

EASTERN NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION (ENONAC)
GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES

6:00pm, Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Location: St. Maria Goretti, 7300 Crowder Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70127

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 st Vice President
P	Brenda Jackson, 2 nd Vice President	P	Karol Sanders, Treasurer
P	Ed Blouin, Member At Large	P	Joan Heisser, Member At Large
E	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 pm. After roll call, a quorum was established.

II. Introduction of Special Guests

Special Guests were Erica Spears, Chief of Staff for Councilman Gray, Carletta Singleton and Chris Bonora, Port of New Orleans.

III. Review and Approval of Agenda

Comm. Cantrell made a motion to approve the agenda and Comm. Weaver seconded. After the vote, the motion passed.

IV. Review and approval of General Meeting Minutes (Jan & Feb)

Comm. Cantrell made a motion to approve the minutes from the General Meeting on 2/26/13 and Comm. Penny seconded. After the vote, the motion passed. Comm. Lena Stewart made a motion to approve the General Meeting minutes for Jan. 2013; it was seconded by Comm. Daste. After the vote, the motion passed.

V. Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was read and everyone received a copy. Comm. Barthe made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and was seconded by Comm. Cantrell. After the vote, the motion passed.

VI. New Business

A. ENONAC Commissioner Retreat

Scineaux-Richard was discussing the Retreat for the CAB and said we would have refreshments at the meeting. The date would be moved from March 26, 2013 to sometime in April. Comm. Cantrell requested that we dispense with supplying food and drinks for people at meetings until we have an income. Sylvia said the date would be announced and it was agreed that the CAB meeting date would be better than doing it on a Saturday

B. Claiborne Corridor Study

The Claiborne Corridor Study has been going on for the last four years. ENONAC expressed concern about the impact on the N.O. East community and asked that the study be extended to the N.O. East residents. We requested that they do a presentation to ENONAC. Comm. Cantrell went to the workshop that was held for the Seventh Ward in reference to the project. She asked that N.O. East residents to please try to attend these meetings and voice their opinions so that the study will have our view on the project.

Mr. William Gilchrist- Director of place based planning said that the Sustainable Community Grant for the Dept. of Transportation was part of the study. The City government is also involved in the study. Environmental impact for housing and transportation is also important to this study. Broad St., Elysian Fields, N. Rampart, O.C. Haley and Napoleon are areas included in the study. The Lower 9th ward was omitted as well as the impact on I-10 and redevelopment of 2/3 of the study area that has I-10 over it. One third of Claiborne includes US 90, Napoleon Ave. to Elysian Fields, Broad St. on lake side to Oretha Castle Haley, Rampart St. and St. Claude at the riverside (inclusive of Broadmoor and Central City). Questions were asked as to the impact removal of the I-10 would have on the East and its residents getting to and from work and school; all who presently depend on that Interstate.

Mr. Gilchrist said there are four options that have been submitted; to keep I-10 as is, parts of it or do away with it completely. The study will also look at other areas beside the ones mentioned. How to develop Rampart with transit? After the study is completed, the funding will be completed. At that stage, the transportation analyst will look at the cost benefits and other things before continuing. The cost is important and so is construction and maintenance. Demand for housing assistance and affordable housing is also part of the study. Get away from multi-family and look at affordability of the project. How will taking down I-10 impact the neighborhoods? People in 9th ward, Treme and Mid City are now saying to keep I-10 in place. Mardi Gras Indians say that it is a cultural center for them.

Mr. Gilchrist stated that employment issues are important as well as job opportunities in these areas. Businesses like bakeries, florists, and hospitals will be needed in these areas. The new hospitals will generate 8,000 to 10,000 jobs in the areas like Biotech and professional service jobs. Other areas have done this and it has worked. We need to train our own people to get these jobs. We also need to support small businesses. He said we need to look at the community's character and preserve it. Repair if possible but also look at changes where needed. Transportation is a critical part of this project. Bring more transit and street cars. Pay close attention to the flood issues. Freight movement is also an important issue to consider.

Chris Bonora from Port of N.O. and Director of Industry Development will have a meeting with the city to look at this project. He said if we need them that they will be there for us. The New Orleans Board of Trade and the Port of New Orleans are looking for preliminary alternatives under consideration for the Livable Claiborne Communities Study. They are very concerned on the negative impact it would have on port business – back and forth of freight travel etc.

Scineaux-Richard stated we have concerns about the social, economic, car/truck travel, business impact for the N.O. East residents, if the I-10 is torn down. How will direct connection to the East be accomplished? There are other areas not included in the study that should be considered, such as East N.O., Ninth Ward, Gentilly, etc. All of us need to be considered when this study is being done since it will affect more than just the described study areas.

