

OANA General Meeting Minutes — 07/26/18

Held at the Maumus Center, the July meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Around 30 people attended.

Maumus Center director Gena Asevedo gave a report on the two weeks of Summer Science Camp held at the facility. The STEM program had 45 children enrolled the first week (June 18-22) and 47 — some returning for the second session — on week two (June 25-29). There were 3 certified teachers and 3-4 Camp Helpers (high school students) each week. Campers worked on several different hands-on learning activities each day, and saw a number of 360° planetarium shows. They learned various scientific principles through the study of volcanos, parachutes, oil spills, wetlands, catapults, and more. Slides showed the children at work and some of their daily journal entries. Asevedo hopes to hold three camp sessions in 2019, tentatively the last 3 weeks of June. This will involve coming up with another week's worth of unique activities, since none are repeated within the course.

The Planetarium featured 18 public shows this summer, and plans to schedule one Saturday and one weeknight program per month in the fall, Asevedo said. Dates can be found on the calendar at sbpsb.org.

Due to questions and concerns heard from several members about Short Term Rentals (STRs) operating in Old Arabi, Dale Thayer and Pamela Carroll from the Department of Community Development came to explain the legal registration and complaint processes. Thayer said that the Council passed two ordinances addressing zoning regulations in 2017, and published three Official Notices to the Public in the St. Bernard Voice in April and May of this year. However, only 6 permits have currently been requested or issued. Thayer handed out copies of the ordinances, permit applications, letters to the Old Arabi Historic Commission and the Tourist Commission Chair, and the list of compliant addresses. The Parish is ready to enforce the regulations, and Thayer added that the next step in getting illegal STRs registered is for neighbors to report suspected addresses to Kristen Pellegrini at 504-278-4310. Permitting information can be obtained from Pamela Carroll at 504-355-4429. Thayer and Carroll graciously agreed to remain after the meeting to hear neighbors' specific complaints and entertain possible ideas for future controls on STRs. (documents and contact numbers from Thayer's presentation are included in the slide show link below)

Committee chairs were thanked. The first Fall Sippin' in the Sunset was announced for Thursday, September 20, 6-9 p.m. Sugar Fest chair Ray Lauga said we could use more sponsors for the 10th anniversary event, scheduled for Saturday, October 13, and members can sign up with him to volunteer. There will be a committee meeting next week. In our promotions we will highlight "things we do differently from other festivals". We can always improve our events with more help setting up and cleaning up, more help soliciting vendors & sponsors, and more participation on committees.

Though it is months away, we are thinking about a neighborhood Lundi Gras celebration — "March 4th on the River" — featuring a marching parade with bikes, wagons, music

and costumes, starting on St. Claude and ending on the river at sunset. This idea will be developed further in the future.

In the neighborhood: Old Arabi Marketplace is celebrating its third birthday. Watch for news about an upcoming extravaganza! Chew Rouge's \$25 pizza+a bottle of wine date night special was so popular that it is now part of their regular menu. Their Detroit-style pizza is available for dining in or pickup. The Kitchen Table is featuring live music on Tuesdays beginning at 6 p.m.

Two door prizes — a bottle of wine donated by Canseco's, and a \$20 gift certificate from Old Arabi Marketplace — were awarded to lucky members. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33, with reminders to encourage others to get involved and keep our tax dollars in the parish.