

## **OANA General Meeting Minutes 03-20-2024**

The March General Meeting was held on 3/20 at the Community Center of St. Bernard, 7143 St. Claude Ave. Around 30 people attended, and the meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm.

Guest Speaker Katrina Weber, Outreach and Pantry Coordinator for the Community Center, reported on the Center's charity fundraiser participation in the upcoming Crescent City Classic. She also introduced the Center's new "Hope's Book Nook", a free book distribution area named after a dedicated volunteer. The Nook especially needs more children's book donations, as the adult section is already full to overflowing. In addition, the Center's summer project will be helping with meals for families; it is still in the organizational phase, so stay tuned for further information.

President Alison Barrios announced that there is still an open seat on the OANA Board, and applications will continue to be accepted for a while.

The March 14th Sippin' in the Sunset was very successful, with vendor spaces sold out. A spring "Pub Sprawl" was considered, but will wait until the hot months, since the point was to give attendees relief in air-conditioned venues and help out businesses during a slow time of year. Watch for dates at the May meeting.

### OANA events and future projects

- neighborhood beautification/cleanup project co-hosted with the Community Center on April 21st — watch for further information TBA
- rain barrels, crepe myrtle trimming, garden maintenance at the Jail and Barn all looking for committee volunteers other than Board members

Discussion followed on the topic of garden maintenance. The Arts Park is nicely landscaped and kept up, probably by Meraux or the Parish. The property at the Jail and Barn belongs to the Parish, but OANA volunteers who have since moved away provided the upkeep. Perhaps some neighborhood gardeners would be interested (OANA reimburses for plants & labor), and plants could be donated by The Green House? This project may require a separate meeting.

### Upcoming Events of interest

- tomorrow: Holy Cross Neighborhood Association meeting against widening the St. Claude bridge canal
- Friday Fish Fry at OAB every Friday through Lent
- Crawfish Fest this weekend
- AgMagic and Tree Giveaway Saturday at Docville Farm
- Hibernians fundraiser Saturday at OAB, 3-6 pm
- Irish-Italian-Islenos Parade 4/6
- Arts Park sale on 4/13
- Spotlight St. Bernard business expo 4/10 at Val Reiss
- Give a Hoot Trivia Night, fun event with teams, 4/13 at Docville
- Tomato Festival 4/19-21

The Yard-of-the-Month award will resume in April, so everyone is encouraged to get their gardens ready.

The construction mess on Royal will be cleaned up soon.

Lighthouse Books and Records has some new bumper stickers, and an upcoming poetry night — all are invited to read or just listen.

There was a quick report on the status of short-term rentals (STRs). Some in Arabi/St. Bernard are legal, some are not. Residents should report violations to the Sheriff's Office, since licenses can be revoked if there are too many complaints. Photos and detailed information on problems are helpful. No further licenses are available at this time; companies need to be advised about the new legislation.

The next General Meeting will be held on May 15th, with a plant swap and focus on gardening. The second Spring Sippin' in the Sunset is coming up on May 23rd. Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.