

CRNA Board Meeting – Minutes
October 14, 2010

Attending Board Members: Pax Bobrow, Ariel Wallick Dorfman, Betty DiMarco , Andreas Hoffman, Byron Johnson, Anne Nicolay, Jerry Speir, Brad Wilkins, and Rick Wilkof.

Absent Board Members: Marilyn Barbera, Barry Brantley, Kevin Brown, Camilla Franklin, Rudolf Garrison, Liz Reed, and Betsy Weymann

Residents/Guests: Karen Celestan, Zach Gong, Martin Huber, Julianna Padgett, Mary Robin-Perkins, Sherry Stork, and Harrison Tassopoulos

Guests:

--Zach Gong, AARP, reported on AARP's "Complete Streets" program and offered to work with us on any related projects.

--Karen Celestan and Harrison Tassopoulos reported on Tulane's efforts to improve trash pick-up on Broadway, to increase bicycle use on campus and provide more shuttles from Uptown Square (to alleviate parking problems), and related issues.

Committee Reports:

--Blight

Byron reported on the city's new policy that seeks to demolish 10,000 properties in the next 3 years. The city is also re-structuring the offices that deal with blight, putting everything (including code enforcement and environmental health) under Deputy Mayor Ann Duplessis. Byron will work with the city to integrate our neighborhood data into the city's blight tracking system. He will also keep us posted on blight hearings involving properties in our neighborhood.

--Communications

Pax reported that the latest edition of the newsletter is at the printer and will be distributed shortly. More volunteers are needed.

--Education

Ariel reported on the committee's recent meeting and suggested using our upcoming general meeting to discuss education issues generally and CRNA's interaction with the Johnson Elementary School, especially in light of its application for charter status.

--Priestley School Site

Anne reported on the recent news that the Priestley site will be renovated (or re-built) for the Johnson School. A discussion followed re: whether that was the best use of the property and about possibilities for making such a project successful (for example, inviting input from other successful community schools.)

--Sustainability

Andreas reported that the community is looking for an empty lot in the neighborhood for a community garden. The committee is also seeking new members. The committee is also looking at ways to encourage greater recycling in the neighborhood, possibly through a group arrangement with Phoenix Recycling.

Old Business:

General Meeting: The group suggested the following as agenda items for the general meeting at Johnson School on Oct. 26: Education Committee activities with Johnson School and the neighborhood generally, the garden project at Johnson, the school's application for charter status, the Citizen Participation Project, "1 by Youth," AARP's projects, recycling and the neighborhood mapping project. It was also suggested that we should invite the Councilwoman or her representative and, perhaps, an NOPD rep. Andreas volunteered to take care of plates, cups and ordering pizzas. Pot-luck contributions will also be requested.

Mapping project: Pax reported that most of the data has been collected and that Byron has performed most of the "data entry." We hope to have at least a portion of the map for the general meeting.

"1 by Youth" --Betty reported on Rev. Stanford Williams efforts to organize 300-youth from the surrounding area for a day of neighborhood clean-up and repairs on November 6. Anne moved, seconded by Ariel, that CRNA contribute \$200 toward the expenses of the event. Passed unanimously.

Citizen Participation Program – Julianna provided background on the CPP and on an upcoming proposal by the City Council for further public input on the process. She proposed that CRNA send a letter of support, especially requesting that the work that has been done through neighborhood associations under the leadership of the Committee for a Better New Orleans be a part of that process. Anne moved, seconded by Rick that we send the letter. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 11, 7 p.m. In the back dining-room of Squeal Bar-B-Q, unless changed. Thanks to Brad for hosting us at Oak Street Café for this October meeting.

Minutes by Jerry Speir