

Friends of the Manchac Greenway (FMG) Board Meeting Minutes, 2:00, August 26, under Frenier Landing Restaurant, Frenier

APPROVAL of JULY 29, 2021 MEETING MINUTES:

Frank accepted, Galen 2nd

FINANCIAL REPORT: \$13,608.10

ATTENDANCE:

Lucien Gauff (St. John Assessor), Frank Neelis, Tom Dumas, Galen Schum, Ben Taylor, Za Maurin, Dwight Williams (Pontchartrain Conservancy)

MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH/EVENTS:

- Web site - It was agreed to approach Phillip Hextall of Ponchatoula for a price quote on updating the FMG web site. Once a price is in hand we can attempt to acquire most of the funds through crowdfunding. In the meantime Ben and Galen will collaborate on auditing the outline for the site.

- Frank made note of a recent editorial in the Hammond Daily Star that recommended the Pontchartrain LA NERR project at Port Manchac.

- Marketing RFPs - Ken Benitez of Hammond was not able to take on this project, however, it was noted Nick Peppo of Laplace might still be able to.

- Frank urged Galen to research the availability of our previously applied-for grant from NALCO/Ecolab in Garyville, LA.

- Fall litter pick-ups: The third quarterly FMG Adopt-A-Road litter collection is scheduled for October 23.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Frank and Mr. Gauff concurred there is a problem with determining the true ownership of property along the old New Orleans-Hammond Highway, something critical to future Greenway/Ring Around the Lake plans.

- FMG highway signs - Ben will get pricing for a dozen reflective aluminum highway signs to attach below existing LA DOTD Manchac Greenway/Bike signs.

- Tangipahoa Master Plan for the Manchac Greenway - Ben reported on his recent conversation with Tangipahoa Parish Councilwoman Kim Coates appraising her of the current situation with the Parish's Master Plan for the Manchac Greenway. Ms. Coates agreed to put together a meeting to update all the parties concerned with this project.

- St. John Master Plan for the Manchac Greenway - The St. John Planning and Permit Dept. recently had a public meeting in Frenier describing Greenway plans and the construction of rock jetties on the Lake Pontchartrain shore at Frenier Beach and Pass Manchac. The department has also given FMG members the opportunity to participate on the Parish Hazard Mitigation Committee to plan for natural disasters.

- Cypress Planting Schemes:

FMG has plans to collaborate with the Pontchartrain Conservancy to plant cypress in the mini-picnic park at Ruddock (a.k.a. Peninsula Park) and Sunset Park this Fall. Za reported plans soon to mow the Ruddock park.

Ben described an Old Hammond Highway Nature Walk Demonstration Projects at Peavine Rd. and across from the Ruddock I-55 Exit.

The Pontchartrain Conservancy is making plans to plant cypress on Goat Island on North Pass and possibly on the Octavia Group's 100 acres next to Port Manchac. There is also interest in planting the spoil bank across from Port Manchac with the same trees found on abandoned Mississippi River levees and coastal cheniers to mimic those "Coastal Lines of Defense."

- Za and Ben agreed to survey the condition of bridge crossings on the old New Orleans-Hammond for future use of the roadway for the Manchac Greenway/Ring Around the Lake Bike Trail.

- Za and Frank reported on their recent meeting with Louisiana's Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser and the favorable information they shared on a number of topics affecting the Greenway.

- Ring Around the Lake / Louisiana Bootlace Trail - Bike Easy recently conducted an illuminating Zoom meeting where a great deal of information was traded about their plans and useful information Friends of the Manchac Greenway were able to offer.

NEXT MEETING