

NON-FLOOD PROTECTION ASSET MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE
RECREATIONAL / SUBDIVISION OBLIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY JUNE 9, 2011 – 2:30 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Non-Flood Asset Protection Management Authority was held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 2:30 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 Hassinger called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

PRESENT:

Chairman Joe Hassinger
Commissioner Stanley Brien
Commissioner John Trask
Commissioner Greg Ernst

FURTHERMORE PRESENT:

Chairman Robert E. Smith Lupo

STAFF:

Louis Capo, Executive Director
Sharon Martiny, Non-Flood

ALSO PRESENT:

Gerard Metzger
Albert Pappalardo
Harold Baur
Wesley Mills
Hannah Fernandez

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Trask offered a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Brien and unanimously adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Trask offered a motion to approve the minutes from the Recreational/Subdivision Obligation Committee meeting of April 15, 2011, seconded by Commissioner Brien and unanimously adopted.

REPORT ON CURRENT RECREATIONAL/SUBDIVISION ISSUES

Mr. Capo informed the Committee that the New Orleans Bike Club is going to hold bicycle speed trials on Lakeshore Dr. on Sunday, June 12, 2011. This falls in between the committee meeting and Board meeting, however, the race is this coming Sunday so I granted them approval. Insurance certificates were provided along with the executed location agreement. The cost is \$1.25 per participant with a minimum fee of \$300. Previously, there have been approximately 200 participants and they are expecting between 150-200 again this year. Orleans Levee District Police will provide police detail. Mr. Capo noted that there was interest in the use of Lakeshore Dr. for events such as walk-a-thons, running and bicycle races. In the future there will be more activity out there. Parts of Lakeshore Dr. are closed due to northwest winds and squalls in the afternoon pushing the lake waters over the seawall. The grass on the seawall side has not had a chance to take root and grow so it is all mud that is washing into the street. The Flood Authority crews will be out to scrape the streets and clean up the mud. There are two main sections, one is west of the Marconi to Shelter #1 and the

other is between Franklin and Shelter #4. Those are the two areas that are the worst on Lakeshore Dr. as far as seawall wash over.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Sign for Lakeshore Drive Entrance to UNO

Mr. Harold Baur from UNO presented a picture of a sign proposed to be erected on Lakeshore Dr. by the entrance to UNO. UNO is proposing to take the sign, refurbish it and replace it where the new entrance is located on Lakeshore Drive. There is a tree currently at the location which Mr. Baur stated is not in good shape, possibly struck by lightning. There is a big void in the trunk of the tree. When the Corps designed the roadway, they stopped the slope at the roadway. This should have been carried to the curb, but the Corps did not want to cover the roots of the tree. It is up to the Authority whether to leave the tree there until it dies.

Chairman Trask asked if an arborist examined the tree. Mr. Baur stated that an arborist examined the tree and stated the tree may live another 3-5 years. UNO would pay to remove the tree and replace it with a palm tree in that area. UNO is presently making a nice entrance and a nice sign with landscaping and would like to erect a sign so people would know where the entrance is. Commissioner Hassinger questioned if there was a problem with leaving the tree and putting the sign to the west of that roadway. Mr. Baur stated there was no problem leaving the tree, but it would probably not last more than 3-5 years. Commissioner Hassinger questioned if there was a particular need to place the sign in the spot where the tree is. Mr. Baur stated that you really can't come up the east side because it goes parallel to the road. Mr. Capo stated that the Levee Police have already notified of the same problem as when the entrance was at the other location, which is why there were yellow barriers. Cars are making a left and exiting UNO coming down the ramp and making a left even though it is a difficult turn. Commissioner Trask stated for clarification that he would like to keep all good, healthy trees and questioned if it is policy of OLD to keep trees versus cutting them down. Mr. Capo stated there was really no policy on this. If the tree is deemed to be a hazard and is going to fall and injure someone, the tree is taken down if it is a safety issue. If this tree has only 3-5 years there may be nothing to do to salvage the tree. Commissioner Trask commented that if there was an arborist report stating the tree was unhealthy and if UNO wishes to remove the tree and replant another palm tree there in its place, this would be fine. Mr. Capo noted for the record that this is the first time the Authority has been involved in this sort of issue. The ramps were approved and granted by Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East. This Authority had no knowledge or input on this issue. Chairman Hassinger requested a report from the arborist stating what the condition and outlook of the tree is. Mr. Baur stated he would get the arborist to produce a report. Chairman Hassinger stated that there would be no motion until the report from the arborist is received. Mr. Capo stated he would request the engineers from the Flood side to provide pilings along that part of the roadway which have to be placed in accordance with DOTD restrictions.

2. Discussion regarding design for Shelter #3

Mr. Capo informed that in order for the Authority to move forward with designing and building Shelter #3, a decision needs to be made regarding the design. The two current designs are Shelters 1 & 2. The Corps is waiting on a design so we can begin this process. The issue came up regarding the shelter being built at ground level which is a question to be presented to FEMA. We can still move forward with a selection of a design and present that to the Corps. Mr. John Holtgreve with DEI has been working with the Authority on the shelter and informed that the previous shelter located at the old beach area was outside of flood protection so the Corps would not allow the shelter to be rebuilt in that area. The old beach area was also out of site for the police making this a bad spot for

the new shelter. The new area for Shelter #3 should be in an area that meets the needs of the neighborhood and also gets the best use along the Lakefront. The Corps has agreed to pay for the new shelter with the understanding that the design would be of the same style and size that is currently there. Mr. Wesley Mills of DEI has spoken to the people from the Corps regarding the utility crossing issue. The Corps reps stated the new shelter must be placed within a mile of the current shelter location. Chairman Hassinger stated the location discussed and agreed upon by the Board was east of Franklin Avenue.

