

**MEETING MINUTES for the FRIENDS OF THE MANCHAC GREENWAY - 2:00, 01/09/18 @ Bec's At The Lake Restaurant @ Frenier Village, Laplace**

In attendance were Frank Neelis, Melinda Holloway, Lisa Williams, Terri Abadie, Steve Perilloux, Bruce Lebrecque, Diana Esordi, Za Maurin, Ben Taylor, Galen Schum (by telephone) and Steve Faucheaux, representing the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office seat on the bi-parish Manchac Greenway Commission.

After introductions, approval of the previous meeting's minutes and a Treasurer's Report (\$2,961.79 – 193.39 for Vista Print) the first guest was:

Dr. Robert Moreau, Director of the SLU Turtle Cove Research Station in Galva who introduced his Environmental Management class - Jonathan Beard, Cecelia Boyd, Hayes Jones, Aaron Krolow and Maci Luquette - who presented their real-world, group project of an **“Eco-tourism Proposal for the Manchac Greenway.”** This detailed natural features on the Greenway and how to show them, tie-ins with other tour activities, proposed hiking trails, kayaking/canoeing routes, marketing, science tours, bicycling lanes and fishing piers. Frank described how this report is a forerunner for a larger SLU study that will be funded by BP settlement money allocated for the Greenway and thanked the class for this effort and for their professionalism. Today's report is in addition to this group's previously submitted **“Roadmap to a Master Plan for the Manchac Greenway.”**

Melinda Holloway described plans for the **“Spring Roll”** Friends of the Manchac Greenway cycling event to be held on the Greenway March 24, 2018. Discussions included distances, duration, policing, funding and sites to be featured along the route.

Because of spontaneous, unforeseen technological failures, Ben Taylor gave a strictly verbal report on the Friend's response to **Entergy's offer** to provide labor, equipment and materials for infrastructure improvements on the Greenway. The sites were for canoe launches and overlooks at Upper and Lower Owl Bayou, east and west Shell Bank Bayou and suggested treatments for fishing spots at any number of sloughs (equalization channels) along the Greenway.

Steve Perilloux reported on the findings of his research on the possibility of using an under-utilized interstate exit ramp as a way to **“bridge the gap”** between the northern end of the Greenway and the road into Ponchatoula by detailing procedures, obstacles and strategies. Frank inquired about the next steps that need to be taken in pursuit of this inquiry and Steve agreed to do additional research.

Frank Neelis reported on the crisis at **Port Manchac** over a proposed graphite battery manufacturing operation and a suggestion that this facility could be **“re-purposed”** for eco-tourism in order to meet more modern needs and to attain greater economic justification. He proposed stronger cooperation between the Friends, the new Save Manchac Coalition, the Manchac Boating Association, the Lake

Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and others in support of the integrity of the vital Manchac land bridge (isthmus). Frank solicited input for this new effort as a meeting of the Save Our Manchac group will be announced soon (see them on Facebook).

Diane Esordi gave a brief report on progress in managing the Friend's social media and **web site**.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Manchac Greenway is scheduled for 2:00 PM on February 20 at the Turtle Cove research Station classroom in Galva, LA on the beautiful Galva Canal.

We extend our warm thanks to George Becnel for the generous hospitality he showed us at his fine restaurant.