

## **Neighbors First For Bywater Board Meeting Minutes 8/16/17**

Present: Stephen Haedicke, Anthony Eschmann, Julie Jones, Steven Jacob, Brian Lockett, John Andrews, Nancy Thacker, Mark Gonzales, Rhonda Findley

Meeting was held at John & Beverly Andrews' house.

Julie Jones called the meeting to order at 7:13

Devin Dewulf shared his recent undertaking in beautifying Bywater with the plans for a mural on a metal fence in the 800 block of Congress (Congress @ Dauphine), and requested a letter of support. The mural will be a depiction of the beloved banana tree's history in New Orleans with homage paid to renowned Brazilian painter Djanira da Motta e Silva. The finished piece will include a large sequined banana. The process for permission of such a project is laborious and costly via the HDLC (\$500.00 for permit). Devin has obtained the owners permission, as well as near neighbors. He also noted that previous murals have not been tagged or defaced by local graffiti artists, as there is respect among artists, so the mural acts as a deterrent.

Motion to support with a letter (to go to Devin for the support "packet") was made and unanimously passed.

Next up was discussion re: Candidate Forum to be held in two weeks (September 6th) at the Stallings Center. A meet and greet will be held 6-7pm in the regular meeting room, with the actual forum in the Gym. Microphones will potentially be sourced via NORDC, and an NFB banner sourced via internet - Rhonda & Tyler coordinating.

Stephen H will be moderator, Steve J will be timekeeper.

Mark G will provide liquid refreshments.

Social Media: Randi?

Sign in: John A

Outreach to Police: Rhonda F

Press Release: Julie J & Mark G

Media Response: Julie J

Particulars on format were reviewed, discussed and modified. This will be an ongoing process.

The Board will submit a set of basic questions (Brian and Anthony will coordinate) to be sent to the candidates ahead of time so that they can consider them and give us written answers. These answers will be printed up and distributed at the forum itself. Next, our membership will be given a survey, which Mark is preparing. The goal is to elicit their concerns so that additional questions can be submitted to the candidates at the forum. Julie suggests reminding the members that in some cases what Councilmembers can do (train, port, canal, real estate taxes) is limited.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event, and additional questions--handwritten on cards--will can be submitted during the meet and greet for consideration (because of time constraints, we want to avoid repetition, inappropriate questions, etc.) Brian and Anthony will collect, organize, and collate as necessary before the main part of the forum, which will run from 7-8PM. Then, finally, from 8-8:30, attendees can ask questions directly. Time constraints and format of this section need to be determined. A line and handheld microphone, held by the moderator, were suggested.

Next board meeting will be held on Nancy's screened in porch (weather permitting - rain would mean it would be too loud, as roof is metal) on 9/13/17.