

NFB General Meeting Notes for Wednesday, August 3rd

Julie Jones called the meeting to order.

Frank Young, the new Commander, had come to speak with the group early and was called away on an emergency involving officers. Before leaving, he shared that there were four targeted arrests in the last couple of days, addressing the concerns shared re: the spraying of bullets at Dr. Bob's as well as the report of a recent rape in the neighborhood. He expressed that his plan was to attend meetings regularly from here forward.

This led to a discussion on the efficiency and placement and price of crime cameras in the neighborhood. If neighbors coordinate on placing cameras, coverage would be more seamless. It was noted that often a person crosses the street to avoid being detected. Was project Nola still a resource? Unclear. And is there actual data on a block that is coordinated in their efforts? The 700-800 block of Spain in Marigny was mentioned as a successful coordination of neighbors and cameras.

If you are interested in working on this - please email Mark Gonzalez <mark@markgonzaleznola.com> Thank you Mark!

Ms. Delany Martin, along with helper, daughter Odessa, from New Orleans Airlift and of Music Box fame presented plans and updates on the property located at the end of Rampart and across Poland. A short film caught everyone up on just what this community based art group can be/do from some of the events they have already held in the area. There were questions on how to get involved in this lovely, well thought out project - with the answer being: contact New Orleans Airlift <http://www.neworleansairlift.org>

Thank you Ms. Martin & Miss Odessa!

Brian Lockett brought everyone up to speed on the scheduling for votes re: STR's. This Tuesday's discussion at the City Planning Commission Meeting in City Hall starts at 1:30. They will be taking comments, and those who can attend and are against whole house rentals are encouraged to wear red. NFB does NOT support whole house short term rentals or commercial short term rentals (i.e. in Condo or Apartment Buildings). Brian gave kudos - and all were in agreement - to Devin De Wulf, who actually gathered REAL DATA via a survey of our membership on what we do and don't support and how to proceed. This is enormously helpful in getting things done.....with transparency and power.

Craig Kraemer is requesting contact from anyone who has been affected by STR's in their area, as he is doing a documentary - craigk@kraemeradvertising.com

A double Thank You to Devin De Wulf because:

He is also coordinating a Second Line/Jazz Funeral/Protest Walk (it's too hot to march) in response to the overwhelming opinion and actual experience of neighbors that if STR's are allowed with WHOLE HOME RENTALS we can KISS THE ALREADY ENDANGERED BYWATER NEIGHBORHOOD GOODBYE.

Devin shared plans, projected costs as well as a time line and will be coordinating efforts. He noted that 253 people from across New Orleans had sent in comments to the CPC voicing their opposition to whole home rentals; along with 90 + in Devin's own survey of NFB Members. By reaching out to other neighborhood groups, we should at least be able to get press coverage that this open arms approach to all short-term rentals is only good for greed not community.

Stay tuned for updates.

Respectfully,

Nancy Thacker, Co-Secretary