

CRNA Board Meeting – Minutes
February 10, 2011

Attending Board Members: Byron Johnson, Anne Nicolay, Jerry Speir and Rick Wilkof.

Absent Board Members: Marilyn Barbera, Pax Bobrow, Barry Brantley, Kevin Brown, Betty DiMarco, Ariel Wallick Dorfman, Camilla Franklin, Andreas Hoffman, Liz Reed, and Brad Wilkins

Residents/Guests: Councilmember Susan Guidry, Marshall Hevron, Martin Huber, Linda Marchand, Cindy Morse, Jill Stephens, Andrew Tuozzolo.

Guests

--**Andrew Tuozzolo**, Legislative Counsel to state Senator Karen Carter-Peterson, discussed upcoming **re-districting at the state level** in light of the new census. He noted that, due to population changes since the 2000 census, New Orleans is likely to lose 1 senate seat and 3 house seats.

The re-districting process will be discussed at a meeting of the of the legislature's Joint Governmental Affairs Committee for the purpose of taking public comment on the re-drawing of district lines and related matters on **Thursday evening, February 17, at 6:00 p.m.** at Dillard University, in the Professional Schools and Sciences Building, Georges Auditorium (Room 115), 2601 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans.

Discussion included expressions of concern about the way that certain precincts in Carrollton are grouped into districts dominated by Jefferson parish. This led to a proposal and passage of a resolution on this matter; see New Business below.

Mr. Tuozzolo can be reached via the senator's state email address: petersonk@legis.state.us

--**Councilmember Susan Guidry** reported that she has hired Kelly Butler to replace Amy Chandler, who has taken a job with the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Ms. Butler will focus on economic development and land-use issues and will start Monday, February 14.

The councilmember noted that the City is also beginning a re-districting process. It will not affect the number of councilmembers, but it will require re-drawing district lines. District A will shrink somewhat in geographic area because it now has several thousand more residents than the average of all districts.

Discussion included many comments from attendees about the responsiveness (or lack) from the Sewerage & Water Board and the Department of Public Works. The councilmember noted that the problems are well known and that improvements are being worked on.

She also reported that the moratorium on new alcohol licenses in Carrollton has been re-instituted and that it is subject to renewal.

Finances

--Treasurer Cindy Morse reported a balance of \$2110.45 and distributed an "annual report" detailing expenses over the past year.

Committee reports:

--Blight

Byron Johnson distributed excerpts from a recent Greater New Orleans Community Data Center report on "Population Loss and Vacant Housing in New Orleans Neighborhoods." The full report and data set are available at <http://www.gnocdc.org/PopulationLossAndVacantHousing/index.html>

For the "Leonidas" neighborhood, which roughly covers our CRNA boundaries, population between 2000 and 2010 decreased from 8,953 to 6,769. "Housing units" decreased from 4,129 to 4,050. And "vacant units" increased from 496 to 1049. Percentage-wise, the increase in vacant units in the neighborhood was high, compared to many other neighborhoods in the city.

"Word on the street" suggests that the city is moving toward conveyance of many of the properties that have been cited as blighted (with no response from landowners) to the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA), which would be responsible for finding ways to put them back into commerce.

--Priestley School Site

Anne Nicolay reported that the committee continues to monitor developments re: the promised conversion of the site to a new school under the School Facilities Master Plan. There have been suggestions for making the property serve more than one purpose.

--Executive Committee

Jerry Speir reported on a recent meeting of the committee where the following were discussed:

- A possible mentoring program at the Johnson School
- The need to plan for an annual meeting and to nominate new board members. Cindy Morse, Liz Reed and Rick Wilkof volunteered to serve as a Nominating Committee. April was thought to be the best time for an annual meeting, and St. Andrew's was mentioned as a likely site.
- Dues should be regularized to have a fixed due date. April was suggested as the date.
- Discussed the possibility of quarterly program meetings, separate from our monthly, more business-oriented meetings. Topics might include: alcohol licenses, the food-farm network, infrastructure (streets, lighting, signage), and blight.
- Purchasing \$50 in food for each month's meeting at Squeal—to support the restaurant and to provide some sustenance to attendees.

Old Business:

Garden project at Johnson School: Cindy Morse reported that the garden project has lost its faculty leader because the faculty member from the Priestley charter school who had been supervising the project has lost his job in budget cuts. A new faculty leader is needed

Mapping project: Martin Huber and Byron Johnson displayed the first edition of a paper map devised from data collected by our volunteers, with technical assistance from the Beacon of Hope staff.

The map shows occupied properties, vacant properties, and blighted properties among other things. A digital version with “animated” data layers is promised. Infrastructure data is also being incorporated.

New Business:

Food at monthly meetings. Rick Wilkof moved, seconded by Anne Nicolay, that the organization purchase \$50 in food from our host, Squeal, for each meeting. Passed unanimously

Re-districting resolution. Marshall Hevron proposed a resolution (attached) encouraging the legislature to restore all Carrollton precincts to districts that are predominantly Orleans parish districts in the new re-districting plan. The idea met with unanimous approval of all attending, subject to concurrence of MARI (Maple Area Residents, Inc.) and the Uptown Triangle N’hood Assn. about the precincts in their neighborhoods.

Board nominations: Jerry Speir noted that the terms of the following board members expire in 2011: Marilyn Barbera, Barry Brantley, Kevin Brown, Andreas Hoffmann, Ariel Wallick Dorfman, Camilla Frnaklin, Byron Johnson, Anne Nicolay, and Elizabeth Reed. Terms of the following expire in 2012: Pax Bobrow, Betty Dimarco, Jerry Speir, Brad Wilkins, Rick Wilkof. We have no term limits. Board members desiring to continue to serve are typically allowed. Our bylaws provide for a board of 6-20 members. We are presently 14.

Next Meeting: Because the next “second Thursday” falls so close to Mardi Gras, it was decided to move the next meeting to **Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m.** (a “third Thursday,” for next month only. In the back dining-room of Squeal Bar-B-Q, unless it proves to be unavailable.

Minutes by Jerry Speir