

OANA General Meeting Minutes 03-14-19

Just over 40 people attended the March General Meeting, which was called to order at 6:05 p.m. and convened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Looking back, our Lundi Gras March 4th on the River event was a huge success, with a featured article & photos in the March 8th edition of the St. Bernard Voice. The parade & bar hop was co-sponsored by the Old Arabi and St. Claude Heights Neighborhood Organizations — we paid to rent the Tap Room and they arranged for and paid the police detail. Besides the Tap Room, where revelers met before and after the parade, the group visited Whiskey Bayou, the new Zeitgeist Theater, Old Arabi Bar, and the “Cossé Castle” Balcony on the river, where the Royal Court (chosen by random drawings at each of the previous stops) saluted their “subjects” below at sunset. Thanks went out to all who attended, to the participating venues, and to Royal Brewery for beer and Gerald’s Donuts for king cake. Thoughts for another Mardi Gras seasonal event next year are welcomed.

Guest speaker Rene Broussard, director of the new Zeitgeist Theater & Lounge, gave us a preview of upcoming and planned events for the multi-disciplinary center, which operated in New Orleans for the past 32 years. He was lured to the vacant Valiant Theater by the chance to finally have a non-shared space. We can look forward to rare domestic and foreign films, film festivals and discussions with filmmakers, comedy, live theater, live music, and children’s films scheduled for matinee times. Various membership levels are available. Programming began on March 8th. Zeitgeist already has a strong and loyal following, which will bring new business to Old Arabi.

Special guest Councilman Gillis McCloskey once again commended OANA for providing leadership in our community. The Lundi Gras event was an example of bringing people together in a positive way.

He went on to explain the “Sold on St. Bernard” marketing campaign, which promotes new homes in our area. Described as safe, with good schools, and only 5 miles from Canal St., investors get tax credits, and our property values go up. Arabi is featured as a top market in the Parish. Promo spots have been scheduled on WWL and WWOZ radio, together with billboards & social media pages.

Old Sippin’ in the Sunset cards have been recycled with new date stickers. The March 28th event will be the “afterparty” for Startup St. Bernard, and May 9th falls during Teacher Appreciation Week. As always, Sippin’ can use extra help, especially for cleanup at the end of the evening.

Thanks were given to our Committee Chairs. Anyone wishing to help out on a committee is welcome to serve. We still need to fill the Membership Chair, and the organization could qualify for grants, in case any member is proficient and interested in grant writing.

Election of Officers and Board Members for the next two-year term will be held at the

next General Meeting on May 23rd. For members to be Active and eligible to vote, dues must be paid by April 30th. All Active Members (residents) can nominate or self-nominate in writing by April 30th, via email to oldarabi@gmail.com or snail mail to OANA, P.O.Box 112, Arabi 70032. See the meeting slideshow for further information, and more on membership and duties can be found in our Bylaws.

Following voting at the May meeting, we encourage members to give feedback about the OANA — how we're doing and ideas for the future.

Also new in Old Arabi: every Friday during Lent, the Arabi Social Society will hold it's \$8 a plate fish fry at the Old Arabi Bar 5-8 p.m., and Chew Rouge will offer shrimp po-boys for \$7.

The Maumus Center Planetarium will have public showings on March 20th and April 24th. See the slideshow for details.

Other reminders:

- a public meeting about plans for the new St. Bernard library is scheduled for March 26th at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
- Rock the CASA is Saturday, March 30th, also at Docville
- BPW's Fashion Show will be held at Docville Farm on April 5th
- and of course, Sippin in the Sunset, Thursdays March 28th and May 9th

Two lucky members won door prizes of a one-year membership to the Zeitgeist Theater!

The meeting was adjourned around 6:45.