

**CRNA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, August 13, 2020 6:30-8:00PM**  
**VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Julianna Padgett, Bill Ives, Meagan Impastato, David Alvarez, Bernard Guste & Nicole Bouie.

**Residents:** Betty DiMarco, Marvel Robertson, James Raby, Joyce Thomas, Toby Chu, John-Michael Johnson

**Others:** Councilman Joe Giarrusso, Claire Byun (Dist. A), Stephen Mosgrove Mayors office of Neighborhood Engagement, Lesley Thomas, Gionne Jordan, Immanuel Gilen, Zane Katsikis, Matt Palmer, Marlene Ziegler, Dave & Ernestine Thomas, Mike & Gwen (Zimple St.), Paul, James Briscoe, Kahlida Lloyd (Together New Orleans)

Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35 PM, without a quorum present. The meeting began with a moment of silence to reflect and acknowledge what has been going on in the world right now, and specifically to acknowledge the passing of Mr. Jerry Davis who was the brother in law of Tammy Butler.

**Joe Giarrusso Updates regarding:**

- Doubles to Dorms
  - o Joe began by expressing gratitude for all the neighbor input, the meeting was successful! Joe has begun meetings with several neighborhood associations effected by this.
  - o Council has spoken with Tulane and has encouraged them to be involved in conversations with neighbors.
  - o Interim Zoning District (“IZD”) in effect for 1 year.
  - o Looking into some exclusions: i.e. allowing expansions on homestead exemption properties to allow residents to do additions having nothing to do with dorms.
  - o Will continue into looking into how these restrictions could work: i.e. parking, number of bedrooms, size, lot size, etc. He looks forward to parking study.
- S&WB
  - o Joe is asking that we have a neighborhood point person to identify and submit any billing issues to council Dist. A’s office. **For our neighborhood, drop off problem S&WB Bills to Betty Di Marco 8221 Birch**
  - o Joe is hearing of some individuals’ most egregious billing issues finally being addressed.

**Truck Routes**

- o Issues on Henry Clay & Gen. Ogden
- o Need to Beef up Enforcement of the existing laws
- o Need to require reporting by the department tasked with enforcement
- o Will look at modifying or replacing existing ordinances if enforcement is still problematic or insufficient.

**Administration’s Land Use Meeting**

- o New Head of STR office – had been vacant for awhile
- o Administrative Hearings to begin again
- o Sent them District A’s top STR, health & safety complaints

**Personnel Changes at Division A**

- o Katie is Leaving his office for another opportunity. Joe is glad for her career advancement but so sad to see her leave.
- o Clare will be taking on more roles and will be focusing on land use and other like issues, so we will be seeing more of her.

### **Stephen Mosgrove – Liaison Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Engagement Updates regarding:**

- Census - Reminding everybody to remind everyone to fill out their census
  - o Please continue to encourage others to respond to the 2020 census it is a critical need for the city & state.
  - o Deadline changed to September 30, 2020 to respond to the census – Federal Government shortened the deadline by a month.
- Evacuations – City is bringing the volunteer coordination and logistics in-house, was using the services of company called Evacuteer.
  - o Our neighborhood needs more volunteers for the Mater Dolorosa & Palmer Park Evac sites
    - Ex of Good Volunteer – Calm, self-assured/self-confident, doesn’t take people’s stress reactions personally, etc.
- City is continuing COVID Meals
  - o Using local restaurants to secure food for local people
- Neighbor Leaders Round Table Aug 27, 2020 – Main Topic Infrastructure
  - o Please register.
- Peter Bowen Hire
  - o Stephen noted that while the Lens Article focuses on Mr. Bowen’s past work place (for an STR company), he now works for the mayor & her administration and will be accountable to them.
    - Bill would note that Peter Bowen was against STR regulations, was the former general manager of major short-term rental operator Sonder, and putting him in charge of major departments like Code Enforcement & Safety and Permits, with responsibilities including short-term rental permitting and enforcement is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.
  - o Stephen noted that the Key Goal of this administration is to improve quality of life, having city departments function more efficiently as well as improve the interface between departments & citizens to better serve citizens from a customer service standpoint.

