

OANA General Meeting Minutes 02-20-2024

The first General Meeting of 2024, rescheduled from January 17th due to freezing weather, was held on February 20th at the Community Center of St. Bernard, 7143 St. Claude Ave. Around 35 people attended the meeting, which was called to order at 6:09 pm.

Attendees were welcomed, and President Alison Barrios announced that future General Meetings would likely be held at the Community Center, given the inability of the Maumus Center to guarantee scheduled dates. Also, there is an opening on the OANA Board, and nominations are being taken to fill it.

The Lundi Gras Walking Parade was again a great success: 225 tickets were sold, and thanks went out to Billy McGoey for help organizing, OAB for hosting before and after parties, volunteers, and Clay & Marie Cosse for the use of their balcony for the sunset toast.

The Guest Speaker for the evening was Councilwoman Patrice Cusimano. She said she gets much of her information from ex-councilman Ray Lauga, but had just come from a Council meeting where an ordinance was proposed to require permitting to re-roof a house. Recommended regulations aim to improve insurance rates. Patrice also reported on a Fresh Food Initiative, where CDBG funds will be used to install a generator at Canseco's Market to insure the availability of fresh food in case of area power outages. In addition, she announced that the 40 Arpent Trail is almost finished, and that Atmos's work on gas lines on Angela is nearly complete. The debris on Royal is related to the work on Angela, and the contractors promise to restore the spot to its previous condition. Sewer line scoping is projected for Angela, Mehle and Friscoville, and drainage on the Aycock Canal is being addressed. A tip to home gardeners: water lily pads can harbor mosquitoes.

Upcoming OANA Events

- two Sippin' in the Sunset dates have been set, with music by Kenny Kerth Jass on March 14th and Cypress Pop Trio on May 23rd
- a Spring Pub Sprawl may be scheduled, dates TBD

News & Notables — Around the Neighborhood

- Zeitgeist 5th Anniversary coming up, with events TBA; Rene Broussard is invited to speak at the March General Meeting
- St. Claude Art Market on 3/9 in the Art Park
- PWB Wine Night for Dummies on 2/28, happy hour oysters nightly 5-7 pm
- Kitchen Table Italian Night 2/23
- Fish Fry Fridays at OAB during Lent, 5-7 pm, \$15/plate, by Arabi Social Society
- upcoming beautification projects: Keep LA Beautiful clean-up day in April, possibly in conjunction with the Community Center; Mehle crepe myrtle trimming; Aycock Barn/Jail garden upkeep (Beautification Committee needs members) & rain barrel distribution

News & Notables — Around the Parish

- Cook-off for the Coast 2/24 at Docville Farm
- Islenos Festival 3/2-3 at the Islenos Complex
- Crawfish Festival 3/21-24
- AgMagic on the River Family Day 3/23 at Docville Farm
- Irish-Italian-Islenos parade 4/6
- Tomato Festival at OLPS 4/19-21

Member News & Celebrations

- Yard-of-the-Month in December went to 539 Lebeau, Cherie Pierce & Jaime Wentzell for Holiday decorations, and January to 136 Angela, Claude & Heather Maher for Mardi Gras decor
- Condolences go out to Barry & Katherine Lemoine for the passing of Barry's father, Gene
- Congratulations to Troy Barrios on his Art Show at Madame Vic's
- Special Holiday thanks to: the Christmas Committee for decorating the St. Claude neutral ground; Clay & Marie Cosse for helping hang wreaths at intersections; participants (around 80) at the first ever Community Caroling event; and KTC, Christian Serpas and the decorating committee for a successful OANA member party

Announcements

- The Community Center will have a charity running team at the 10K Crescent City Classic, with a food table afterwards; a new "book nook" at the Center is accepting book donations
- May's General Meeting will feature a plant swap
- Domino is steam venting new equipment soon, so expect loud noises
- Several St. Claude Bridge closures are coming later in the week
- Crave restaurant is now serving breakfast
- Lighthouse Books & Records has several events coming up — check their FaceBook page for dates

Door prizes were awarded, and attendees were reminded that the next General Meeting will be March 20th. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.