

6/21/17

NFB Board Meeting (at Rhonda's)

Present: Rhonda Findley, Steven Jacob, Brian Lockett, John Andrews, Mark Gonzalez, Michael Owings, Julie Jones, Nancy Thacker, Anthony Eschmann

Meeting called to order 7:15

Began with a quick review of request for letter of support re: Problems with The Country Club not adhering to Consent Decree. Consensus was to encourage the petitioners to use the legal avenues already in place. Going back to the ABC Board with documented complaints and violations with a suit would be the most effective way to proceed.

Procedurally it was noted that the agenda is set prior to meeting, with input from Board Members being received via the emails prior to each meeting. The last 15 minutes of meetings is to be reserved for new items that may have arisen between the out reach and actual meeting.

Updates on the Stateside project were shared as follows:

The appeal has been filed with the 4th Circuit of Appeals. There was an 'offered' shift from hostel/hotel to simply a boutique hotel, which included a design shift so that some of the noise would be directed towards the river as opposed to the neighborhood. In exchange for this shift, the developers proposed that neighbors would agree that there would be no type of appeal back to city council over anything, that the neighbors drop **every action** and that in the future there would be no filing of complaints. This meant that if they did not adhere to the agreements in the future there would be no recourse. This was considered and rejected, as there needs to be a way to enforce proviso's. - no go - no way to enforce provisos. The appeal was filed in late April/early May.

Financial: Donations to the NFB for legal fees incurred with the above action were then explored. A motion was put forth that - as manager of these donations for the purpose of the law suit, the NFB will be asking for those who have made these donations to put an agreement in writing as to how these funds are to be handled/dispersed. This is to avoid any confusion re: the purpose of holding said funds. The motions was seconded

and vote in support was unanimous. Brian will explore the process of setting up such an account for a non-profit with Whitney Bank. Currently invoices have been used while the oral agreement is being formalized.

NFB's July Jump to be in lieu of the general meeting will be held on 7/12/17 at Parleaux, 634 Lesseps Street, 7pm. (Steven H. is the point person for Parleaux).

Current members, as well as renewing and new members (who join at the event) will be given two tickets for beverages. All who attend will be able to enjoy the food. It will be noted at the Member Greeting/Ticket table that joining for 5\$ will be cost effective in getting two drinks.

Food will be provided by Bywater Bakery for sweets and Hank's (Lisa) will be cooking Trinidadian food for an estimated 40 people. Cost for Hanks is to be between \$150 - \$200. No amount was mentioned for Bywater Bakery (Chaya Conrad) Brian to follow up with Hank's, Julie can follow up with Chya.

An over all budget of \$500.00 was proposed.

Tyler had offered to print some announcements/invites for the Jump, and it was agreed by the Board that each member would make a good faith effort to invite 5 people to attend. Nancy will follow up with Tyler.

There have been good turn outs for the past two socials.

A motion was made to reach out to the BNA Board to invite them to the Jump. This could further solidify where we do agree, as well as model community coordination around those issues where the organizations do not have the same political orientation. Mark will be penning the letter that Julie will then send to BNA. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Candidate Forum(s): The importance of being present when fora are being organized in order to get our questions asked and answered, was stressed. Two issues were noted as paramount: The widening of the Industrial Canal, as well as the Cruise Ship Terminal - as both will impact all near neighborhoods greatly.

How these projects are to be done needs to be clearly articulated by the city and all representatives of these neighborhoods - so that those who are more directly responsible for funds, etc (Rep. Richmond, as well as the two current sitting senators) will have all of the information available, clearly and repeatedly. This will also increase the likelihood of actually getting questions answered - as when in one meeting a candidate may say they

will look into it - at the next meeting, this can again be noted, with a higher level of timeline and expectations for answers being exercised.

NFB may need to be the lead in organizing and inviting the near neighborhood organizations for the District C forum - while the forum for the Mayoral Election can be monitored by Brain and Julie through the Riverfront Alliance.

Concerted efforts on coordination and support for attendance to meetings on the West Bank also identified as powerful in gaining community strength.

NOCAA and Colton were identified as possible locations for fora. Rhonda to follow up.

It was noted that the time line for more assertive actions, such as finding a moderator, may be 3 or so weeks.

Meeting was then called into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Thacker
Co-Secretary