

**EAST NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**(ENONAC) [www.enonac.org](http://www.enonac.org)**  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
**St. Maria Gorreti Community Center ~ 7300 Crowder Blvd**  
**Tuesday, September 10, 2013 @ 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	P	Brian Egana, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
P	Brenda Jackson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	P	Karol Sanders, Treasurer
P	Ed Blouin, Member At Large	P	Joan Heisser, Member At Large
P	Romona Baudy, Parliamentarian	P	Lydia Leon, Secretary

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheets.

**I. Call to order/Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order by President, Scineaux-Richard at 6:05 p.m. After the roll call, we did not have a quorum so the meeting is informational until a quorum has been met.

**II. Introduction of Special Guests**

Special guests present were Ira Thomas, President and Cynthia Cade, Member of Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB). Also present were Cynthia Willard-Lewis (former City Councilwoman) and Vernon Tate from OPSB.

Comm. Cantrelle made a **motion to change the order of the agenda** since we did not have a quorum and to do the Old Business first on the HLUZ and other Committee reports. It was seconded by Comm. Daste. There was no objection by the body (non-official vote).

**III. Old Business**

**A. HLUZ Committee Reports**

**1. The proposal from Jarrell Properties for renovation of NORA properties in ENO:**

Comm. Cantrelle said that two members of the HLUZ Committee recused themselves (Heisser & Richard) from the vote because of possible conflict of interest. The HLUX Committee went over all the information and decided to take no opposition and leave it to the neighborhood associations to decide their individual participation.

**2. The proposed Off Track Betting at the Swilling Center on Bullard** was withdrawn due

to the opposition from the neighborhoods due to close proximity to churches, schools and neighborhood subdivisions, as well as tenants of the center concerned about traffic/parking issues already in the center.

Dawn Hebert works with the **NOLA Clean Sweep and ENONAC** to help clean up the East. On September 21, 2013 from 9am-12pm there will be a Beach Clean UP. They need volunteers for this activity. Please call ENONAC office or Dawn Hebert if you want to help.

On October 20, 2013 there will be a Family Fest at Joe Brown Park and volunteers are needed for this function.

**3. The Cypress Parc / Cindy Place Apt.** proposal--- per Joan Heisser, the original plan

was withdrawn and they have new plans and specs but HLUZ has not received copies. They will go to

City Hall and see if they can get copies. The complex now wants to put sixteen 4-plexes on the site. They are not making it all one lot. It will be 100% low income. The HLUZ Committee is researching and investigating all the information. There is a meeting on tomorrow with Louisiana Housing Corporation and they need volunteers to attend this meeting in Baton Rouge with the HLUZ Committee.

4. On the **Chris Reception Hall on Bullard**, the CAB Members approved resolution to deny the request for a liquor license. Scineaux-Richard was informed by Gray's office that their request for the liquor license has been withdrawn at this time.

#### **B. Update and Overview**

1. The **ENONAC CAB Retreat** was on Tuesday, August 27, 2013. CAB Members thought that it went well and was very thought provoking and informative. We need to have a list of what we want to see in NO East in 2014-2018. Nothing is on the table at this time and we need to have plans for what residents want to see happen in the East in the future. We need plans so that when the budget is discussed and available we can show to have specific needs and plans for monies to be allocated in the budget for those purposes. We need to ensure that ENONAC is prepared to inform our representatives what the ENO community needs are for future growth and economic development. Please use all your talent and expertise to help us to get the job done. One of the major reasons for having the retreat was to clarify our goals and help identify the talents and resources we will need to continue the work of ENONAC.

**A Quorum was established** and Commission could do business at that time.

2. The Parcel Fee will be on the November 2013 ballot.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

Comm. Baudy made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2013 General Meeting and Comm. Daste seconded. After the vote, the motion passed; no nays. The treasurer's report was tabled since Karol Sanders was not at the meeting at that time.

