

Esplanade Ridge/Treme Civic Association Board Meeting

Minutes

May 7, 2008

ERTCA Board President Matt Norton called meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. at the resident of Bill Edwards on Esplanade Avenue.

Board Members present included L.T. Thomas, Marie Marcel, Pat O'Brien, Bill Edwards and Rhodesia Douglas.

Board Members not present included: Hilda Young, Raymond Young and Novelt Estrella

Order of Business

1. Firehouse Lawsuit Writ of Mandamus

Noted that Joe Marcel will file in a few weeks.

2. Novelt's Departure, Learning Academy Steering Committee

Matt Norton informed board of fellow member Novelt Estrella's resignation as principal of Clark High School and from ERTCA. The reason for the sudden departure remains unclear. Matt Norton states that he will try to find out about what happened.

3. Zulu Expansion

Matt Norton referred to a recent email regarding the zoning docket 24/08. The Zulu Social and Pleasure Club petitioned the City of New Orleans CPC to change zoning requirements to change two of its lots from a two-family residential to a neighborhood business district to allow expansion of their club house. The club is further asking that zoning reduce its parking requirements of 90 spaces to 50: Discussion by board tiered back and forth on an official position. L.T. Thomas commenting that anything is improvement to their neutral ground soirées. At first, no real objections emerged in the discussion until a member mentioned the protest of St. Ann Street residents against the expansion. Bill Edwards followed with concerns for safety, leading Marie Marcel to motion that ERTCA support the St. Ann neighbors. Edwards seconded that ERTCA should not support the Club's current zoning proposal. Pat O'Brien asked for clarification about the number of parking spaces. Bill Edwards suggested that ERTCA respond with a blanket statement that "this neighborhood association has not been against endeavors of Zulu....but stance is in position of the neighborhood to comply with laws." Marie Marcel reiterated the concerns of the neighbors: "given our history, we should support the residents and insist that Zulu complies with the City of New Orleans Zoning and Parking requirements." LT Thomas restated his position is could go either way. Bill Edwards reminded the board not to seem "wishy washy." Marcel talked about the precedent of the board's past opposition to the Degas House and emphasized consistent action

especially regarding parking. Pat motioned to uphold the neighbors' opposition. All agreed.

4. Membership Drive

The Board discussed new awareness campaign, promo literature design, edits and printing budget; door-to-door neighborhood strategy.

5. Planning Night Out Against Crime

Matt Norton appointed Marie Marcel and Bill Edwards to a subcommittee to begin the effort of soliciting support for tents, food and other supplies for the August Night Out Against Crime.

6. Miscellaneous

Odyssey House's application for zoning change to expand services raised concerns from Rhodesia Douglas and a few others with questions regarding the over-concentration of drug rehabilitation facilities and the connection between them and the rising burglaries, thefts and robberies. Matt Norton stated that the organization should communicate concerns to zoning and keep an eye of the issue. Marie Marcel rose concerns about the reorganization of NORA and the handling of blighted houses.

Meeting adjourned 7:29 p.m.