

## **CRNA Board Meeting – Minutes**

**August 12, 2010**

**Attending Board Members:** Marilyn Barbera, Pax Bobrow, Betty DiMarco, Byron Johnson, Jerry Speir, Brad Wilkins, and Rick Wilkof.

**Absent Board Members:** Barry Brantley, Kevin Brown, Ariel Wallick Dorfman, Camilla Franklin, Rudolf Garrison, Andreas Hoffman, Anne Nicolay, Liz Reed, and Betsy Weymann

**Residents/Guests:** Pauline Cotellet, Tim Garrett, Martin Huber, Jennifer Jenkins, Cindy Morse, Mary Robin-Perkins, Enrico Sterling, and Mac Thayer

**Finances.** Treasurer Cindy Morse reported a bank balance of \$1479.90. She also reported that the Oak Street Association (exact name?) had contributed \$200 and that dues were “trickling in.”

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **--Blight (Byron Johnson)**

The committee is contacting members who expressed their interest in blight issues in the survey recently conducted by Barry Brantley. It will meet to consider its next steps in light of the new administration's commitment to improving the process for dealing with blighted properties. Byron reported that he was encouraged by Mayor Landrieu's comments re: blighted properties at Tuesday night's District A meeting on budget issues.

Tim Garrett reminded the group that neighbors can attend blight hearings, either to observe or to contribute information. Blight hearing schedules can be found on the City's Code Enforcement webpage.

## **--Communications (Pax Bobrow)**

A new newsletter cycle is starting up. Committee chairs (and anyone else with news to report) should get their articles together. Plans for the newsletter should be finalized by the next meeting. Hopefully, distribution of the newsletter can be coordinated with a fall gathering of the full membership.

## **--Priestley School Site (Anne Nicolay)**

Betty Dimarco reported that not much has changed re: the Priestley site. A recent report in the Times-Picayune suggested that the Johnson School is to be moved there, but it is not clear whether this is just repeating information from the School Facilities Master Plan or reporting new information. Inquiries are being made.

It was also reported that a rumor in the neighborhood contends that the Tulane School of Architecture has bought the site. That, too, will be checked out.

## **--Safety/Crime (Liz Reed)**

Monthly Second District NONPACC (New Orleans Neighborhood and Police Anti-Crime Council) meetings take place on the Third Tuesday of each month in a meeting room on the second floor of Tuoro Hospital. These are meetings where neighborhood concerns are addressed directly.

Second District COMSTAT meetings are held every Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the same place. These are the District's own discussions of statistics, trends, etc, and newly open to the public.

Tim Garrett pointed out that a calendar for such meetings can be found at [nolahoods.com](http://nolahoods.com)

Pax Bobrow noted that the Second District station is in bad disrepair and may need neighborhood support for proper repairs.

### **--Zoning/Land Use (Marilyn Barbera and Betsy Weymann)**

Marilyn thanked all who participated in the issue surrounding the bar at Spruce and Joliet, but reported that the Board of Zoning Adjustments had held that the site maintained its “non-conforming use” status (and, therefore, its continuing right to its liquor license) by maintaining the laundromat there in accordance with recovery time-frames after Katrina.

She also proposed inviting Tommy Milliner (local attorney and MARI member) to tell us about his (and MARI’s) proposals re: the new zoning ordinance and related matters at an upcoming meeting. The idea was supported by the group.

### **--Executive Committee (Jerry Speir)**

The Executive Committee will meet soon to begin work on our next general meeting and to coordinate CRNA matters generally.

### **Old Business:**

**Mapping project:** There was a good meeting to establish criteria for the mapping before summer vacations began to interfere. The effort will gear up again soon.

### **New Business:**

**Fountain at Carrollton and St. Charles:** Mac Thayer has put considerable effort into researching the history of the non-functioning fountain in the neutral ground at Carrollton and St. Charles and into considering ways to make it operational. The fountain was donated to the City post-Katrina but never had appropriate power for a water pump. Solar power has been

suggested. Estimates for solar range from \$5000 to \$10,000. There is a possibility of grant money to support solar power. Regular electrical power would require a meter, permits and an entity to pay the bill. Commitments for maintenance will also need to be arranged. There are also ownership and liability issues. And the fountain itself needs some repairs. Enrico Sterling agreed to check on the issues as they related to interaction with the City. Anyone interested in assisting on this project should contact Mac directly at [macthayer@gmail.com](mailto:macthayer@gmail.com)

**Crime Study**—Pauline Cotelte, a Ph.D. candidate who lives in the neighborhood, is studying crime and safety in the aftermath of major disasters. She is particularly interested in crime and the perception of crime as it may affect individuals' quality of life, use of the neighborhood, etc. She is working toward doing a survey of the neighborhood on these issues. Pax noted that a survey instrument might be distributed with the newsletter, if separately funded. The group supported the concept. Pauline can be contacted directly at [pauline.cotelte@laposte.net](mailto:pauline.cotelte@laposte.net)

**“1 by Youth”** – Betty reported that Rev. Stanford Williams had asked her to assist with this project which brings in youths and adults from elsewhere for a “work day.” She inquired about CRNA’s possible willingness to support a “street fair” sort of party to end the day and thank participants. Date is November 6. Some concern was expressed about the short time for planning.

Cindy observed that some past work days have not involved the neighborhood appropriately and that efforts should be made to improve.

The matter will be taken up by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

**Residential parking** – Jennifer Jenkins reported problems with parking in the 8500 block of Freret Street (in the vicinity of Mat and Naddie’s Restaurant). She requested that CRNA support an application for a “residential parking program” for the block. Such programs limit parking to 2 hours, except for immediate residents who purchase a parking decal. The program operates in a couple of blocks near the Riverbend shopping center.

Pax moved, seconded by Brad, that CRNA support the application upon a showing that more than 50% of the residents of the block support it. The motion passed unanimously.

Some noted that it may be appropriate to consider expanding the program to neighboring blocks because of the spill-over effect.

**ABC Board:** Jerry reported that he has been appointed by Councilmember Guidry to the city's Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. He said that one of his ambitions in the position is help bring some clarity to the rules pertaining to alcohol licensees and neighborhoods' interaction with them.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 9, 7 p.m. Place to be announced.

Minutes by Jerry Speir