Comm. Cantrell said that though Mr. Gilchrist is very cooperative, the city is looking out for everything ending at Elysian Fields. Concerns about N.O. East were not considered and we have to pass thru that area. She said she is ok with redevelopment but not at the expense of our area. She also asked who first decided that this study and project should be done. When was it proposed and why is it necessary? No answer was given to these questions at this meeting.

Greg Hamilton asked the questions on the removal of I-10: What ideas make it feasible to do this without strangling commerce? He was told that after the all the data is done then they will know the impact as to where the trucks and traffic will go if this is done.

Comm. Barthe asked what is the cost of this project? Grant of \$2million is for the study but the actual cost is not known at this time. Removal of I-10 has a hefty cost. Money has to be identified first. Transportation Improvement Fund is the step for funding cost. Is there going to be economic opportunity for others except contractors like Boh Bros., etc? Where will the traffic with all the accidents not considered in this study? People going to and from work and bringing kids to school is a detrimental concern in this project. Removal of some ramps is one consideration. Comm. Heisser said that it amazes her that the traffic study was not done first, to see the impact on the communities by cutting off I-10. He said baseline study did include the traffic issue. Comm. Egana said funding is still unknown and he is concerned that this administration has increased property taxes and we do not want to wait 10 years to be charged a millage to pay for this project. Comm. Egana, Cantrell, Greg Hamilton and Dawn Hebert will have a meeting and come back with questions on this project and get back with ENONAC.

VII. Old Business

A. ENO Families Get Fit

1. **Date** has been changed to May 18, 2013
2. **Remeka Jones** said healthy eating, exercise and access to stores that have healthy foods are important. Walking on sidewalks is not done if access to public transportation is close or if we use our cars to get to and from work. We want our families to be more active and get more exercise.

B. Commercial Zoning 81/12 expires May 3, 2013. Sylvia said they are talking to Erin Spears of Councilman Gray's office to extend it and/ or develop or retain the guidelines for our community

C. Committee Reports

1. Dawn Hebert of Blight Committee said the Dollar General at Morrison and Read needs to meet with Councilman Grey's office. Castle Manor subdivision--- NORD and Officer Demma did clean the area but are waiting on demolition information. Blight Stat Meeting is Thursday at 8.00a.m. on the 8th floor at City Hall.

Streetscape no longer has a project manager and that is why the project was slow and is now moving forward. Nature Center --we are still waiting on information

2. Joe Brown has a lot of things going on and we can check their website. The Final Four NCAA is coming April 6, 2013 from 8:30am-12:30pm for ages 8-14years old at Joe Brown Park. At 1:00pm they will be giving out basketballs. There is a cap on the number of kids so you need to register them early.

3. **HLUZ Committee**---**Christopher McGrath**, Vice President of Switzenbaum & Associates, the developers of Oak Island Apartment Complex met with HLUZ Committee. Maurice Baird from Councilman Gray's attended the meeting. They did not have the new design standards drawn into their plans but were open to our suggestions. They also used some data info that was old and not applicable to today's' numbers. They are updating and working on the new design standards and dropped down the number of units to 220 Apts. It is funded by Housing Credits and 20% would be low income and 80% conventional.

VIII. Announcements

A. Scineaux-Richard stated there is a program with a short deadline that will do insulations for seniors and low income families. Call 504 298 -9506 to obtain the \$2500 grant to insulate their homes.

B. Councilman Gray stated that he plans to meet with Ron Forman on the progress on the Nature Center. Councilwoman Hedge- Morrell needs to help with this project.

C. Ed Washington will notarize all subdivision that need to be certified tonight.

D. Habitat for Humanity had meeting with Mr. Diggs from the Melia Subdivision and he said that they are still tangling with it. Two years ago he met with them and Mrs. Lena Stewart from Morrell's Office and now they are doing the same process all over again. No permits have been issued. They will meet with NORA next. They sent letters to the council and want ENONAC to also send them letters. Some of the CAB left the meeting so we lost our quorum and could not vote on the letter from ENONAC. HLUZ committee will talk about it and have CAB to vote on approval of letter at the next meeting.

E. Some from the audience asked why Councilwoman Hedge-Morrell never attends an ENONAC Meeting. Mrs. Stewart said that she is very busy and does attend when she is able to attend.

IX. Adjournment

Having no further business, Comm. Cantrell made a motion to adjourn meeting and Comm. Kingvalsky seconded. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Submitted by Lydia Leon

Secretary

4/8/2013