

## CRNA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2019, 6:30 –8:00 PM

8540 SPRUCE ST. CORNER LEONIDAS ST., 70118

**Present:** Nathan Schwam, Meagan Impastato, Bill Ives, David Alvarez, Drew Ward, Gwen Smith

**Residents:** Lynn Frank, Treeneicell Bowie, Trina Randolph, Kim Nguyen, Gary Smith

**Others:** Sonya Brown, Nicole Bouie, Maggie Kaiser, Aimee Freeman & Stephen Mosgrove

Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM, with a quorum present.

### New Business:

- **GNO Fair housing** – Cashauna Hill, executive director, spoke about the non-profit she represents, which works on affordable housing, housing discrimination, policy work, trainings for 1<sup>st</sup> time home buyers, and help with homeowner protection including helping with foreclosures. Right now, they are doing a lot of work with people whose property tax assessments recently went up. Their phone number is (504)596-2100. She handed out literature re: the process of appealing your recent assessment and making sure seniors are aware of their rights. If your assessment has increased by more than 50% it will be phased in. Amendment on the October ballot, Proposition 4 a vote in favor (must be voted for by the entire state) to allow the City of New Orleans to allow property tax freezes beyond the 50% increases to include seniors &/or residents who live in gentrified neighborhoods. Discussions were had re: Rollbacks – Constitution requires a rollback, but the council will probably roll them forward, seemingly the only question is by how much. There are conversations surrounding the issue of non-profits not paying property taxes, to potentially have a scheduled fee system in lieu of taxes. Bill mentioned that the Boston area has had this structure—fee in lieu of taxes—implemented for some years now, so there is at least precedent on this issue. Discussions were had re: minimum wage increases & our need for local control over same, as well as the need for making the cost of government cheaper to help with the need for more taxes.
- **New STR Regulations** – Preliminary discussions were had, as this was just passed today.
- **Approval of June Meeting Minutes** – delayed until the next meeting.
- **Financial Report:** given by Nathan Schwam, Treasurer of the Board, there is \$2765.82 in the account + the \$1,000.00 that came from the Tricentennial Grant
- **Catch Basins** – we requested that someone from DPW or S&WB come talk with us about drains. Drew provided updates from his field observations and a bit of history: Leonidas St. wasn't paved for the 1<sup>st</sup> time until 1979, it was dirt. Our city's original drainage system plans called for no pavement or asphalt (just permeable paving (i.e. bricks, dirt roads). SELAs repaving of the neutral grounds of Claiborne Ave. is a major problem, specifically the non-permeable concrete curbing surrounding the neutral grounds blocks water from getting into them, also there height above street level blocks water from getting into them. The clogging of our connector canals is also a major problem. The city is actually cleaning some catch basins several times over and over again but this will not cure these other issues.

### Announcements:

- **Geaux NOLAVegan** – Grand opening on Sept 7, 2019 in the space nextdoor to Nicole's community center.
- **Next meeting will be September 12, 2019.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Meagan Impastato, Board Secretary