#### **V. New Business**

**A. Jacques Morial from Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East (SLFPA-E)** - a public forum (discussion) on Damage to Our Coastal Wetlands due to the Oil Industry will be held on Wed., September 25, 2013 from 6:30-8:00p.m., location will be announced. ENONAC as well as, the Independent Women's Organization (IWO) has agreed to co-sponsor this event to help inform our residents of the coastal erosion issue and how it will affect the flood insurance on our homes. These oil companies come into our areas and find oil in our waters and are supposed to put the area back like they found it once they have finished. This has not happened and so after years of drilling it is eroding our coast and destroying our first line of defense from flooding. Morial stated that John Berry and Lt. Gen. Russell Honoré asked Jacque Morial to get involved in this project. Morial stated that Governor Jindal believes that citizens need his permission to sue the oil companies but that is not true according to the law. If they do not redo our coastline, we will not survive. The State does not enforce the permits of the oil companies. They are responsible for 60% of the coastal land loss in our area.

**B. Proposed RSD School Site at South Central Bell on Bundy Rd.** – Topic was opened for discussion by Brian Egana, 1st Vice President and Kim Hypolite, Chair of Education Committee as Moderators. The other members of the ENONAC Education Committee was introduced: Kenneth

Johnson (30yrs as educator in NO East and City School Administrator), Clinton Smith (Retired Teacher), Trudy Dyer (30yrs in Special Ed), Burnell St. Cyr and Wilford Norris (retired Educator).

**Patrick Dobard, Superintendent of the Recovery School District (RSD)** and his staff was introduced.

They did a presentation for the community to explain their intention for converting the commercial Bell South building on Bundy Road to a school. The building has 210,000 Sq. Ft. and is on 10 acres of land and it did not flood in Katrina. He said 57% of the children are performing at their level. The main force of it is that the N O East population is increasing fast and the Bundy Rd. building would hold 1300 students. A new Gaudet School on Haynes Blvd. would cost about \$32 Million . If we renovate Gaudet and purchase the Bell South Building and renovate it we would spend less money and have two schools. The increase in kids by 2016 should be around 10,500. High School will increase to around 3571. That means that the total will go from 10,352 to 14,084.

**Ira Thomas, President, along with Cynthia Cade of District 2, Dr. Armond Devizan and Herman Tate (Director of Operation) from Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB)** did their presentation of why they did not believe it was a good site for the RSD proposal. The BESE Board took action on the issue of granting the RSD permission to establish a Benefit Corporation to give them authority to purchase the property on Bundy Rd. for a K-12<sup>th</sup> grade School in NO East. The RSD did not have the authority to sell or purchase schools and/or property. Additionally, Thomas stated that it goes against the Master Plan. RSD said that they were only realigning the facts of the Master Plan but Mr. Thomas asked for the names of the people in government and the residents of the community that they talked to about this project. Only Pastor Barre was spoken to about this project. The Master Plan was revised in 2011 and submitted to the BESE Board. While some adjustments may be needed in the future, there is a process that needs to be followed and the RSD has not done that for this project. The CEO of KIPP was part of that committee. The School Board's position is that BESE does not have the constitutional authority to allow the RSD to form this Benefit Corporation.

Alicia Plummer asked what is this truly about. It is definitely not about the children. There is no green space, no windows, no physical education etc. She is totally against this project on Bundy and asked that they do what needs to be done for our children.

Dawn Hebert said that there are 4 other schools within a mile of that building. She asked them what community leaders had they met with about this project. The owners paid \$1.2 million for the property so why is RSD agreeing to pay \$5.2 Million to buy it?

Octave Rainey –Why pay so much for that building and why would you put K- 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the same building? Look at the people sitting at these tables in front and you will see who represents the community in the East.

The RSD stated the list price is over \$5 Million and there is a plan for green space (Buying more land), and more windows. They want to service more children to stop the busing of kids.

One resident has a child with a disability that is bused to an uptown school and asked them to consider all children when building the schools. Sylvia Rushing said that the building was inappropriate for a school and asked why we had to have a renovated High School? We were supposed to get a new high school for the East New Orleans children.

