

THE NON-FLOOD PROTECTION ASSET MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY JUNE 5, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.

The monthly meeting of the Board of the Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority of the Orleans Levee District was held on Thursday June 5, 2014 at 5:30 p.m., in the Lake Vista Community Center, 2nd Floor, 6500 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana after due legal notice of the meeting was sent to each Board member, the news media, and a copy of the call was posted.

Chairman Scott called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called which constituted a quorum.

PRESENT:

Chairman Nyka Scott
Vice Chairman Ernst
Commissioner Robert E. Smith Lupo
Commissioner Wilma Heaton
Commissioner Carlton Dufrechou
Commissioner John Trask
Commissioner Patrick DeRouen
Commissioner Pearl Cantrelle
Commissioner Michael Stack
Commissioner Stan Brien
Commissioner Darrel Saizan
Commissioner Eugene Green

ABSENT:

Secretary Romona Baudy
Commissioner William Hoffman
Commissioner Rodger Wheaton

STAFF:

Louis Capo - Executive Director
Sharon Martiny – Non-Flood

ALSO PRESENT:

Gerard Metzger - Legal Counsel	Feltus Lee
Al Pappalardo – Real Estate Consultant	Rick Geuvare
Dawn Hebert	Susan Klees
Octave Rainey	Robert Klees
Dennis Miranda	Robert Drouant
Ray Landeche	Michelle Tabary
Maggie Woodruff	Dennis McSeveney
Willis Rey	Traci Johnson
Mimi Schlesinger	Fred Wild
Scott Schneider	Ronald Mason
Karen Parsons	Jonathan Butler
Gary Dominique	Dan Nolan
Cheryl Pilet	Cindy Nolan
Kevin Pilet	Jennifer Turner
Naomi Englan	Loulan Pitre
Adrienne Mundorf	Rick Montgomery
Clifford Robinson	Prahngar Drafer
L. Bienvenu	John Haynes
Andry Baugh	Lloyd Kelly
Gary Lagasse	Bradley Drouant

ADOPT AGENDA

Commissioner Trask offered a motion to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Green and unanimously adopted.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner DeRouen offered a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2014 Board meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ernst and unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion 01-060514 Motion to approve short and long term recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lakeshore Drive on uniform traffic control and parking system for safe operation of motor vehicles and recreational uses on Lakeshore Drive

Commissioner Ernst offered a substitute motion to Motion 01-060514, which was seconded by Commissioner Lupo. Chairman Scott called for discussion on the Motion to Amend.

Commissioner Heaton noted that the Authority has many challenges and it is incumbent to show leadership to the community because this Board works for the community. The opening of Lakeshore Drive in both directions is not perfect, and a good solution for the community is going to leave everyone a little aggravated. I want to commend Commissioner Ernst trying to provide a solution that is in our business of government, a compromise. This compromise would give some recreational use and leave 4½ miles as it is as the Lakefront is for recreation and for vehicles. This is a starting point to look at the issues before this Authority.

Commissioner DeRouen thanked Commissioner Ernst and suggested the Board adopt a Resolution to properly close the lanes in each direction, voting against the amendment. The issue is whether this Board will adopt the recommendation of opening a multi use lane in each direction. This Board has the ability to encourage more recreation on the Lake and to accomplish that is to do what the Blue Ribbon Committee recommended, and take that a step further by temporarily closing one lane in each direction and adding striping on a temporary basis. Commissioner Stack noted for the record that the lanes should not be closed 24/7; possibly just on weekends to bring recreation back. Commissioner Heaton noted the limited manpower. Commissioner Trask added that there is plenty Lakefront and a lot of pavement for both two-way traffic and recreation.

Commissioner Green noted for the record that barricades were put up to prevent vehicles from entering into certain areas. Bicycles are considered vehicles. When barricade are placed at Marconi, bicycles are supposed to obey those barricades. Bicycles are subject to the same rules and regulations as automobiles and should not bypass barricades. Mr. Metzger advised the Board had the right to regulate the use of Lakeshore Drive by granting permissible use for bicycles in the lanes that were closed off to motor vehicle traffic.

Commissioner Lupo advised that he could not vote for a design not vetted by professionals with proper credentials. To properly bring recreation to Lakeshore Drive there has to be a process and this issue should be vetted completely. Commissioner Cantrelle added that because some Board members are in opposition does not mean that recreation is not wanted on Lakeshore Drive. There are safety concerns regarding roller bladders, runners and bikers being placed in the same lane as vehicles traveling 25 mph. There will not be 100% of the people walking out of here happy no matter what is voted on. Commissioners represent the entire community and should implement a plan that will be good for everybody.

