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NFB

NEIGHBORS FIRST FOR BYWATER

General Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2015

President Julie Jones opened the meeting. A written report of the NPP of 22 January regarding the properties in the 3900 and 4000 blocks of Burgundy Streets riverside was on each chair (an amended report has been emailed to members and will also be posted on NFBwater.org).

Mr. Pres Kabakov was then introduced. He discussed the possibility of the street car line on St. Claude being extended to Poland Ave. One major problem is that the Loyola Line overran its budget and money for the St. Claude project was used to make it up. The cost per mile of track is \$40,000,000.00. Mr. Kabakov suggests that we continue to push the office of the mayor to continue working on this issue and that we check with him (Pres) every two months to see if there have been any changes.

Next Mr. Jon Smith of the French Market Corporation (FMC) spoke about the Crescent Park, which is under the FMC's care.

When Parks and Parkways operated the park the rules were to open at 8 am and close at 6 pm. FMC has more leeway and can choose different hours, such as it did for fireworks on the 4th of July and the New Year. They may also extend hours in the evening after Daylight Savings comes in.

There have been a few issues with graffiti but they have a good cleaning solution. He expects that the third opening to the park (uptown end) will be ready in the spring which will make it 100% ADA compliant. As far as access goes at Piety St. the railroad has closed the flood gates and refuses to open them due to "public safety" concerns. Opening the gates would only allow the same access to the tracks that exists from Esplanade to above Canal Street.

No big "EVENTS" are allowed in the park. This means no concerts.

There are still operations issues with the dog park. They are still looking for ways to solve these problems.

Some plants that died either in the freeze or earlier are still there and are not attractive. Mr. Smith explained that there is a contract with a landscaping firm to maintain the plants until March 2016; in the meantime, his staff is not allowed to do anything—even pulling out the dead plants--or it would void the warranty, which is held by the NOBC.

A complaint was made about the batture area (behind the fence). We were informed that it is a federally protected wetland. The entire park falls under an amazing number of different regulatory agencies.

Nominees from the board for the upcoming March elections were announced. They are Mark Gonzalez, Charlie Miller, Kim Bollinger, John Andrews, Beverly Andrews, Brian Lockett, Rhonda Findley, Rick Prince, Julie Jones and Anthony Eschmann. Nominees

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were then taken from the floor. There was only one: Griselda Chapa

Anthony Eschmann,
Secretary