

A meeting of the interim Board of Directors of the Friends of Manchac Greenway was convened on March 21, 2016 at the Turtle Cove classroom on the Galva Canal in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana at 10:15 a.m.

Present were Frank Neelis, Greg Za Maurin, Ben Taylor, Rev. Donald August, Galen Schum and Alma Chazez. Board members Raymond Goodman and Alyson Lapuma were not in attendance.

A report from the interim treasurer, Alma Chazez, was presented. In essence, the organization now has a bank account with Louisiana Federal Credit Union, upon which checks, requiring two signatures, may now be written. A debit card has also been issued to the organization by the Credit Union, which card is currently in the possession of interim President, Frank Neelis. The initial deposit to open the account was provided by Greg Za Maurin in the amount of \$10.00.

It was announced that Raymond Goodman could no longer serve as a Board member. The Board voted to extend an invitation to Terri Abadie to replace Mr. Goodman. Should Ms. Abadie accept the invitation, she will be considered a member of the Board, from St. John the Baptist Parish, without further action by the Board.

After discussion it was determined that each Board member would forward a check for \$50.00 to the organization so that any required filing with the Internal Revenue Service could be accomplished. Rev. August, Galen Schum and Alma Chazez advised that they would forward a check in the amount of \$100 for this purpose. Thanks are extended to all who have agreed to this extra contribution.

A proposed letter to Mr. Carlton Dufrechou which had been circulated to members beforehand was secured. With modifications noted, Frank Neelis was authorized to forward this letter to Mr. Dufrechou immediately so that the issue of funds belonging to the Friends of Manchac Greenway, held in escrow by the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, could be obtained.

Discussion pertaining to the bike signs for the Greenway in St. John the Baptist Parish went forward. Za Maurin has agreed to check on the status of these and report back at the time of the next meeting.

Further nomination to the Board of Directors were discussed. It was unanimously agreed that an invitation to sit on the Board should be issued to Dr. Rob Moreau, Director of the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station. It was felt that Dr. Moreau has unique expertise in areas crucial to the development of the Greenway and also has the option to obtain student involvement in Greenway projects. Upon his acceptance of this nomination, Dr. Moreau will be considered a member of the organization without further action by the Board.

Discussion ensued as to whether the by-laws of the organization should be amended to allow for nine people to serve on the Board. The idea of asking someone from the Department of Transportation and Development for the State of Louisiana was discussed but not voted upon.

Frank Neelis advised that he will meet with Alyson Lapuma to see what needs to be done to have a Governmental entity established which would be responsible for the area of the Greenway. It was then discussed that the by-laws might be amended to recognize membership in the organization for an official representative from both St. John the Baptist and Tangipahoa Parishes.

Brief and preliminary discussion was had as to the type of committees which the organization might want to have. For example, an oversight committee which might work with any student involvement with the group and an advisory committee of community activists interested in the organization was considered. No action was taken on these ideas. However, Board members were asked to consider who could be asked to serve on the Advisory Committee and to be prepared to discuss their ideas at the next meeting.

Issues pertaining to the website for the organization were discussed as the current website was felt to need improvement. A communication committee composed of Ben Taylor, Za Maurin, Rev. Donald August, Alyson Lapuma and Galen Schum was constituted. Members of the committee were to meet with Amber Narrow, who is currently handling the website, to obtain further clarification of the plans pertaining to same. It was felt that the website for Turtle Cove was a good example of how the organization's website should be set up. The committee will determine who is handling Turtle Cove's website for future reference.

Ben Taylor offered to loan money to the organization for sums needed to file with the IRS. He is to make a formal, written proposal pertaining thereto. Ben Taylor also advised that he will speak with people in the canoeing industry to see what their ideas are for development of the Greenway since canoeing is a recreational activity frequently engaged in by outdoorsmen.

Frank Neelis advised that there is the possibility of trademarking a logo for the organization with the Secretary of State. No action was taken on this discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