Cynthia Willard-Lewis, former City Councilwoman, asked why this being is done without any public hearing. We did not have an opportunity to see the plans for the building and have had no say so in the project. We do not want to save money for our children. We want athletic facilities in our schools and look at a master complex not a minimum complex. We do not want a remodeled building. We want what is best for the children of N O East .We want our City and State Representatives to be engaged in this project.

Gail Glapion, former School Board Member, stated “if the reason for this project is the move to neighborhood schools. Then yes, as long as the quality of schools are good. She thinks that it’s been about 10-12 years ago that they tried to take over the schools and buy or find a place to warehouse our children. Stand tough and do not allow this conversion of a commercial building to a school in our community.

Alvin Cooley, a 30 years facility manager for AT&T building (Bell South) said the value of the building was \$2.2 Million and that was with it full of furniture. It was a computer center and never exceeded 800 people. It was designed for open office and was not designated to be a school.

State Representative Wesley Bishop said the primary concern is that no public school in the country has ever done this and all the concern voiced tonight were said by him at the meeting with RSD and BESE. It is a bad idea and we are not supporting this project. We in NO East want first class schools for our children in the East.

Cheryl Harris asked why we would want to put our babies with grown people. They are trying to bring low income housing two blocks away from this building. We do not want our children in a warehouse.

Comm. Heisser said we are very insulted because you said at the BESE Board meeting that you talked to the community. On August 14, 2013, she received a phone call and told him to call Sylvia Scineaux-Richard. At that time, Joan told him that she did not agree with this project. He called Sylvia and they had a meeting with her. Joan called Ronnie Burns and he said that he did not have a conversation with the RSD about this project and did not consent to support it. Joan asked ENONAC to write a letter to BESE Board and asked them to rescind the Benefit Corporation for the RSD. Joan also called Alden McDonald about the project. Other members of the 10 people who RSD had a meeting with are also not for this project.

Comm. Kingvalsky said it is not a good building for K-12<sup>th</sup> grade children and is inappropriate for a school.

Comm. Bowman of Rosedale said that she always felt that NO East was cheated in our schools because we were not given computers and other things that uptown schools always had for their children. Older children and small children should not be put under the same roof.

Comm. Hamilton asked what is it that this building has that RSD is so interested in renovating it, especially since it has no possibility of expansion in the future.

Erin Spears (Chief of Staff for CM Gray), Cynthia H Morrell (Office of Mayor, District D) and Mrs. Thomas (Representative Austin Badon) were also present at the meeting.

Comm. Cantrelle asked who the owner of that building is. She said we always have to fight against something coming in the East. When does it stop? We want the School Board to represent us.

We only want the RSD to do what NO East residents want and to follow the Master Plan in place for our community. Mr. Thomas will continue to work to accomplish that on this issue.

Scineaux-Richard asked the CAB to make a motion to prepare a Resolution to deny this project allowing South Central Bell Commercial building conversion into a school. Comm. Cantrelle made the motion to draw a resolution to say that we are in opposition to this project and Comm. Blackmon seconded. After the vote, the motion passed with no opposition. There was an Amendment that BESE rescind their decision to give RSD a Benefit Corp. with the right to purchase the building (South Central Bell).

Comm. Heisser said that we need to get the State Attorney General and IG Ed Quatrevaux to look into the excessive offer price for the Bundy Rd. building since such an inflated price. Comm. Carrere said that the purchase contract is not done and we may be able to put that in the resolution. Consider the list price is \$5.4 Million and the actual last sale price was \$1.2 Million without considering the retro cost as opposed to building a new school according to the Master Plan. Comm. Cantrelle made the motion to add this info into the resolution and Comm. Baudy seconded. After the vote, the motion passed; no nays.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Having no more business, Comm. Cantrelle motion to adjourn meeting and Comm. Daste seconded. After the vote, the motion passed; no nays. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Submitted by Lydia Leon

Secretary