz

*Others in attendance:* Michael Smith (Lafitte neighborhood resident), Colette Hirstius (bicycle commuter), Bob McGuire (neighborhood resident and promoter), Kathleen Lunn (resident)

Meeting called to order at 6:45PM

Bart Everson presented on history and scope of the Greenway project

Questions (from general membership meeting):

1. 'Why is it taking so long?'
  - Answer: We are waiting for a 'notice to proceed' from the city to Design Workshop, but the Design Workshop contract has been signed
  - Issue: process for awarding contracts that will use D-CDBG money are being reviewed by HUD/the federal government
  - FOLC feels strongly that the selection process was quite transparent, in contrast to, e.g., the Municipal Auditorium 'RFP,' in which there was one bidder, who was close to Nagin, and whose selection was a foregone conclusion
2. 'Why did we ask for community input and involvement?'
  - Cultural Products District and getting the word out on tax credits and savings on state sales tax for original works of art
  - We need neighborhood help in getting the word out in general
  - FOLC needs new blood and new ideas
  - Bob suggested NFL Play 60, where Saints players would adopt a block (Drew Brees/Brees Dream Foundation)
  - Biggest need is a project coordinator and grantwriter
3. 'How much is project going to cost?'
  - Answer: no one knows, but the city has currently allocated \$11.6M
4. FOLC would like to be advocates and add value
  - FOLC would like to go beyond the \$11.6M

- e.g., FOLC applied for and received an Urban Forestry grant that will connect Greenway to City Park
  - Lafitte Greenway will connect Tremé to Lake View, and we feel it's important not to impose a vision
  - The community needs to be involved in furthering the vision for the Greenway
  - Other partners, like Hike for Katreena, are eager to help, but it's find the right avenue and the right timing (i.e., we can't plant trees before the Greenway is built)
  - Use corporate partners (Shell)
5. 'Can we make the Greenway an election issue?'
- Is there a way to make the Greenway an election issue? Idea of a 'whistle-stop tour' along the Greenway

Housekeeping issues:

- Corporate renewal and 990 filing—Linda taking lead?
- PO Boxes—share with BCC?

Meeting adjourned at 8:02PM