

## **Esplanade Ridge/Treme Civic Association Board Meeting**

### **Minutes**

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

ERTCA Board President Matt Norton called meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. at Bill Edwards's resident on Esplanade Avenue.

Board Members present included Marie Marcel, L.T. Thomas, Bill Edwards, Marva Arcenaux, Gregory Douglas and Rhodesia Douglas.

Hilda Young, Raymond Young and Novelt Estrella were not present.

Guest: Katherine Shepard, Shelly Midura's Office

### **Order of Business**

1. Katherine Shepard Intro - Ms. Shepard is the chief of staff for Councilwoman Shelly Midura. Board discussed the highly inflamed situation of item #2 on tonight's agenda and the likely outcomes: withdrawal, compromise and voting. Members expressed that the developer is too depended on public dollars to finance the project which by multiplying affordable units creates the higher probability of a cheap, dense building and residential overcrowding.
2. 1137 Esplanade - M. Norton informed the board about the heated council meeting held in the New Orleans City Council chambers in which 200 citizens attended. He verified that more than 90 percent of those present opposed the proposed development. Council-at-large Jackie Clarkson vehemently opposed and promised to break tradition and not support the local council person if he supported.
3. Position on Rampart Streetcar – Board agreed by a unanimous vote to support the streetcar line. M. Norton said that he would send a letter of support to Jeff Schwartz of TransportNOLA
4. Position on Charity Hospital - Board generally felt that this is not the Association's fight and should not take any action.
5. Garbage at Prieur & Esplanade - Board agreed that a complaint should be made as it is apparent that collection services have been discontinued at this location.
6. Americorp/Rebuild New Orleans – M. Norton informed the Board that the PRC is willing to help provide a full-time or part-time person to man an office using an Americorp volunteer. First, ERTCA needs an office. Some board members felt that it offers a good opportunity to set up a real space for the association. The staff person could assist with newsletter, membership, grants and events.

7. Entergy Grants –Board will submit grant request for the April 17<sup>th</sup> deadline to renovate Gayerre monument and relandscape Gayerre Park and create a blighted housing subcommittee to apply and take advantage of the long-term housing grant program.

In closing, M. Norton mentioned that Clark's New Tech program has been cancelled and that the RSD plans to close the school permanently.

Meeting adjourned 7:34 p.m.