

Faubourg Lafitte Resident Meeting: July 2012

Date & time: Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 6 pm

Location: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, 2200 Lafitte Street

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 6 pm

Participants:

Faubourg Lafitte residents: Rita Clark, Tyistsha Johnson, Juanita Bilizone, Glenda Waters, Leslie Johnson, Trenise Bryant, Charleye Slab, Andre M. Harris, Emelda Paul, Paralee Amison, Charissa Stevenson, Nicole Williams, Ferdinand Handy, Tiffney Barnes, Christina Quezergue, Siana Marion Le Blanc, Claudette Leblanc, Jaice Gice, Paulette Clay, Shirley Waters, Cherie Waters, Shane Madding, Jennifer Harden, Dianne Alfred, Keycia Howard, Mary M. Johnson, Dianne M. Alfred, Trellis Thompson

Providence Community Housing: Andreanecia Morris, Maggie Tishman, Sophie Harris

Enterprise Community Partners: Matt Morrin, Brandon Dughman

Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center: Claudette Austin

Tulane Community Health Center: Dana Keren

McCormack Baron Ragan: Ronda Brown

St. Peter Claver Church: Deacon Allen Stevens

Cornerstones: Bethany Rogers

Council Member Guidry's Office: Sherri Wilder

Opening Prayer

Led by Mary Johnson

- *Meeting convened 6:05 pm*

Tulane Community Health Center Update: Obesity

Dana Keren

- Dana will give 5 minute 'health blast' at each Faubourg Lafitte Resident Meeting.
- This month's topic is obesity, healthy living, and healthy eating.
- There is no magic pill to lose weight and get healthier. The equation is eating fewer calories and moving more.
- The Tulane Community Health Center is a primary care clinic for adults 18 years and older, located at the corner of Orleans and Broad.
- To schedule an appointment, you can call Dana directly at 988-3000.

Property Management Update

Matt Morrin, Enterprise Homes & Ronda Brown, McCormack Baron Ragan

- In early July, McCormack Baron Ragan took over the management of Faubourg Lafitte.
- Some of the same staff remains.

- Nothing will change about your lease. How the community is managed may change slightly.
- Feel free to call and visit the management team if there are any issues. There is an open door policy.
- Q: Are you aware of the tow trucks towing cars?
A: There is currently a contract between Faubourg Lafitte and the tow truck company. If you feel you have been wrongfully towed, you can come and speak with management.
- Q: Why can't we have a grace period? We have elderly people and handicapped people living in this neighborhood getting their cars towed.
A: The policy was put in place because there were elderly and handicapped people who couldn't park because the spaces were already taken. We released two passes to each home, one for the vehicle and one for visitors. You can get a temporary pass for friends of family. Otherwise you can park on the street. If you do not have a pass, come to the management office.
- Keep your decal on your mirror. It must be visible. We will look into changing the look and design of the passes--sticker for resident and passes for the visitors.
- Q: Sometimes the car is only there for 5 minutes while someone is dropping something at the house, and it is towed.
A: Security cannot know if a car is only left there for 5 minutes because security is constantly roaming the property.
- Q: Now security personnel only ride and don't walk, right?
A: I have personally seen them walking lately.
- Q: There is a Cadillac that is never moved. It blocks the path to the bus for residents in wheelchairs.
A: Management will investigate this.
- Q: I have heard people saying bad things about security. They said that at Mardi Gras it was all caged in here and looked like a penitentiary. People were upset, but it was the first time that it wasn't full of trash. I applaud security and management. My grandmother wandered out of the house, and security brought her back. This place looks better than it has ever looked. We have drug problems here, but they aren't in the neighborhood right now because of security. Instead of trying to find the weaknesses in what security does, we should see the positives.

Construction Update: Gates and Fences

Matt Morrin, Enterprise Homes

- We feel strongly about having the gates and fences up, because residents asked to have them up.
- Tenants will not have keys to the gates unless they live in a unit that does not have a back door that allows them to take trash out to the parking lot. In that case, you will get a key to a specific lock.
- We will have keys within the next week. In the meantime, if you are having trouble taking out your garbage, talk to management.
- Q: How long will it take to put up all the gates?

