

FRIENDS OF THE MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG) MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, 2:16 PM, FEBRUARY 20, 2018, TURTLE COVE CLASSROOM @ GALVA, LA

IN ATTENDANCE: Kim Coates (Save Manchac Coalitions), Joey Hebert (Manchac Boating Association), Dwight Williams (LPBF), Clay James (LADOTD), Steve Perilloux (LADOTD and FoMG), Lisa Williams, Melinda Holloway, Ben Taylor, Galen Schum and Alma Chalez.

WELCOMING, INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

PURPOSE - EVENTS REVIEW/SCHEDULE/MANCHAC GREENWAY COMMISSION/RESTORE ACT

ACCEPTANCE of MINUTES OF 01/18/2018 - Ben firsted, Lisa seconded, passed

FINANCIAL REPORT – Alma stated as of 01/31/18 there was \$2,936.79 in our checking account, less the registration fee for a booth at the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival. It was proposed that Za return the \$350.00 donation from Marathon Oil for our Spring Roll cycling event as it has been postponed for a year and we should also send a letter thanking them for their donation and ask them to please consider another donation for this event in 2019. Frank mentioned an upcoming invoice for accounting services vis-à-vis the IRS.

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT EVENTS –

Melinda reported the Spring Roll bicycling event on the Greenway did not acquire enough sponsors, in part, because of the short time allowed for planning the event; though much was learned in this short period of time. In the post-mortem discussions: hiring a third-party racing event coordinator who could deliver a “turn-key” event should be considered; Frank declared a more thorough plan of action was needed; effective insurance was probably the highest cost; more time to plan, budget and develop the event was needed, especially in fund raising.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ENTITIES on the MANCHAC LANDBRIDGE/ISTHMUS –

Kim Coates with the Save Manchac Coalition and Joey Hebert with the Manchac Boating Association discussed collaborating with our group, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and other entities concerned with the environmental, economic and cultural health of and on the isthmus.

Plans for upcoming litter pick-up campaigns on the Greenway and adjoining waterways were also discussed (see following).

UPCOMING EVENTS –

The Maurepas Boating Assoc. Trash Pick-up is scheduled for March 24, 2018.

Along with the aforementioned groups, other parties approached with participating in this Tangipahoa event include the Tangipahoa Sheriff's Dept., Tangipahoa Parish Government (they have a large dumpster already in place @ North Pass and administrative assistance by Ginger Tastet), SLU Turtle Cove, the US Coast Guard, LADOTD, Tangi Clean, Entergy, LAWL&F, Middendorf Restaurant, Tangipahoa Parish Council (Bobby Cortez and Harry Levigne), Tangi Tourism, LPBF (they ask that pounds picked up and numbers of participants be tracked), local media, cycling and canoeing groups.

Preparations include: acquisition of tents and tables, t-shirts, lunch/food/beverages, trash bags & grabbers, maps of target spots and targeting (Frank to do windshield survey), safety, advertisement/ flier and registration.

For information on this event please contact Ginger Tastet at 748-2265, Kim Coates at 259-5566, Frank Neelis at 225-223-2222 or the Manchac Boating Assoc. at mba@eatel.org.

The St. John the Baptist Parish/ Keep America Beautiful - April 7, 2018. Za Maurin, as head of this local anti-litter organization, has conducted this parish-wide event for ten years and is making plans to also work on the Manchac Greenway. We encourage all Friends of the Manchac Greenway members to participate.

Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival - April 14-15, 2018

The Friends of the Manchac Greenway will have a tent on the west side of the Country Market (by the tracks) on both days. Frank proposed handing out a Greenway bags to festival-goers. Ben, Galen, Lisa, Frank and Melinda are on this committee.

Meeting of the Manchac Greenway Commission – February 27, 2018 a deadline for multi-year funding (from Tangipahoa Parish's share of the BP settlement) of proposed Greenway projects was to be discussed. The Friends of the Manchac Greenway submitted a list of projects that includes a master plan for the Parish controlled Carter/Reagan Interstate Rest Area at the I-55 Manchac Exit, canoe launches at Upper and Lower Owl Bayou, treatment of select "fishing cuts or sloughs" (drainage equalization channels), re-paving intact sections of the Old Hammond Highway roadbed for fishing platforms, foot-paths and cycling and replacing bridges, design and installation of signage for natural, historic and cultural sites, a marketing master plan and budget for tourism and recreation, vegetation management and a master plan for vegetation management on the Greenway, resurfacing, striping, signage and a maintenance program for the road shoulder, an engineering and cost analysis for the last mile of the Manchac Greenway bike trail to Southwest Railroad Ave. in Ponchatoula and construction of a self contained handicap accessible fishing pier on Pass Manchac, North Pass or the I-55 borrow canal.

OTHER ITEMS –

- Frank passed around copies of the legislation establishing the mission and latitude given to Port Manchac.
- Ben suggested that since all parties concerned with the Isthmus of Manchac that FMG and other citizen groups maintain a line of communication with the Port of Manchac by including them in their public communications.
- The FMG website has recently been updated, thanks to the Duotribe of Mike & Diane.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 2:00 @ Frenier Landing Restaurant, Frenier

ADJOURN