



MEETING MINUTES – Friends of the Manchac Greenway (FMG) Board Meeting
St. John Public Library, Laplace, LA, May 24, 2017, 2:15 PM

In attendance:

Christie Gardiner (Middendorf's Restaurant), Mike and Diana Esordi, Terri Abadie (St. John Parish), Galen Schum, Alma Chazez, Steve Perilloux (LADOTD), Frank Neelis and Ben Taylor.

Galen welcomed all to St. John the Baptist Parish and introductions were made around the table.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and adopted.

Financial:

- Secretary/Treasurer Alma Chazez delivered this report and mentioned that invoices and receipts are required for all reimbursements and purchases. Reminder to Board Members: annual contributions (\$50.00 suggested) are due and can be sent to FoMG, P.O. Box 194, Robert, La. 70455.

Bylaws:

- Frank proposed to increase the FMG Board size to up to 15 persons and this was accepted by vote. Frank then nominated Melinda Holloway, Mike and Diane Esordi who were accepted by the board.

- Frank proposed to divide the duties of the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board into Secretary and Treasurer and nominated Ben as Secretary and Alma remains as Treasurer. This was accepted. Frank suggested meeting minutes could be conveyed via the FMG e-mailing list as a way to update parties interested in the Greenway.

Website/Facebook:

- Diana reported this committee has met with website master Amber Narro and the site <http://www.manchacgreenway.org> has been improved with the new logo and other features. Photos and other content were solicited and can be submitted to diana@duotribe.com. Diana also requested permission to administer the Facebook page and has worked with Ben to make this so. Lauren has also been named as an administrator of the page.

Brochure:

- Mike and Diana reported that a simplified layout that emphasizes FMG membership has been prepared and will be distributed for examination and comment. Ben and the others thanked them for their input.

General discussion:

- Frank reported how he and Ben took advantage of a combination litter collection event and informal rededication of the North Pass Boat Launch by Parish officials to distribute surveys to boaters that solicited their opinions on how the launch can be improved with new features and services. Since signing an agreement to manage this facility, several needed repairs and improvements, including a canoe dock have been made by the parish. Frank and Ben also spoke to Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller and Chief Administrative Officer Joe Thomas about potential enhancements and public/private relationships. The results of the survey will be disseminated at a later date.
- Frank again thanked the Esordis of Duotribe for the new FMG logo and demonstrated its use on new stationary. Mike announced a "style book" would be distributed to describe proper typeface, colors and other stylistic features that will help insure uniformity in FMG presentations.
- Frank inquired about the need to trademark and copyright protections for FMG materials and Diane detailed how this works. Other aspects of possible FMG public presentations were discussed including recent meetings with staff at FMG supporter Middendorf's Restaurant and a the possibility of a special batch of Manchac Greenway Ale created by the new Low Road Brewery in Hammond.
- There were discussions about an upcoming running event at Middendorf's Restaurant on November 11 where we are invited to set up a table, the possibility of a second Hurricane Memorial event in September and the ins and outs of a "Rubber Alligator" event patterned after Rubber Ducky events. The FMG Membership Program is set to launch at the November event and details on literature, decals, equipment, etc. were discussed. Mike, Galen, Za, Rev. Don and Alma were fingered to be involved in this committee work.
- Frank announced a recent spread in the Hammond Daily Star about a grant proposal for shoulder improvements on the Greenway in Tangipahoa Parish came "out of the blue" and was great publicity for our project. He elaborated this is to be a "Tangipahoa Trails" shoulder overlay and striping for cycling. There was discussion with Steve Perrioux of the LADOTD about the need for surface preparation, merits of different overlay treatments and maintenance cost including equipment needed for regular sweeping. Frank mentioned BP funding may apply to the Greenway and asked Terri and Galen to encourage SJtB Parish to collaborate in this effort. Frank also noted his conversations with officials in Ponchatoula and Hammond to assist.
- Frank reported he has made a \$300,000 grant request to Entergy for vegetation improvements on the Greenway including his envisioned Native Plant Project and noted his recent tour of the Greenway with a senior official with Entergy.
- Frank made note that LADoT&D's Public Works and Water Resources Division has commenced a basin-wide hydrological study of water management in response to the flooding experienced in the western Maurepas area this past year. Several other groups, including the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation have emphasized the need for this kind of study, especially in light of the recent attempt in the Louisiana Legislature to gut the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Scenic Streams Act without a comprehensive understanding of how the basin works hydrologically. Preachy Ben reminded everyone that all this is relevant to the Greenway because the isthmus it sits on is vulnerable and a vital "line of defense" protecting Lake

Maurepas and wetlands and communities beyond. Frank will submit an editorial to the Morning Advocate on this issue.

Adjourn.