

FRIENDS OF MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG) BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2:08 PM. @ BEC'S ON THE LAKE RESTAURANT,  
FRENIER VILLAGE, LAPLACE, LA

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Ben Taylor, Melinda Holloway, Za Maurin, Galen Schum, Frank Neelis, Alma Chasez, Bridget Bailey (TP Gov.), Clay James (LA DOTD), Terri Abadie (StJBP Gov.) and George Becnel (host).

- A quorum of the board was achieved.

INTRODUCTION / WELCOME GUESTS:

James Sparacello (TSPSO, Manchac Greenway Commission)

Joey Hebert (Manchac Boating Association)

James Nelson, MD

Lauren Brinkman (TP Gov.)

Phil Graves (LA DOTD)

Jeffery Chitek (NOLA Kayak Tours)

A.J. Nash (NOLA Kayak Tours)

Josh Reppel (Wild Louisiana Tours)

MEETING MINUTES:

- Approved unanimously.

FINANCE:

- Treasurer Alma reported a bank balance of \$2,895.00

DEVELOPMENTS IN ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH:

- Za announced that the Laplace Lions Club has agreed to adopt Sunset Park at the foot of the Pass Manchac Bridge for St. John the Baptist Parish. Originally the brainchild of Dave Hargrave of the Lake Maurepas Society, it has been under the care of parish government who have improved and maintained this lakeside park. The Friends of the Manchac Greenway is delighted the Lions are taking it over and look forward to their work on this unique recreational site. In addition, FMG has proposed a walkway/pier at this site.

- George announced a casual 15-mile "Freedom Ride" bicycling event on the Greenway October 27, starting and ending at Bec's on the Lake in Frenier Village, Laplace. There will be a \$25 registration fee, a band and food/beverages available. A FMG information table will also be set up.

- An emergency water outage in the Laplace area prevented a presentation by St. John the Baptist Parish Planner Alexandra Carter, however, the group looks forward to meeting her at a future meeting as she plans to let us learn about an impending development on the Greenway.

### FMG WEBSITE:

- George gave a presentation of the new Friends of the Manchac Greenway web site that he has prepared. It is visually interesting, full of good information about our project and, as a work-in-progress, ready for contributed photographs and other content. A DONATE button via PayPal will also be included.  
Contact George Becnel at [becsatthelake@gmail.com](mailto:becsatthelake@gmail.com).

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

- Galen has continued his research on other membership programs and recommendations and will deliver a report at the next meeting. He advised that the board would have to make some decisions on the particulars of a new FMG program.

### ADOPT-A-ROAD:

- Ben reported on FMG support for the Louisiana Dept. of Transportation and Development Adopt-A-Road Program on the Greenway and others commented on their knowledge and experience with this program.

- The Manchac Boating Association has long adopted the mile on either side of Pass Manchac.

- Bec's on the Lake Restaurant has adopted the 1<sup>st</sup> mile up from Laplace, including the intersection of Peavine Rd. to Frenier Village.

- Friends of the Manchac Greenway has adopted the other end, at the Joyce WMA Swampwalk.

- The last two have submitted signed contacts to the LA DOTD. In addition, Canoe and Trail Adventures of New Orleans has committed to adopting the mile in the vicinity of Shell Bank Bayou and Wild Louisiana Tours and NOLA Kayak Tours are interested in joining the effort.

- After the meeting there was a discussion with the kayak tour operators present about some form of alliance for a possible fee program for upkeep at Shell Bank launch area.

- Tangipahoa Sheriff Daniel Edwards has agreed to adopt the mile at the Owl Bayou bridge and a LA DOTD application form has been sent to him.

- There's another 21 miles to go and Ben is working up a target list of potential adopters and program sponsors.

- Phil Graves with LA DOTD declared the official starting point for the mile signs on the Greenway shall be the north end of the traffic island at the intersection of Frenier Rd./ the northbound I-55 on-ramp. So be it.

- The LA DOTD's requirements are for adopters to watch an orientation video and understand the guidelines, stick to a quarterly pickup schedule to bag the trash and haul it to the side of the road for LA DOTD collection. Additionally, the DOTD provides new bags and loaner safety vests and a pair of nice, new road signs declaring the adopter of a mile of the Manchac Greenway. FMG will help recruit more "customers" and help facilitate the program.

- For information go to :[http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside\\_LaDOTD/Divisions/Operations/adopt-a-road/Pages/default.aspx](http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Operations/adopt-a-road/Pages/default.aspx) or contact Ben Taylor @ (985) 974-1810.

#### HAMMOND ROTARY CLUB OUTLINE:

- An outline from a presentation Frank and Ben recently did has been boiled down into a fact sheet for our project that can be transmitted or printed out. See attached.
- Similiar groups in Tangipahoa and St. John are being approached for presentations.

#### MANCHAC GREENWAY MASTER PLAN UPDATE

- ELOS Environmental and Meyer Engineers have been selected to research and create a master plan for the Greenway from the first allocation to Tangipahoa Parish from the Deepwater Horizon Spill Restoration fund. FMG board member Bridgett gave an update on the Tangipahoa Parish allocation and board members Melinda and Alma have been appointed to a committee to help provide FMG input.

#### PORT MANCHAC UPDATE:

- A board committee consisting of Frank, Alma, Lisa and Dr. Nelson have been charged with gathering facts that include public information about Port finances but have encountered the usual Freedom of Information Act rigmarole, “exclusionary detailing” and a pernicious \$.50 per page charge for photocopies. We have learned of other “methods to make them talk” and are pursuing those.
- Frank had a meeting with the LA DOTD Office of Multimodal Commerce, Deputy Commissioner and Director of Ports & Waterways, Port Priority Program in Baton Rouge to learn more about department policy.
- The delaying action of asking for a State Attorney General’s opinion about allowing other options for the use of the port’s property had already been rendered moot by LA DOTD policy and have also been subject to “exclusionary detailing.”

#### VEGETATION UPDATE:

- While visiting the LA DOTD in Baton Rouge, Frank also made contact with the Chief Landscape Architect to learn more about their Wildflower Program. It seems there are flower varieties that tend to dominate where they are sewn and can be used to suppress unwanted re-growth in prepared areas on the Greenway and other locations like a Ring Around the Lake bike trail.
- Frank also announced a meeting is planned with LA DOTD and Entergy to develop a demonstrate plot at the Owl Bayou area to encourage native vegetation and minimize maintenance costs.

#### PROMOTIONAL IDEAS:

- Galen proposed a one-day conference about the Greenway with presentations aimed at attracting canoe livery services to the area and educating them about area attraction, restaurants and other amenities.

NEXT MEETING:

- 2:00, Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at a location TBA

Adjourn