

## **Friends of Manchac Greenway (FMG) Board Meeting**

Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 2:45 PM

Tangipahoa Parish Planning Conference Room,  
Club Deluxe Rd, Clausen Building, Hammond, La.

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Frank Neelis, Alma Chases, Clay James (LADOTD), Phil Graves (LADOTD), Greg "Za" Maurin, Ben Taylor, Lisa Williams and Melinda Holloway.

### **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

Accepted - Za – 1<sup>st</sup>, Melinda - 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **TREASURER REPORT:**

Alma reported that after income from donations, dues and expenditures for office supplies and advertising specialties our bank balance is \$2,870.52. Accepted – Za – 1<sup>st</sup>, Ben – 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Considering this bank balance, the decision to accept a \$1,051.39 quote for general liability insurance for FMG will be deferred until the group experiences increased exposure, and a possible way to pay for this expense, from a planned special event.

### **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**

Frank revealed that Galen Schum had called (from Vermont!) to report he has done research on membership programs in other, similar organizations and will issue his report at the next meeting.

### **PRESS RELEASES/APPRECIATION AWARDS:**

The Hammond Daily Star published a story with photos on 05/11/18 of the Clean Sweep litter pick-up event. Frank has presented appreciation plaques to partners in this endeavor including Entergy, the Tangipahoa Parish Council and the Manchac Boating Association.

### **RING AROUND THE LAKE DEVELOPMENTS:**

Frank and Ben consulted with the authors of the economic impact study for this project, SLU's Small Business Development Center, to come up with the an effective strategy for disseminating and gaining support for this idea. Plans were also discussed for Ben, Frank, Melinda and Za to further this discussion with this group and others. The Hammond Daily Star and the Ponchatoula Times each ran stories on the release of the study.

### **MASTER PLAN FOR THE GREENWAY IN TANGIPAHOA PARISH:**

Frank is to meet with Tangipahoa Parish officials next Friday to review six bids for this work.

### **SHELL BANK ENHANCEMENTS:**

This popular St. John canoe launch, used extensively by tourists and tour companies from the New Orleans area, has seen an incredible transformation in the past month. Beginning with efforts by Entergy crews during the Greenway's Clean Sweep, then followed by a massive litter pick-up by St. John's Keep America Beautiful campaign, New Orleans' Canoe and Trail Adventures, a key user of the launch, has led tour operators in further, detailed cleaning. Other enhancements are envisioned for this site and FMG is seeking to have this location formally adopted to maintain this new status quo. Meeting attendee Phil Graves, representing the site's owners, LADOTD, detailed the legalities of Joint Use Agreements, designated Recreational Areas, pedestrian safety and engineering reports required for this endeavor.

#### ADOPT-A-ROAD:

The use of this ready-made LADOTD program on the Greenway was discussed. Participating groups will be obliged to maintain a mile of Greenway on both sides of the road on a regular basis. Signs will be posted on the roadway in recognition. FMG is seeking to help initiate this program.

#### SLU's SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER AGREEMENT:

The SBDC is seeking to have the FMG formally sign-on as a client in order to enjoy other services they offer. Our legal brain, Judge Alma, will examine the contract and deliver a report for board acceptance at the next meeting.

#### SO. TANGIPAHOA PORT DISCUSSIONS:

In a remarkable transformation, the port on North Pass is seeking advice from FMG and other parties on a vegetation program on the Greenway across from their facility. Long-time vegetation wizard Frank is helping to advise a long-range, landscape design project for the site.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

NALCO Water, a multi-product, environmentally themed corporation out of Naperville, IL with facilities in St. John, has re-opened their grant acceptance program and FMG will submit a new proposal. Last year's grant offering was interrupted by Southeast Louisiana and Houston, TX flood events. NEEF (National Environmental Education Foundation) is also accepting grant applications. It is felt both funding sources are a good fit for various aspects of our Greenway project.

#### NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, June 27, 2:00 PM at Bec's On The Lake in Frenier.

#### ADJOURN