

Faubourg Lafitte Resident Meeting: March 2012

Date & time: Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 6 pm

Location: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, 2200 Lafitte Street

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 6 pm

Participants:

Faubourg Lafitte residents:

Paralee Amison

Joyce Giles

Shirley Daufauchard

Sidney Daufauchard

Mary Johnson

Dian La Blanc

Marion Le Blanc

Terry Jordan

Keith Dalmas

Sheila Condoll

Janice Wells

Emelda Paul

Beryl Thomas

Iris Brown

Ferdinand Handy

Leslie Johnson

Trellis Thompson

Kavonne Amison

Iris Brown

Juanita Bellizone

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services: N. Renae Davis

Providence Community Housing: Andreanecia Morris, Maggie Tishman

Enterprise Community Partners: Matt Morrin Brandon Dughman

Interstate Realty Management: Dora Lee Preston-Price

Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center: D'Ana Smith, Myra Fields

Minutes:

Opening Prayer

Emelda Paul, Former Lafitte Resident Council

- Meeting convened at 6:08 pm.

Community Supportive Services Plan

Robin Johnson, consultant

- STNC will be eliminating programs that no longer work and create programs that serve the residents' needs.
- We surveyed 51 residents (of the 134 families onsite) and 10 offsite, Faubourg Lafitte homeowner residents.
- People indicated that they would like job opportunities, job trainings, opportunities to own their home, etc.

- Flyers and newsletter are a formal way to share information; informal networks between neighbors need to be harnessed as well.
- Heads of households are predominantly women, so we need to focus on traditionally female lines of work, like culinary arts and medical industry, rather than just construction, which has been the emphasis so far.
- We are looking to make summer camps (for acting, sewing, sports) educational as well.
- We would like to start using the kitchen for entrepreneurial ventures.
- STNC will become a gateway for education and employment

Council District A

Councilmember Susan Guidry & Sherry Wilder, community liaison

- Our office has been concerned about 2 things: 1) ensuring security and 2) forming neighborhood organization. These really go hand-in-hand: An organized neighborhood sends a message of security and helps protect their residents.
- The Lafitte Greenway, a 3-mile linear park that will connect 9 neighborhoods, will come right by this area and provide much of the recreation opportunities that residents said they wanted in the survey. I encourage all of you to come out to the planning charrettes. We want the kids to take ownership of the Lafitte Greenway. Construction will start by the end of this year and be completed by 2014.

Recreation Update

Brandon Dughman, Enterprise Community Partners & Mary Johnson, Faubourg Lafitte resident

- Development team is going to build a playground where the construction trailers were, next to Sojourner Truth. We will try to have it installed by the summer.
- We are conducting design charrettes to figure out what residents want on the playgrounds.
- We would like to have one big playground here and a smaller playground for kids at the Claiborne side of the site.
- We are also considering starting a tennis program. We are talking to the US Tennis Association, who has made New Orleans a priority for 10-and-under tennis. There is currently no timeline for that.
- If residents have further suggestions, please let me know.

Property Management Update

Dora Lee Preston-Price, Interstate Realty Management

- I am the new property manager. You can call me Dora.

- We noticed that some of the blinds are broken on site. We will be inspecting the units, and will send out a notice ahead of time letting you know what we're looking for.
- If you're putting items outside for trash collection, you need to let Interstate know. They only come one day of the week. We will confirm when we find out what day that will be.
- We are installing fencing in between the buildings.
- If you have not received a parking permit, you should come talk to the office. Effective last Monday, we are towing vehicles that do not have a permit. You can get a temporary guest pass. Anyone can still park on the street; the parking permits only apply to the internal parking lots.
- It's against regulation to put aluminum foil in the windows.
- In the bigger buildings, we will be talking to folks about not putting your bikes in the hallways.
- We would like to conduct a small resident survey to figure out if there are any additional concerns that residents need addressed.

Faubourg Lafitte Construction Update

Matt Morrin, Enterprise

- We are moving forward with installing fences between houses.

Faubourg Lafitte Neighborhood Association

Emelda Paul, Former Lafitte Resident Council & Andreanecia Morris, Providence Community Housing

- We are taking charge of our community to form a neighborhood association.
- We are also starting a neighborhood watch.
- To help form the neighborhood association we have gotten the help of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.
- We are also forming the Soul Steppers Walking Club, which will provide pedometers to help you monitor how far you walk everyday.

Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center Updates

D'Ana Smith & Myra Fields, STNC

- Please grab a calendar.
- We are registering voters at STNC. Fill out an application and we will bring it to the Voter Registration office for you.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.