Mr. Holtgreve stated if there is a chosen style to be used, a program would be developed for a concept for review during the developing process. If the style is approved we would accept the design concept and go to plan preparation and construction. Commissioner Ernst requested a photograph of the more modern style shelter. Mr. Pappalardo advised that for many years the shelter houses were designed and operated with concessions, but in the last decade there has been extreme difficulty keeping concessions in business. The shelters were then handled through the Auxiliary Dept. of the old Orleans Levee District and leased to groups for parties, reunions or birthdays.

Shelters #1 and #2 were the most popular because the style provided more cover from the rain. Mr. Pappalardo suggested the new shelter be designed to provide shelter from the sun and rain and also to make restrooms as bullet proof and easy to clean as possible so the maintenance does not drain too much revenue. Mr. Pappalardo suggested issuing permits to food truck vendors that are licensed by the City to provide food and beverages to the people along the Lakefront.

Mr. Capo stated that there are two parts to this agenda item. One part is the selection of DEI and the other is the selection of the design of the shelter. Mr. Metzger informed that selection of the engineering firm is not on the agenda and advised the item could be added to the agenda by a motion and a unanimous vote. Commissioner Trask made the motion for selection of DEI, seconded by Commissioner Ernst and unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Ernst questioned if the procedure was advertised. Mr. Metzger informed that this is a professional service contract and it is within the right of the Board to make a selection without an advertisement. Commissioner Ernst then questioned the size of the contract for the cost of the design. Mr. Holtgreve informed this would be approximately \$100,000-\$200,000. Chairman Lupo requested there be no more discussion on this matter and this committee review the issue at a later date. Chairman Hassinger requested this item be added to the Recreation/Subdivision Obligation Committee agenda for July.

Chairman Hassinger requested an update on the electrical and water issues along the Lakefront. Chairman Lupo informed that there are issues regarding the utilities. The levees were reconstructed and raised 1½ feet after the storm and the Corps advised that tests at these crossings would be necessary. The preliminary test of these crossings show a discrepancy so this now requires more testing.

Mr. Holtgreve informed after Katrina there was a rush to get flood protection in place. The Corps did not allow utility penetrations beneath the crown of any hurricane or flood protection levee. All utilities (water, sewer and electricity) running through or over the levees at a non-designed height were taken out when the levees were reconstructed. The utilities either have to lay on top or cross in a different area. During the reconstruction of Lakeshore Dr. there were crossings included in the design going over the levee. When this project started the Corps was in the process of raising levees and informed the Levee Board if the crossings were put in at an incorrect elevation they will be taken out and reinstalled at your cost. The Levee Board then wanted aerial crossings. An

aerial crossing was designed to get the electrical feed and lights back on costing approximately \$400-\$500,000 as a change order to the ongoing contract along Lakeshore Dr. The former Levee Board decided that was too great of an expense and decided to wait until the levee was finished and then do the whole utility project at one time. When we submitted for the permit, the Corps of Engineers had comments stating that some reaches might have to be changed slightly in order to proceed. Until a written permit is received outlining the requirements of that permit, nothing can be done as far as putting these utilities in. The Corps has agreed to pay for 12 of the 13 utility lines. They will do this one time only. The 13th line was not put in at the same time so they will not pay for that one.

Chairman Hassinger questioned when the permit from the Corps of Engineers would be ready. Mr. Holtgreve informed the Corps is completing the geotechnical analysis and within the next 3-4 weeks they will have an idea of what the final conclusions may be for the permit that they will issue.

3) Discussion regarding Lakeshore Drive guard rail near Lake Terrace

Chairman Hassinger addressed the issue of the Lakeshore Dr. guard rail near Lake Terrace. There is a section where Pratt Dr. runs into Lakeshore Dr. Lake Terrace Pkwy. runs on the north side and that roadway is now closed. On the entrance side close to UNO there are removable cement piles in the street and Chairman Hassinger is requesting to place something harder to remove there so people can't drive back there. Mr. Capo informed previously there was concrete pilings with a cable that ran across them. We received a lawsuit wherein someone hit the cable with a bicycle, flipped over and injured themselves so the cable has been removed. The Corps' sent an e-mail requesting some type of barrier or guard rail be placed there so cars coming down would not hit the concrete wall. The Corps requested the barrier be extended across Lake Terrace Pkwy. permanently closing the roadway. Mr. Capo declined this request stating that at some point we may elect to open that roadway to vehicular traffic. Lake Terrace Pkwy. is not closed to pedestrian traffic. The Corps wanted to place a permanent barrier across that roadway. Mr. Gillen advised that if a barrier is placed in front, the barrier will have to be moved to close the flood gate. Mr. Pappalardo noted that the Corps is trying to create a guard rail barrier to prevent people from running into the very expensive floodgate and having a vehicular accident which could render the floodgate useless, but by doing so pedestrian access will be closed off. Chairman Hassinger requested Mr. Capo and Mr. Gillen talk to the Corps in connection with making the barrier more permanent but still be removable. Mr. Capo advised that once the Corps finishes their work he will seek to permanently attach the barrier back to the street so they cannot be moved.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Mr. Capo announced the next Recreation/Subdivision Obligations meeting scheduled for July 14, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ernst offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Trask and unanimously adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.