### **Updates:**

#### **Housing/Zoning**

- HANO/Iris Development – Recent meeting with Iris Development and our neighbors
  - o Major Concerns: Parking and lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup> exit in the back of the development.
  - o Section 106 Review – IDs historic properties that will possibly be effected by these developments, and seeks to mitigate any adverse effects . The hopes is that this will give us another opportunity to sit down with Iris, HUD, the City & HANO. At this point the City is waiting on the environmental impact study to be submitted.
- HANO/TCC – lots on Monroe St. & Leonidas
  - o Lots were owned by a company called Trinity Community Center that was to build a community center and their original purchase of these lots was funded by the state for the express purpose of building a community center.
  - o TCC sold some of the lots but couldn't sell others because of a HUD covenant that it be a community center.
  - o Recent court decision allowing them to sell these lots unburdened by the HUD covenant.
    - Betty hasn’t heard back from HANO’s attorney as to whether they will appeal.

**Voting** – Runoff Election for First City Court Judge August 15, 2020, this Saturday.

- Speaker Kahilda Lloyd with Together New Orleans & Together Louisiana
  - o Long Term Strategy to Increase Voter Turn-out in every election
  - o Efforts to GOTV & Organize voting
  - o Officially launching project to identify neighborhood liaisons to help identify block captains. Calling people in your neighborhood to ask them to be block captains.
  - o Together Louisiana Phone Bank to recruit Block Captains for Precinct Organizing Project -Neighborhood Voter Organizing Saturday | August 15 2 shifts | 9am-12 pm & 12 pm-3pm via Zoom Register  
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApf-6qqz4uHNYZGd6Bw0WvBI9oiyWmcEtj>
  - o This is Bi-Partisan

### **New Issues:**

**Community Pantry Location 8511 Hickory St** – anyone is free to walk there and take what they need. If you would like to donate, donate at this location.

### **Trucks on S. Carrollton - the 2 lane section in our neighborhood is still considered a trucking route**

- James Briscoe has been in touch with Joe Giarrusso's office and Stephen Mosgrove regarding these issues, noting that most other similarly situated streets in the city have the no truck route consideration and he would like the same for South Carrollton, especially where S. Carrollton funnels from 6 lanes into 2 at the end of the streetcar line. He would note that this stretch of S. Carrollton is designated as a historic district and boasts 8 different structures with historical designations, while the 2 lane section of St. Charles has 10 such structures and is a no truck route.
- Paul seconded James' thoughts on how historic this stretch of S. Carrollton is, and noted how much large trucks are tearing up this section of S. Carrollton, which was just recently re-done post Katrina, but is now again in disrepair due to overuse by trucks. He would like to see more congruency between historic districts and a city government that better serves its citizens in this regard.
- Claire Byun with Joe Giarrusso's office noted that they are working on more signage (Willow St., etc.), enforcement and tightening up some language in the existing ordinance and beefing up enforcement of existing regulations. She noted that if this does not work, they will look into amending or replacing ordinances.
- Betty noted that there is also the increased traffic of various private schools and public schools in our neighborhood with their buses, along with tourists buses, thus Carrollton being a truck route is too much traffic. Betty also noted that Nashville & Broadway and that this puts more pressure on our stretch of S. Carrollton, which like Nashville & Broadway is also only a 2 lane road with a neutral ground.
- Stephen noted that there may be some upcoming talks with the transportation department where they may think about re-working some truck routes. Julianna noted we will continue to follow up.

### **NORD - Harrell Playground**

- Park has been opened to neighbors to walk on the track 10AM – 7:30 PM
- A coach for our neighborhood football team noted that he is unable to get time on the field for his neighborhood team to practice, because all time slots are taken up by other organizations who pay to use the field. Betty to follow up with NORD on this issue.

### **Evictions**

- Concerns about how many people will be evicted with the re-opening of First City Court

- We have reached out to Joe, who said it was a state issue so we have been in touch with Aimee Freeman our State Rep regarding this issue.
- The City created a rental assistance program but there wasn't nearly enough funding. City is advocating to the state and federal government for more support and has created a GoFundMe due to the current lack of state & federal support.
- Betty noted that there is an issue with the working poor still not being able to afford their rent right now but having previously made too much to qualify for funding.

**David Alvarez** – a candidate for school board spoke about his candidacy, he is also a CRNA Board Member.

- He noted how proud he is to be part of CRNA
- Why he's running for school board: he plans to set up policies to help parents & students grow into healthier human beings and he thinks this is the perfect time to reassess this and thinks he is the perfect person to further this goal. Among various other reasons.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meagan Impastato, Board Secretary