- A: 2 to 3 weeks.
- There will be speed bumps put in.
- Q: Can we put in more stop signs?
A: We cannot put in stop signs without talking to the city, but we can look into it.
- Q: I live in a single. Why did they build the single homes with no back doors? It isn't safe.
A: There is one style of single home built for handicap accessibility that has side doors. All of the homes are consistent with building codes and fire codes. We can't punch out doors now. In our mind, the buildings are safe. If it comes to that, the windows are big enough that people can escape through them.
- Q: I live in a 6-plex. There is only one way in and one way out. In a fire, I would have to jump out a window. I think that the extinguishers should be in the homes, not in the hallways.
A: Having the extinguishers in the hallways is consistent with the fire code.
- Q: What can I do to get my gate back?
A: Come talk to management.
- Q: The grass is getting too high.
A: It will be cut next week.
- Q: Is it just one person cutting the grass? You expect us to pay the rent on time. You should cut our grass on time.
A: It's not just one person. Bring questions to management
- Q: My concern is the roaches.
A: Bring concerns about roaches and pests to the office, so we can address them. There is monthly pest control.

Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center Updates

Andreanecia Morris, Providence Community Housing

- Providence and Enterprise are taking a more proactive role at Sojourner Truth. Claudette and D'Ana are still here, and we will bring more people on staff soon.
- We have no plans to get rid of existing programs. We want to add on to existing programs.
- We want more of you to utilize the programs, because the programs are here for you. We have completed surveys to find out your wants and needs.
- Show of hands, are the programs worthwhile? Approximately 40% hands go up.
- Q: Sometimes kids need to use the computer for reports, and the lab is closed.
A: We are starting an after school program. Extending the hours of the lab will be part of that.
- If you have any questions bring them to D'Ana and Claudette.
- Q: Can we have the resident meeting earlier in the daytime?
A: Ultimately these meetings will be organized by the resident association. If you want to change the structure, that will be your decision. Transferring control of the meeting to the resident association will probably happen by the end of the year.
- Q: Can we get the City Park bus back on the line?

A: We have been talking to RTA, and the city thinks the existing buses are enough. There is a way to get to City Park on the bus, but it is not convenient. Maybe now that there are more families here, RTA will reconsider.

Voter Registration

Deacon Allen Stevens, St. Peter Claver Church

- I am a representative of a faith-based community organizing group. We organize around issues that you bring up.
- A new construction will be housed at Wheatley school in 2012. We worked with FEMA and RSD during construction. Now we are working to make sure that the charter operator chosen is a good one. Tomorrow morning, there is a meeting with the superintendent of schools. We want parents and community stakeholders speaking on their own behalf.
- Other issues: street lighting, abandoned cars, drug activity. We are talking to the police to share your concerns.
- We meet once a month, and we welcome you to participate.
- We invite you to St. Peter Claver to see how we worship. We are concerned around the issues in Tremé. We want this to be a residential community, not just bars, not drug houses.
- Voter registration: We want to make sure that you are registered to vote. If you have moved recently, including into Faubourg Lafitte, you must re-register.
- Q: I am already a registered voter, but I haven't told them my new address. Do I need to register?
A: If you have moved or changed your name, you must re-register.
- To register, you must be 17 or older. You must be 18 the day before the election to vote. You can vote if even if you have a criminal record, so long as you have served your time.
- You can call in to find out if you are registered.
- I will return and tell you the hours and location of the polls.
- Voter registration will occur here tomorrow from 5:30 to 7:30

Oral History Project

Bethany Rogers, Cornerstones & Royce Osborne, Spyboy Productions

- We are working on a movie and a little book about the Lafitte community.
- We are set up here in the center, and if you have photos or old videos, please share them with us. Please come and talk to us about stories about Lafitte.

Council Member Susan Guidry

Sherry Wilder, Community Liason for Councilmember Guidry.

- We have spoken to the RTA. They do not currently have plans to bring back the Orleans bus line. It is a good idea to petition. Keep the Councilmember's office posted.

- The mayor has made a commitment that all the street lights will be on in New Orleans by the end of the year. The city has already repaired 5,500 street lights. If you have a street light on public property that is out, call 311. A big problem with the street lights is vandalism, people shooting them out.
- The city has a new website for hurricane season: ready.nola.gov

7:01 Meeting adjourned 7:01 pm