

Friends of Manchac Greenway Board Meeting, Wednesday, 2:15 P.M., July 23, 2018
@ Bec's on the Lake, The Village at Frenier, Peavine Rd., LaPlace, La.

INTRODUCTION/WELCOME GUEST/QUORUM CALL -

Board Members Present:

Ben Taylor
Za Maurin
George Becnel
Galen Schum
Terri Abadie (St. John [St. John Economic Development](#))

Planning)
Alma Chassez
Lisa Williams
Melinda Holloway
Frank Neelis

Board Members Absent:

Rev. Donald August
Bridget Bailey (Tangipahoa Planning)
Christina Gardnier
Dr. Rob Moreau
Clay James (LADOTD)

Guests:

Dr. James Nelson
Dwight Williams (Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation)
Tom Kane (Canoe & Trail Adventures)

MINUTES APPROVAL –

The minutes of the 6/27/18 meeting were approved.

FINANCIAL –

A bank balance of \$2,880 was reported, plus or minus debits and credits accumulated hence.

WEB SITE/FACEBOOK -

George demonstrated his draft of the new Friends of the Manchac Greenway web site. It has categories that include an Active Map (click on a site on the Greenway for details), Public Boat Launches, links to Our Partners, History, Contact Us (including access to a PayPal program for making a donation), Walking and Bike Trails, Photo Gallery, Cuisine & Entertainment on the Greenway, Hurricane Evacuation Route and Completed and Future Greenway Projects. The need for contributing additional content was discussed and Board members are encouraged to submit content and

category ideas to becsatthelake@gmail.com. It was suggested that Board members hand out business cards with the site's address to drive potential donors and the curious to the site.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE -

Galen reported on the first membership meeting where "doable" projects on the greenway were discussed as a way to attract members and support. These included work on improving and maintaining trails, fishing and watercraft launch areas, helping grow and manage the LA DOTD Adopt-A-Road on the Greenway and development of education and eco-tourism. Distinctions between donors, members and sponsors were discussed and a second meeting was planned to hash these out. Two more donors were presented for inclusion to the new membership program.

ADOPT A ROAD -

Ben reported that Bec's On The Lake has agreed to adopt the southernmost mile and Canoe and Trail Adventure will adopt the Shell Bank area. The Friends of Manchac will adopt the mile at the Joyce Swamp Walk. George reported the kayak livery tenant who keeps his boats behind Bec's will be asked about adopting near Shell Bank and is seeking information about the program from the LA DOTD program administrator. Frank opined that the Adopt-A-Road sign each adopter gets posted at the beginning and end of their mile could be strategically located to afford some warning about pedestrian traffic ahead to high speed motorists approaching this area from the curve to the south of the canoe launch. As the Greenway is 26 miles long other adopters are needed. Ben proposed to locate sponsors to fund incidental equipment, supplies and incentives. An explanation of the program and an application can be found at: http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Operations/adopt-a-road/Pages/default.aspx

PUBLIC PRESENTATION DEVELOPMENT/ROTARY AND OTHER CIVIC CLUBS

Frank reported his scheduled visit to the Hammond Sunrise (7:30 AM!) Rotary Club and plans to refine a presentation package for other such opportunities.

RADIO INTERVIEW JULY 12 –

Frank reported on the radio interview he and Ben had with Dr. Amber Narro to explain the Manchac Greenway project to the Southeastern Louisiana University KSLU audience. The interview will be divided and parceled out over time to maximize exposure.

PORT OF MANCHAC DISCUSSION -

A committee was formed to research the ownership and control of the port and how best it can be guided to become a beneficial neighbor to the Greenway and the Isthmus of Manchac.

CONSULTANT UPDATE -

The contract between Tangipahoa Parish, ELOS Environmental and Meyer Engineering for a Master Plan for the Manchac Greenway is to be signed next week.

OLD HAMMOND HIGHWAY DISCUSSION -

George reiterated the need for highway safety lighting from approximately the Greeway's I-10 exit north to the entrance to the Village at Frenier at Peavine Rd. Terri mentioned parish procedures and Za and Frank will draft a letter expressing this need to St. John Parish President Robottom.

Recent work to clear vegetation from the road south of Peavine was commended and ways to promote the path for eco-tourism were discussed. Other segments of the road have potential to be developed, some perhaps for part of the Greenway's future dedicated bicycle trail. Ownership issues remain clouded.

AROUND THE LAKE UPDATE -

Ben is to work with SLU's Center for Small Business Development on a presentation about the project that can be used to advanced the concept to GNO, Inc. and others.

GOVERNOR EDWARDS -

Frank and Alma recently had an opportunity to briefly visit with the Louisiana Governor and discuss the Greenway and the situation at Port Manchac.

PROMOTIONAL IDEAS –

With fall on the horizon, a Boomer's urge to throw a party (and to a fundraiser) has an excuse.

Frank advanced an idea to coincide with a Middendorf's fall fun run from Manchac to Ruddock with a FMG run from Frenier to Ruddock. Discussion ensued.

Another idea was a Social at Frenier Village for funding could for improvements of the Ruddock Dock. The LA DOTD, owners of the facility. will be contacted about their plans at this site.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Kane, representing Canoe and Trail Adventures, advanced the idea of a fee collected from his and other canoe & kayak livery services to help pay for maintenance and improvements of the Shell Bank boat launch on the Greenway. Discussion ensued including the likely necessity of a proper Joint Use Agreement with the facility's owner, the LA DOTD.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING DATE –

The next meeting is to be Wednesday, 2:00, August 29, 2018 at Bec's on the Lake in Freniere Village.