

Friends of Lafitte corridor

Board Meeting September 27, 2007 ***Grace Episcopal Church 3700 Canal St. 6:30 pm***

Present: Daniel Samuels, Leonetta Terrell, Janet Ward Pease, Bart Everson,
Linda Landesberg, Larry Lagarde, Erin Baker

Board business

- 1. Call to Order, roll call** – Bart called the meeting to order at 6:35PM
- 2. Approval of minutes for Board meeting August 23, 2007** – Erin will post approved amended minutes on Yahoo group
- 3. Old Business and Updates**

Committee reports and tasks/progress to date:

a. Outreach – Bari Landry gave a presentation to LCIA on the Canal Blvd. transportation hub (RTA project). Daniel presented about the greenway, which was received very warmly. The next step will be a design charrette after RTA hires a design consultant. We agreed that we would promote the entire project. Alex Morgan would like to see our design integrated with this transportation hub.

We will also be updating the Metro Bicycle Coalition on Monday, October 8, at Fairgrinds Coffee House at 5:30PM.

b. Development

Ochsner support – Larry talked to Juliette Thompson's assistant with the goal of establishing a relationship and gaining her interest in the greenway. Larry recommended getting a cyclist cardiologist to help us pursue funding – would be connected to a lot of money.

Friends of NO – Nothing more to report from Stephen Deberry. Bart has had another meeting, but no commitment has been made.

SURDNA – This foundation has funded other greenways. Larry is pursuing them, and Janet will assist with any type of grant application.

Organizational tasks:

- a. 501c3 application status** – We are waiting on Cindy Cancienne's budget approval. Erin will send once she receives it.

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b. insurance – Linda got two quotes - \$1,188 for \$500,000 worth of coverage and \$1,650 for \$1 million worth of coverage. Edgar may have a contact who will give us the same rates without requiring that we provide a business plan.

c. accounting software – Linda will purchase.

Planning/Design/Implementation:

a. Master plan status – Daniel updated us on this. He showed graphics and a text mock up. We can use the graphics and schematic design on the Basin St. node. There is still some significant work to do on the text. It will hopefully be ready to publish within the next 30 days. Brown+Danos is still working for the Bikes Belong grant money. This funded the schematic design of the area from Jeff Davis to Carrollton.

b. Coordination with Office of Recovery Management

– ORM identified the greenway as one of their target areas. They are moving toward allocating money for the construction of the entire greenway. Dubravka Gilic indicated as much to Daniel in an email. Daniel asked what will happen to all the private developers who are committed to building sections of the greenway? Janet asked if there was a way to use money that's already committed for design. Daniel indicated that ORM had already included design in their budget. Linda suggested that FOLC's role could be to try to influence the design process after the bidding process by giving them our design schematics. Also, maybe FOLC should be funding charrettes. It was noted that both of our other grants must be used for construction. Larry stated that it should be our job to build consensus among potential users. Another question that was asked was how will this work with the task force approved by City Council? ORM indicated an interest in relocating the city filling station at N. Broad and Lafitte, but would welcome help in identifying a relocation site.

c. Coordination with RTA – RTA continues to struggle to recover after the flooding.

d. Governors Rec Trail status – We need to get certification letters from three agencies by November. We need to find out which surfacing we'll do – asphalt or crushed

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stone– in the area from Jeff Davis to Carrollton. We can pay for crushed stone. The ORM may pay for the additional cost of asphalt.

4. New Business

FOLC representation on Advisory Task Force Suggestions for at-large and Districts A, B, C appointments

FOLC – Daniel Samuels, Larry Lagarde, Leonetta Terrell

2 at-large – Edgar Chase and Bari Landry

District A – Lake Douglas

District B – Bart will send out query to MCNO and FOLC Yahoo group

District C – Russel Fraise

Should FOLC take a position on the Lafitte Community? –

See our statement (attached). This will be posted on the FOLC website and FOLC Yahoo group files. Linda moved that we approve the statement as Daniel presented it. Janet seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Beach volleyball along the Greenway? – It was agreed that this is generally a good idea. Daniel will let them know that we're supportive and that it seems like an appropriate use along the greenway.

Strategic Planning for FOLC? – This discussion was tabled, although it was mentioned that we could apply for SURDNA money to pay for design charrettes and an Executive Director. Also, Bart mentioned the LA Disaster Recovery Fund again. Linda will talk to them.

Larry announced that there will be a group ride on the Longleaf Trail in Hattiesburg on Saturday, October 20, for a \$20 donation. Amtrak will likely provide free transportation for folks from NOLA who would like to go. The departure train is 7:43AM and the train arriving back in NOLA is 4:53PM. Larry will post this on the Yahoo group, website, and inform MBC, MCNO, etc.

Billy Fields will be leaving Rails 2 Trails and taking a position at UNO.

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Janet will figure out how to amend the bylaws to name Urban Conservancy as the entity who will receive our assets in the event of our dissolution.