

FRIENDS OF THE MANCHAC GREENWAY MEETING MINUTES
July 29, 2020 @ Bec's on the Lake, Frenier, LA

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ben Taylor, George Becnel, Lisa Williams, Galen Schum and Greg Za Maurin

MINUTES of 03/05/2020 meeting approved - Galen/Za

FINANCIAL REPORT (Galen):

- Current bank balance - \$3,450.00

MEMBERSHIP (Galen):

- Two new members have joined the organization; no roadside membership advertising signs are currently displayed and this program will return at an appropriate time in the future; an Adopt-A-Mile sign survey could not be completed because of Greenway flooding and Ben said he would try to execute this and report any missing signs to the LA DOTD; George described how the membership feature on our web site works.

WETLAND WATCHERS SWAMP SCHOOL:

- During the meeting, students and instructors from this remarkable educational endeavor at the Bonnet Carre Spillway lakeside park in St. Charles dropped in for their post-summer camp celebration. Program founder Barry Guillot and facilitator Craig Howat paid our table a visit and offered to coordinate with our group on the future projects.

FUNDING:

- Entergy Environmental Grant for vegetation - (Frank) - no report
- Marathon Petroleum Foundation grant for Swamp Trail gravel in Maurepas WMA (\$7,000) and the "Rev.'s Ruddock Rest" Mini-park (\$41,000) - Ben explained the circumstances about how this opportunity arose and evolved, its current status and recommended a plan for moving forward. We will have to form a committee for the proper use of these potential funds.
- Possible National Scenic Byway Program grant - Galen will complete the required application for registration with Grants.gov and acquiring a DUNS number for our group.

ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS:

- Shell Bank canoe launch - Ben gave a brief update on some of the actors involved this issue and Za will try to make contact with St.JtBP Planner Rene Pastorek about moving this issue forward off "top-center."
- LA WL&F Maurepas Swamp trail gravel - as with the Rev's Ruddock Rest mini-roadside park, it's a cart before the horse proposition. If the monies are granted, they will hopefully help open the door for the acceptance and execution of these worthwhile projects.

- LPBF (Pontchartrain Conservancy) cypress planting at Sunset Park - Ben reported the Lion's Club, adopters of the park, were reluctant to plant trees on the open lawns because of mowing issues, however trees were planted at the Ruddock Boat Launch. Lisa reported she has planted trees on the roadway entering North Pass Boat Launch. Lisa also wants to develop a plan to mow and enhance the picnic area next to the boat launch ramps and will produce some descriptive drawings to help sell the concept to the Tangipahoa Parish and potential partners.
- Owl Bayou fishing spot mowing - Ben will research what can be done about this
- The resumption of the LADOTD Greenway litter/mowing program on the Greenway is imminent .

RING AROUND THE LAKE (Frank):

- NORPC digital mapping - no report.
- Comprehensive Parish Bike and Pedestrian Plans, Parish John Council Resolutions - no report.
- USCE levee-top bike path to the Greenway and on the St. James Parish - Ben suggested support from the Parish President's Office maybe of great help in getting this project added to the West Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Levee project and getting it planned and budgeted. Za will make inquiries to this end.

PORT MANCHAC:

- Ben handed out the new concept drawing of the reformation of this facility and will inquire about what may be next with this project.

FINAL WORDS:

- Lisa and Galen brought up the much needed Master Plan for the Greenway. This will be a daunting project to do in an acceptable form and will probably require professional help and grant money. Ben suggested soliciting ideas from the board as to what we want to see on the Greenway as a starting point.