

EAST NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION (ENONAC) www.enonac.org

GENERAL MEETING

St. Maria Gorreti Community Center ~ 7300 Crowder Blvd

Tuesday, September 8, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Executive Board Members:

P – Denotes member present, E – Denotes member excused, A – Denotes member absent, V – vacant position

P	Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, President	E	Romona Baudy, 1 st Vice President
E	Brenda Jackson, 2 nd Vice President	P	Karol Sanders, Treasurer
E	Carroll Denesse, Member At Large	E	Joan Heisser, Member At Large
P	Arthur Busby, Parliamentarian	P	Lydia Leon, Secretary

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheets.

I. **Call to order/Roll Call** --- Meeting was called to order by the President, Scineaux Richard at 6:12 p.m. After roll call, we had a quorum.

II. **Special guests:** Dr. Victor Ukpolo, Chancellor at Southern University of New Orleans, Dr. Armand Devezin from OPSB and Ms. Michelle Blouin Williams, an OPSB board member and Aimee Chambers, the project director for GNOHA Rod Home Liaison Group. Also in attendance is Mrs. Mardele Early, CEO of Lake Forest Charter School and John Brown, Interim OPSB Board member.

III. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Comm. Penny made a motion to accept the agenda and Comm. Hebert seconded. After the vote, the motion passed.

IV. **Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Comm. Bickham made a motion to accept the minutes from 7/14/15 and Comm. McWilliams seconded. After the vote, the motion passed. Comm Busby made a motion to accept the minutes from 8/11/2015 and Comm. Weaver seconded. After the vote, the motion passed.

V. **Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report from 8/1/15-8/31/15 was read and passed out to the CAB and Board members by Karol Sanders.

Beginning Bal. -----\$21,575.67
Donations -----\$5572.00
Expenses -----\$7,589.49
Ending Bal. -----\$19,558.18

Comm. Duckworth made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Comm. McWilliams seconded. After the vote, the motion passed.

VI. **New Business**

A. **SUNO Chancellor, Dr. Victor Ukpolo** has been in his current position for 10 years and originally came from California. Outreach to the community is very important to him. SUNO has surpassed their enrollment from last year. SUNO has moved from a level 3 to a level 5 and he is very excited about this fact. SUNO is looking at more focus on academic excellence in the future. They are the only state HBCU in New Orleans. He is making sure that the right quality faculty is in place to train and teach the students. The facilities have been a difficult task to deal with post Hurricane Katrina. As of today, the road is now clear and they can now have the ground breaking in November for the construction of the building for School of Social Work. The bids are going out in October 2015. They will have 3 new academic buildings in the next three years.

B. **Ms. Michele Blouin Williams** from the Orleans Parish School Board Superintendent's office came to represent the new OPSB Superintendent Henderson Lewis Jr. Her email address is mbwilliams@opsb.us. There are 6 schools under OPSB and the rest are charter schools. They have overhauled their policies and it will be on their website. Their

performance is a letter B and they are out pacing the State at 89% graduation rate to the State's 74.6%. The 3-8th grades at 82% in 2013-2014 and ACT scores 20.9 to State's 19.4. The national average is 21. OPSB will be the largest in the nation and is working hard for every child every day.

Questions---

1. What is the relationship of OPSB with the 18 Charter Schools and what is their enrollment?

Ans: They are going thru charter policies and once approved with the Board it will be rules for all of the schools. Charter schools are authorized under OPSB and they are given the freedom to go about their process. Of the 24 schools, 18 are Charter Schools and 6 are OPSB. They had one school, Martin Luther King that will return to OPSB this year.

2. Scineaux-Richard questioned the effectiveness of the One App. If you are interested in getting into a sought after school, even if in your neighborhood, it is a challenge. How can the process be made more equitable?

Ans: She stated this issue is at the top of the list on revisions for the process of enrolling. There are issues to be addressed at a later date that will apply to the 1 App process.

3. Comm. Carrier asked about busing of students opposed to them going to school in their community. **Ans:** They are still trying to get neighborhood schools in the communities for the children.

4. Comm. Hebert asked why small children are standing at bus stops 6:30am in the morning and this is a problem and a concern for the school board.

