

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the FRIENDS OF MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG)  
2:16, SEPT. 26, 2017 at FRENIER LANDING RESTAURANT, LAPLACE

PURPOSE: MARKETING / EVENTS

In attendance were Ben Taylor, Lauren Brinkman, Frank Neelis, Donald August, Bruce Labreque, Steve Perilloux, Lisa Williams, Bridget Bailey, Galen Schum, Za Maurin, Melinda Holloway and Alma Chasez.

Introductions/ Welcome to new Board Member Bridget Bailey and other guests / quorum call

Review of meeting minutes of 8/14/17 – corrections, motion for acceptance: Lauren, Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>, accepted

Financial report by Alma: \$3,055.18 on 8/23/17. Motion to accept – Za, Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup>, accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There was a review of Grants considered or applied for: NALCO, Entergy, Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO), Good Done Great

There was discussion of the status of the MG Web Site, Face Books Pages and Paypal account.

EVENTS that FMG will attend to either collect information, provide input or solicit support:

FEMA/Tangipahoa Planning Dept. meeting 10/11

Land Trust of Louisiana paddling trip on the Tangipahoa River 10/8

Complete Streets (roadways with crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.) seminars in Hammond on 9/6 - 9/26 (These have been adopted by all of St. John the Baptist Parish and must be adopted by individual municipalities in Tangipahoa Parish.)

Turtle Cove fundraiser 10/28\*

Land Trust of Louisiana polo games and fundraiser 11/5\*

Middendorf Fun Run 11/11\*

Presentation at SLU 10/11

\* FMG will set up a table and hand out literature at these events. Board members are encouraged to attend.

There was also discussion about having a table at the upcoming Andouille Festival in Laplace.

Melinda led discussion on a bicycling event on the Greenway, envisioning 25 mi. from Frenier to North Pass and back. Topics included signage, refreshment stations, interpretive information, permitting from state and parish.

Alma led discussion on a canoeing event using the services of Canoe & Trail Adventures. They will also consider paddling Owl Bayou and other possible Tangipahoa sites besides their familiar Shell Bank launch. Topics included details of the Canoe & Trail proposal and patterning after similar events conducted by local church and school groups.

MARKETING:

Membership Forms/Greenway Brochure – This is still in production in a collaborative effort with FMG and the Tangipahoa Convention and Visitors Bureau. A pdf of this has been distributed to FMG Board members for comment. It was envisioned it could be distributed at parish Rest Area/ Information Centers. In the meantime, a temporary brochure is available.

The Manchac Greenway Poster will be published soon and will include small logos from several of the organizations that are in support of the project.

#### OUTSTANDING ISSUES:

There have been reports of areas on the Greenway in St. John Parish originally imagined as public property may actually be in private hands. As the core part of the Manchac Greenway encompasses old U.S. 51, it's shoulders and right-of-way there is no foreseen conflict with these potentially private properties with our project.

#### NEXT FMG MEETING:

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2:00 at the Clausen Building on Club Deluxe Rd. in Hammond

*The Friends of the Manchac Greenway wishes to give heartfelt thanks to Tangipahoa Parish Planner Alyson Lapuma who, upon her retirement, is giving her seat to Tangipahoa Parish Community Outreach Director Bridget Bailey. Alyson has given our project great support from the beginning through her ideas, time, energy and resources. We wish her a happy retirement and look forward to her continued involvement on the Greenway.*

#### MEETING ADJOURNMENT

#### ADDITIONAL GOOD GREENWAY NEWS:

The City of Ponchatoula has announced funding for its Complete Streets program with new, wide sidewalks, ramped for bicycles and wheelchair access. These will link its downtown commercial district with outlying parks, schools, library and post office - improvements anticipated to eventually tie in to the Manchac Greenway.

The docks at the Ruddock Boat Launch in St. John the Baptist Parish are scheduled to be renovated. With its interstate access, boat ramps and large parking area it is a wonderful asset on the southern part of the Greenway that should enjoy many new improvements as this site evolves.

Robert Moreau, Director of Southeastern Louisiana University's Turtle Cove Research Station on the Greenway has committed resources including a considerable amount of his time and effort to create displays that detail the rich History of Pass Manchac as well as descriptions and images of the plants and wildlife that abound on the Isthmus of Manchac. One set of displays will be permanently installed at the Turtle Cove Research Station on Pass Manchac. Additionally, elements from this display will be donated to the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Dept. for use on their Joyce Wildlife Management Area Swamp Walk Boardwalk, located in the swamps and marshes south of Ponchatoula. These will be another welcome asset to our Greenway.

