

Manchac Greenway Steering Committee Meeting Minutes of 03/30/15 held at the Turtle Cove Office in Galva, LA. shortly after 2:00 PM.

In attendance were:

Ben Taylor – [Maurepas@charter.net](mailto:Maurepas@charter.net)

Frank Neelis - [bucktree@bellsouth.net](mailto:bucktree@bellsouth.net)

Greg Za Maurin - [zamaurin1@gmail.com](mailto:zamaurin1@gmail.com)

Dave Hargrave - [litedave1@yahoo.com](mailto:litedave1@yahoo.com)

Galan Schum - [gpschum54@yahoo.com](mailto:gpschum54@yahoo.com)

Frank Neelis began the meeting.

Dave and Za introduced Galen Schum of Laplace. He is a retired from La DoH&H, was raised in Ponchatoula and lives in Laplace, is related to the Allen family of Manchac/Ponchatoula and would be interested in community outreach for the project in St.JtBP. Will work w/Ben and Za.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Dave commented on the minutes of the previous meeting, on the previously discussed outline of committee responsibilities and on public awareness of the project and what could be done, further suggesting a litter pick-up program on the Greenway.

Ben mentioned previous litter pick-up efforts on the highway.

Za reported on an initial community litter awareness meeting (he is involved in the local Keep America Beautiful campaign) and the need to acquire maps and work on a resolution supporting the project to bring before St.JtB Parish govt.

Ben shared past resolutions.

Za and David met with local State Representative, SJtB Parish officials, Rev. Don to bring them up to date on project. Got positive response. Rev. Don offered to be on Steering committee. Have requested data and maps of Parish.

Ben reported on and distributed an initial list of civic groups and individuals in southern Tangipahoa Parish that he needs to contact to describe the project and solicit support. He mentioned the need for presentation materials including the possible use of the previous Case Statement for the Greenway. Frank offered to help. Za and David will develop same list in SJtB.

Dave clarified an item made in the Case Statement – there were actually 289 tons of trash collected from the highway on a previous occasion (during a three week period) not the 40 tons that were reported. Dave stated he has photographs of this effort.

Frank reported that he is in touch with the Hammond Daily Star newspaper on future publicity about the project. Presented article by Lawrence Mauerman and others. Za noted some media attention in SJtB area.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

There was discussion about using the term “Greenway” to label the project. It is believe the Manchac Greenway , as suggested by Herb Holloway, would be the first and only one in the State. Passed on to Herb some examples of economic impact studies of similar projects.

Frank reported on his meeting with Wayne Norwood, a former Tangipahoa and St.JtB Parish Sheriff’s Deputy, amateur historian and collector of artifacts (he has his own museum). As a deputy he was instrumental in invigorating the enforcement of litter laws that successfully kept U.S. 51 clean after the aforementioned

cleanup. Frank recognized him as a rich source of historic data about the Greenway.

Za said he talked with Norwood and suggested to contact him again.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Dave gave a report on his research of and experience with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and development's Adopt A Road program wherein various groups volunteer to become responsible for picking up litter along two mile sections of the road at least four times a year. Maps and signs identifying the program and the individual groups would be placed along the road. Dave also mentioned his concerns about an ADA compliant fishing pier, canoe launches, birding paths, boat docks and other infrastructure elements.

As per docks, suggested that work closely with WL&F on potential sites and requirements.

Ben described how GIS (Global Information System) technology can help the project and made note that the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation has personnel who can assist with this. Discussion how process works. Will discuss with Dwight.

Frank described the ADA Fishing Pier project to Galan. He also asked Ben to produce more push cards for the project.

Za mentioned how Daniel Murray, who owns and lives next to the Frenier Landing Restaurant, should be contacted and informed about the Greenway project. Frank and Dwight had dinner there and are excited about future events. Gave some information too folks at Middendorf.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Frank reported on a list of experts in this field he has contacted including Annie Coco, former LSU Ag Agent to Tangipahoa, Keith Villere, landscape architect (and former Mayor of Covington, LA), Rick Webb, Paul Orr, Steven Hoover of Entergy, and Roy Dupuy (LADOTD landscape architect and Za noted member of the board for Keep Louisiana Beautiful). He reiterated the need to contact the La Wildlife & Fisheries to survey botany aspects of the Greenway.

Basic concept is to feature low maintenance, native plants in south La. swamp.

## FUNDING and FINANCE

Frank mentioned that absent committee member Dwight Williams is to develop letters to send to key potential funders and asked steering committee members to provide names of potential donors to the project.

Ben suggested detailed design and cost estimates on aspects of the project should be developed to help attract donors.

Frank discussed need to find interns to do projects. Discussions with Ms. Travis at SLU and her cooperation.

Frank reported that in his recent conversation with Joe Lamonte, a local LADOTD representative, that alternative of using a Joint-Use Agreement between local (parish) governments and his agency in pursuit of the realization of the Greenway, we can use an Abandonment Program his agency has that can hand over direct ownership and control of the LADOTD lands surrounding the roadway to interested parties. He showed a map delineating the borders of ownership along U.S. 51 and described what he had so far learned about how the program works.

David and Frank will meet with Joe and others at LaDoT&D to get clarifications re. Abandonment Program.

Meeting adjournment.