

# Faubourg Lafitte Resident Meeting: June 2012

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*Date & time:* Wednesday, June 13, 2012, 6 pm

*Location:* Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, 2200 Lafitte Street

*Next meeting:* Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 6 pm

## *Participants:*

*Faubourg Lafitte residents:*

*Providence Community Housing:* Terri North, Andreanecia Morris, Maggie Tishman

*Enterprise Community Partners:* Brandon Dughman

*Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center:* D'Ana Smith, Rebekah Simon

## *Minutes:*

### *Opening Prayer*

*Led by Emelda Paul*

- Meeting convened at 6:06 pm.

### *City Assisted Hurricane Evacuation Plan*

*Amanda Fay & Courtni Blackstone, Evacuteer.org*

- In the case of an evacuation, the City is running evacuation pick-up services at 17 different bus stops. The pickup point closest to Faubourg Lafitte is at Warren Easton High School. Pamphlets were distributed that included a map of all the pickup points.
- Once at the pickup point, evacuees will fill out a registration ticket, get on an RTA bus, and go to UPT, where they will either take a bus to another city or take a bus to the airport and fly to another city.
- If you're interested in participation, you should call 311 to register. They will assist you with any special needs you might have. You can also fill out paperwork tonight and turn it in if that's easier.
- If you'd like to be trained to be an Evacuteer to help coordinate the evacuation, let us know. There is a mandatory 1.5-hour training, which includes free pizza.
- You can find more information related to hurricane preparedness at [www.nolaready.gov](http://www.nolaready.gov).
- Q: Can you bring pets?  
A: Yes. You have to care for your pet, and they must be in a crate. The SPCA will be there to provide very basic crates, leashes and pet food if you need it.

### *Liberty's Kitchen Employability Training Program*

*Dennis Bagneris*

- Liberty's Kitchen is a restaurant and skills training program for under-supported and at-risk youth. It is located on South Broad Street, just across from the criminal courts,

where it has been for the past 2.5 years. The restaurant is open to the public between 7:30 am to 2:30 pm.

- We serve healthy food but focus on healthy minds, behaviors and decisions for 16-24 year old youth.
- In contrast to Café Reconcile, our program is very small and we serve only healthy food, like salads and sandwiches.
- The program is 12 weeks long, and participants have to sign themselves in.
- We provide medical assessments, drug and HIV screenings, assistance opening bank account and website, and tips about how to dress and prepare for job interviews. Our graduates also learn about customer service and hospitality industry.
- We have a relationship with NOPLAY, which helps youth get their GED.
- We also serve healthy lunches for kids at New Orleans College Prep.
- We do not guarantee employment.
- If applicants are older than 24, we will refer them to other organizations.

## Lafitte Oral History Project

*Bethany Rogers, Cornerstones & Royce Osborne, Spyboy Productions*

- We are going to be creating a booklet, a short documentary film, and an exhibit, to be housed at SNC.
- If you're comfortable with a longer, individual interview, please contact us.
- We're going to have two story collection events. One on Saturday, June 23 at STNC and another after the next Resident Meeting on July 13.
- Rachel Bruenlin is also part of the team. She helped Ashley Nelson write a book about Lafitte.
- We've started to line up some of the important, famous folks that came up in the Lafitte.
- If you're not comfortable with an interview or can't make the story-sharing events, we're happy to have you just share photographs or other artifacts. Please contact us.

## Recreation Update

*Brandon Dughman, Enterprise Community Partners*

- A playground is in the works for the lot where the construction trailers were, just next to STNC. We have developed two possible designs based on workshops where kids participated in where they picked out what they want.
- We are waiting on pricing for water fountain and lighting but hope to have playground construction started in the next month or so.
- We are also getting tennis equipment and have been talking to the US Tennis Association (USTA) about getting a program started on the tennis courts here.
- You might have noticed that there are two big tanks at 2211 and 2209 Lafitte. These are cisterns that capture rainwater from the gutters and water the plants and trees. We need community's help making sure that no one tinkers with it. It is a pilot project. If it goes well, we will have more around the site.
- Construction is pretty much finished in Phase II. We have about 120 of these rented, with about 20 more to go.

- Q: How long until the playground is ready?  
A: After construction starts, it'll take 4-6 weeks until kids can play with it. We're trying to start ASAP so kids can play on it this summer. It's taking longer than we thought to price quotes for certain items. The goal is to have it ready before school starts.
- Q: Will it have a fence?  
A: Yes, a short fence, to let people know that someone is keeping an eye on it. It will be shorter than the STNC fence and will have landscaping and trees too.
- Q: Is the cistern for all units?  
A: It's just for the one double right now, but if it works, we will do it for more units. It only water shrubs and trees, not grass, and uses gravity to work.
- Q: What is this with not having more than 2 people on the porch after 8 pm?  
A: That is correct. It's in the loitering section of the lease.

## Sojourner Truth Updates

*D'Ana Smith, STNC*

- We have a revamped newsletter.
- Zumba classes on Monday and Wednesday, free for Faubourg Lafitte residents.
- Wealth development services and Moneywi\$e continue.
- Our Section 3 coordinator is no longer at the Center but we are still accepting Section 3 applications. Someone from Providence will pick that up and give the applicant a call.
- We are currently running a summer camp, Mon-Fri, 9 am to 3 pm, for children 6-13. Lunch is provided. There are slots still available. If you're interested, please call and ask to speak to Rebekah Simon.
- Girl Scouts will be up and running again in August when school starts up again.

## Father's Day celebration!

- This is dedicated to all the fathers, and all the mothers that are both mother and father to their children.
- Claudette Austin read a poem about fathers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.