

NFB Board Meeting 15 March 2017 at John & Beverly Andrews' house

Present: John Andrews, Rick Prince, Tyler Harwood, Brian Lockett, Julie Jones, Steven Jacob, Stephen Haedicke, Nancy Thacker, Anthony Eschmann

Minutes from General Meeting read and approved. Thanks to Julie for filling in.

Discussion re: How to show support for low cost housing part of Iris Development, as they do seem to be responsive to near neighbors' concerns. Traffic flow was of particular interest to keep flow off of smaller more residential street and more towards Press Corridor. Also noted was that there were no special requests with this project, as the law is being adhered to, so far. Tyler agreed to write this letter of support as he is the nearest neighbor to project and has ongoing contact.

Election of Officers: Julie Jones, President; John Andrews, Vice President, Brian Lockett, Treasurer, Co-Secretaries; Tyler Harwood & Nancy Thacker

Discussion re: Quiet Zone(s) at railroad crossings at Press Street, where developments are slated to begin. After a discussion, it was agreed that NFB would forward the petition for Quiet Zones, with information to how to access it, to our membership with strong language explaining that the Board has taken no position at this time. Further information is needed around how this would affect traffic; the bells, lights and mechanical arms are all part of a more complicated issue than 'quiet.' Julie will share with members.

Riverfront Overlay: the CPC will hold an outreach meeting on March 23 at Holy Angels with the neighborhood groups. The NFB Board voted to oppose the Riverfront Overlay and to insist that any and all variances need to go through an individual process. The vote was unanimous.

For next General Meeting April 5:

Shana Hartmann of the RTA is embarking on a year-long strategic planning process that they hope will inform transit decisions for the next two decades. She requested a February meeting, but we could not fit her in then. Would somebody be available for April? [Yes, someone from the RTA will speak.]

Brian: It's possible that Ricky Boyette, the Public Relations person for the Army Corp of Engineers will address us. Issues around the lock replacements. This is a 13-year project with many permits and phases. It could also make the area more vulnerable to flooding. Who benefits? If Ricky Boyette falls through [which has happened], Brian can speak briefly about the project, or get someone who has been more involved—John Kofoerl, Beth Butler or Sarah DeBacher [as it has turned out Beth will address us].

Nancy suggested a possible speaker on Community Organizing (from the Tulane School of Social Studies) re: concerns about coordination of cameras and safety patrols, etc. [It turns out that they are on spring break.]

Anthony agreed to bring food for the next general meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thacker

Two additional Board votes have come after this meeting. We conducted the votes on-line, because of time constraints.

On March 24, Board members voted to write a letter of support (once again) for Chaz Fest.

On March 31, Board members voted to sign on to a multi-organization letter to the Corps of Engineers opposing expansion of the Industrial Canal lock (we had already voted in the meeting to oppose the lock—Brian agreed to write a letter to that effect from the NFB—but now we are also joining forces with other neighborhood groups.