Commissioner Ernst noted that speed was discussed, but no recommendation was made. The current speed limit in Reach 1B is 25 mph, which picks up to 35 mph in certain areas. The idea is to slow people down in Reach 1B where the majority of people using Lakeshore Drive gather. The substitute motion would slow traffic in that area by creating two lanes as opposed to four. Commissioner Stack advised that speed limits are determined by the 85th percentile of what people are driving. The average speed of what people are driving is taken and the 85th percentile is how the speed is set according to the national standards. Lowering speed limits does not control the speed; it is an enforcement issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Those in favor of dedicated bike or multi use lanes on Lakeshore Drive included Helen Ball, Michelle Cohen, Brad Drouant and Karen Parsons. Those against dedicated bike or multi-use lanes included Lloyd Kelly and Dawn Hebert. Octave Rainey added that there should be no compromise until a study is performed.

Commissioner Ernst noted for the record that Karen Parsons was nominated to be on the Blue Ribbon Committee, but was unable to serve as Ms. Parsons works for the Regional Planning Commission and was not allowed to participate. Walter Baudier of DEI was also a Commissioner on the Blue Ribbon Committee, but recused himself due to a financial interest, and my early departure from the meeting made the Committee three people short. The vote of the Blue Ribbon Committee did not properly reflect the sentiment in favor of a mixed use lane for the Lakefront due to these absences.

Commissioner Stack pointed out that prior to this issue being addressed by the community, Lakeshore Drive was operated as a four lane facility Monday through Friday. The proposal from the Blue Ribbon Committee increases the safety during the week because previously there were no markings whatsoever. The Blue Ribbon Committee vetted many ideas and this Resolution is the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendation. There are five recommendations of how to move forward, and one additional amended recommendation to consider if there are concerns with recreation.

Chairman Scott called for the Amendment. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Chairman Nyka Scott	Yes
Vice Chairman Ernst	Yes
Commissioner Lupo	Against
Commissioner Heaton	Yes
Commissioner Dufrechou	Yes
Commissioner Trask	Yes
Commissioner DeRouen	Against
Commissioner Cantrelle	Against
Commissioner Stack	Against
Commissioner Brien	Against
Commissioner Saizan	Against
Commissioner Green	Against

The motion did not pass.

Chairman Scott advised that the Board had to vote on the original proposed motion from the Blue Ribbon Committee. The motion, offered by Commissioner Stack of the Blue Ribbon Committee was seconded by Commissioner DeRouen who requested that Commissioner Stack explain the idea to temporarily close one lane of Lakeshore Drive in each direction on the weekends. Commissioner Stack advised that closing the lane could be accomplished using signage and barrels during certain hours on the weekend. This would be subject to funding availability. Commissioner Heaton clarified that the public should not have a false assumption about this issue because there is a manpower problem. It would be malfeasance if the manpower issue was not addressed and this Authority does something that requires manpower. Commissioner DeRouen clarified that whatever mechanism was in place on the weekends prior to the reopening of Lakeshore Drive should be the same mechanism used to close one lane in each direction.

Commissioner DeRouen offered an amendment to the Resolution adding a provision that Reach 1B would be restricted to the use of one lane in each direction on Lakeshore Drive on weekends and holidays for a trial period of one year. Commissioner Stack clarified that this would be amending recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee, which would be better handled through a separate resolution at the next full Board meeting.

Commissioner DeRouen withdrew his request for an amendment to the motion. Chairman Scott recommended tabling the issue until the full Board meeting on June 19,

2014 and called for public comments. Public comments regarding this issue were heard from Lloyd Kelly, Dawn Hebert and Octave Rainey.

Chairman Scott called for the vote on the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendation.

Chairman Nyka Scott	Yes
Vice Chairman Ernst	Against
Commissioner Lupo	Yes
Commissioner Heaton	Yes
Commissioner Dufrechou	Yes
Commissioner Trask	Yes
Commissioner DeRouen	Yes
Commissioner Cantrelle	Yes
Commissioner Stack	Yes
Commissioner Brien	Yes
Commissioner Saizan	Yes
Commissioner Green	Yes

Mr. Capo announced that the vote was 11 in favor and one vote against; the motion passes.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next full Board meeting of the Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stack offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Cantrelle and unanimously adopted. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.