

# **FRIENDS of the MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG) MEETING MINUTES, 2:00, Thursday, May 27, 2021 @ Gator's Den "meeting room", Galva**

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisa Williams, Robert Arcuri - St. John the Baptist Parish Council District 5, Eric Brignac - Laplace Lions Club, Greg Za Maurin, Ben Taylor, Frank Neelis, Galen Schum and Tom Dumas.

## APPROVAL of 04/01/21 MEETING MINUTES

## FINANCIAL REPORT - Rt. Hon. Galen Schum, Treasurer

There were no debits or credits to report from this past month - current balance: \$12,831.63

## MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH/EVENTS

- Marketing RFPs: Ben reported that the one sent to Anntoine in Hammond came back with too high a price tag. Frank suggested sending one to Ken and Cindy Benitez of Action News 17 / Marketing of Hammond.
- Za reported that the Smooth Ride on the Low Road FMG Bike Ride/Fund Raiser was snookered a second time by freakishly high water in the area from strong, persistent east winds. Event Maestro George Becnel will announce a third attempt.
- Ben and Tom agreed to work together to post new Greenway highway signs.
- Scheduled for 6/09/21 - The Louisiana National Estuarine Research Reserve (LaNERR) meeting at Middendorf's co-hosted by FMG is in the works. A notice describing the event has been sent out to local officials and interested citizens.

## INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Mr. Brignac, representing the Lions Club of Laplace, adopters of Sunset Park on the Greenway at Pass Manchac @ Lake Maurepas, reported that storms have eroded the shore of the park, displacing its rip-rap armoring, casting much of its shell into the lake and leaving a lot of debris. He described plans to attempt to restore this shoreline protection with new rip-rap and the addition of concrete, topsoil and binding vegetation. He also reported communication with St. John Parish about the Parish fully adopting Sunset Park and, possibly, the FMG mini-picnic park at Ruddock from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. He also described efforts to secure a contract for maintenance of both sites.
- Lisa reported on her continuing efforts to plant cypress in the vicinity of the North Pass Boat Launch / Carter-Regan Rest Area. Ben promised a follow-up with Tangipahoa Parish Government on their plans to clear vegetation at the proposed

picnic area by the boat launch. Lisa also restated the Parish's promise to return the Roll-off Dumpster at N. Pass Boat Launch. This had made a big difference in reducing littering and illegal dumping in the area.

- Ben and Za reported on four new LA DOTD "No Dumping" signs on the Greenway.

- Frank and Za will invite St.JtB Parish Planner Rene Pastorek to our next meeting to deliver an update on the St. John Master Plan for the Manchac Greenway.

- StJtBP Councilman Arcuri reported on plans to expand the rock armoring of the eastern and southeastern shore of Lake Pontchartrain in order to further protect the Isthmus of Manchac. Once completed, the shoreline from Pass Manchac to the St. Charles Parish line will be protected. Funding for this work originated with the Restore Act arising from the 2012 BP/New Horizon oil spill. Mr. Arcuri also reported on uncertain plans for the installation of a retail "outpost" on private property somewhere on the Greenway between Laplace and Ruddock.

NEXT MEETING: June 30, 2021 at a location to be announced.