

## OANA General Meeting Minutes 07-17-19

Around 30 people were present for the July General Meeting, which was held at the Maumus Center and called to order at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Our first guest speaker was Councilman Gillis McCloskey, who gave an update on the streets projects in the neighborhood. All phases of construction have been approved, but can't unfortunately be completed going towards the levee until river levels fall below 15 feet. He assured us that they will resume and be completed as soon as possible. Members asked about people seen driving and even parking on the levee, which McCloskey said is definitely not allowed right now. Violations should be reported to the police. Several seepage points on the levee are being closely monitored. As for getting trash cans put at the levee openings, — always a problem that we've not been able to solve — the issue will be covered in Phase 2 of the Neighborhood Revitalization project.

McCloskey then encouraged us to support the fundraiser taking place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on July 27th at Vista Buccaneer Playground. It will be a fun event for all ages, with a shrimp cookoff, activities for all ages, food & drink & more, and a great way to bring neighbors together. Flyers were distributed.

The second guest speaker was Danielle Martin from the St. Bernard Economic Development Foundation, with information on the third annual St. Bernard Shop Small Week, taking place November 30 - December 7th this year. The SBEDF is partnering with local artists to host an event on Thursday, December 5th at the St. Claude Arts studios. The OANA's presence is requested to help with setup, promotion, and support to the businesses taking part. The shopping "passport" for customers to use during the week will be easier to fill out this year. The week is designed to kickstart holiday shopping in the Parish.

Danielle also mentioned that the SBEDF has expanded their program to get businesses to move to St. Bernard Parish. The Grow St. Bernard seminar series is holding a Social at the Zeitgeist Theater & Lounge tomorrow, 5-7 p.m.; all are invited to come learn about the program.

The results of the member survey taken at our last General Meeting were reviewed. The list of member suggestions were:

- Guest Speakers/topics — elected officials, safety & self-defense, Jackson Barracks Museum Curator, St. Bernard Hospital, gardening expert, writing wills, coastal concerns, infrastructure, Knights of Nemesis. To help book guest speakers and/or plan agenda items, please speak to Barry.
- Beautification — bench and trash can on levee, St. Claude neutral ground, historic signage, sidewalks on N. Peters, wooded properties into green space, trim crepe myrtles, welcome sign. To serve on this committee, see Troy.
- Philanthropy — help students with school supplies or uniforms, support local food bank/St. Bernard Community Center. Idea: maybe hold a "drive" for a non-profit beneficiary at each of our meetings.

- Social Gatherings — tree giveaway, Zeitgeist night, neighborhood garage sale, picnic/bbq, crawfish boil, Friendsgiving, Halloween/costume party, something for kids. We currently host 4 Sippin' events, Sugar Fest & Soirée, Christmas Holiday party, Night Out Against Crime, Halloween trick-or-treating in the neighborhood, and Lundi Gras. We'll look at growing Night Out into a bigger event.
- Membership — three names were proposed as prospective members, and ideas were: flyer all of Old Arabi, send a postcard mailer for a "meet & greet".
- Concerns (besides speeding & short-term rentals) — info on street work, wrong-way driving on Angela, "no trucks" sign before Lebeau, blight, train noise, support Memorial & Veterans Days.

This list will be used to help plan future meetings. Member involvement is encouraged!

St. Bernard rules on Short-Term Rentals (STRs) were reviewed, along with a list of compliant properties (permits obtained and fees paid) for 2019-2020. See the slideshow for this list and contact info for complaints and concerns.

Upcoming OANA events are:

- Sippin' in the Sunset            Thursday, Sept. 19 and Thursday, Nov. 7, 6-9 p.m.  
(note: Sept. date is incorrect in slideshow)
- Sugar Fest                            Saturday, Oct. 12
- Night Out Against Crime    Tuesday, Oct. 15
- Sugar Soirée                        TBA November
- Holiday Party                        TBA December

Anyone interested in helping with Sugar Fest should sign up with Committee Chair Ray Lauga. An initial planning meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on August 19th.

As always, our events can be improved with more member involvement, specifically: help setting up and cleaning up, help soliciting sponsorships and vendors, and participation on committees.

Members are encouraged to support our local businesses: the Old Arabi Marketplace has just expanded into a nearby space, the Annex, at 7002 St. Claude; and Zeitgeist Theatre & Lounge continues its eclectic programming, also hosting the Grow St. Bernard Social this week. Upcoming events in the Parish: "The Rat Pack is Back", a touring performance, will appear at the Frederick J. Sigur Center on Saturday, July 20; the Vista Park fundraiser mentioned earlier takes place on July 27; and watch for a new comedy, "Holidaze", coming from Shine Productions this holiday season.

Thanks were extended to our Board Members, door prizes were awarded, and members were thanked for attending and reminded to "encourage your neighbors to get involved" and "keep your tax dollars in the parish"!

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:40 p.m.