Ans: John Brown Sr., an OPSB board member said that he hears our concerns for the young kids out early in the morning and getting home late in the evening. One reason is that kids are not able to get into their neighborhood schools because they are full and they have to be bused to another school, sometimes out of their own neighborhoods. 1 App is good for parents to put in for their neighborhood schools without going all over town to the schools.

5. Why don't all charter schools have 25% of their students to come from the neighborhood? Comm. Penny said that Einstein Charter is moving into Sherwood Forest's neighborhood and she asked if the neighborhood children be in the school and she was told yes but she is not sure that will stand.

Ans: Mrs. Early said that 80% of her children come from the East at Lake Forest Charter School. Comm. Bickham said to keep a strong policy in force to keep a close eye on the bullying in the schools. The State has guidelines for bullying and these schools have to follow those guidelines. The code of conduct in schools is available to parents.

6. Ms. Loretta Brown, a resident who lives behind Lake Forest Charter said that the 1 App can have N O East students select schools uptown. The money spent on transportation and tearing up of the streets in neighborhoods should be spent on children in the schools. Who is holding Charter Schools financially accountable for finances? Money made and how it is spent is very important. Does OPSB hold charter schools financially accountable to the people? The charter schools have an evaluation of financing and are 100% A+ in charter schools.

The School Board Election is Saturday, October 24, 2015. ENONAC is planning a forum on this election to address some of these concerns. The date and place will be announced at the next meeting.

C. Ms. Aimee Chambers, project manager of Greater N O Road Home Liaison Group, can be reached at 504 821-7086. They are working under contract for the State of Louisiana. They have been given access to Road Home information from the State to sort out issues and problems that residents are having with Road Home. Their primary goal is to help people to get back into their homes and resolve issues with Road Home. People received Road Home funds and are not back in their homes and others are back but the State is saying that they owe them money back. The State is trying to close out the program and resolve these issues. Their successes are that they have spoken to 400 people and answered questions and gotten information back to people within two weeks. 30 People are now in compliance. 14 people now have their homes under construction. One question was do they work with people who

have elevation funds and she said yes they do work with them. They inspect the homes and use repair work done in the homes and verify cost in respect to elevation funds.

VII. **Old Business:**

A. **RM2E - zoning change** from low density to General Commercial C-2 for 10112 Plainfield Drive was deferred but we still need to stay informed about this issue because it is not finished.

B. CPC **Design Review 81-15** for a mural on the Grand Theater at 5700 Read Blvd. and is a temporary creation to make it look better and not look blighted. It is still going to be torn down.

C. The **Katrina 10th Anniversary Remembrance and Celebration of Families and Neighborhoods** was a great event bringing families and neighborhoods together. Scineaux-Richard thanked all the Board, CAB Members, and their residents who attended and helped to make it a success.

D. Claire is contacting CAB members about Non Compliance **Financial Disclosures** forms. Please make sure that you complete them.

VIII. **Community Info:**

A. the African American Woman of Purpose and Power (AAWPP) with Dr. Beverly Wright and ENONAC are co-sponsoring a **Gubernatorial Forum** on Thursday, September 17, 2015 on Dillard's Campus, Georges Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

B. **Team UP to Clean Up** is on Saturday, October 10, 2015; the time and place will be announced. They will trim trees on Crowder, Read and Bullard and Downman Road.

C. Sgt. Lane from **NOPD has hot sheets** and info sheets on the table in the back. The Night Out Against Crime is Tuesday, October 13, 2015. To register call Ms. Brown at 504 658- 5590. Three officers will be walking neighborhoods and putting information on doors. They are doing Eastover next. Sgt. Lane can be contacted at tlane@NOLA.gov.

We need to discuss changing our October General Meeting because of Night Out Against Crime at our CAB Meeting.

IX. **Announcements:**

A. **ABO request** received for gas station at 6500 Morrison Road. If this is in your neighborhood, please let us know.

B. A **Party Hall** (Orleans Cuisine) is re-locating to 5555 Bullard Ave.

C. Our **CAB Business Cards** will be discussed at next CAB Meeting.

X. **Adjournment:**

Having no more business, Comm. Busby made a motion to adjourn meeting and Comm. Penny seconded. After the vote, the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Lydia Leon, Secretary