

**NON-FLOOD PROTECTION ASSET MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE RECREATION/SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 2013 – 2:30 P.M.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Recreation/Subdivision Committee of the Non-Flood Asset Protection Management Authority was held on Thursday, August 1, 2013 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 2:43 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called which constituted a quorum.

PRESENT:

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

FURTHERMORE PRESENT:

Chairman Robert E. Smith Lupo

STAFF:

Louis Capo - Executive Director
Sharon Martiny - Non-Flood

ALSO PRESENT:

Gerard Metzger – Legal Counsel
Al Pappalardo – Real Estate Consultant
Walter Baudier – DEI
Dan Marsalone - DEI
Harold Baur – University of New Orleans
Ray Landeche – Lakeshore Subdivision

ADOPT AGENDA

Commissioner Ernst offered a motion to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Brien and unanimously adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 1, 2013 meeting minutes will be deferred until the October Recreation/Subdivision Committee meeting.

REPORT ON CURRENT RECREATION/SUBDIVISION ISSUES

Mr. Capo reported the Notice to Proceed for the grass cutting issued July 15, 2013. This will be the second round of grass gutting for all areas under Rotolo's purview to cut. One issue is that the grass was very high due to the six week gap between the start of the new contract and hay remained after the grass was cut. After the third cut the problem will resolve itself. The grass cutters are using bush hogs to knock the grass down to a level where finishing mowers can be used. Staff is keeping up with areas that have not been cut and there are weekly meetings with the grass cutters to address those issues. The Marina Manager, Airport Manager and Maintenance man report what is not being cut and those areas are reported to the grass cutters so everything gets ironed out and cut.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Discussion regarding work to be performed at the outfall canals and the impact on Lakeshore Drive and adjacent areas and what steps will be taken by Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority to ensure that damage caused by the contractor is repaired**

Mr. Capo advised of a meeting with Representatives from PCCP Constructors and members of the Corps for 2:00 p.m. next Wednesday. The Corps was advised that someone from the Corps must be in attendance because the contractors could not answer many questions and the Authority does not want to hear that it is someone else's responsibility. The Authority wants answers to the questions previously formulated and submitted to the Corps, the contractor and the Flood Authority. Those issues should be addressed next Wednesday at the meeting with the Corps and PCCP.

- 2) NOPD traffic enforcement on Lakeshore Drive**

Chairman Hassinger requested an update regarding discussions at the last Recreation Committee meeting regarding increased pedestrian traffic at West End with the new Restaurants opening and vehicular traffic increasing. Mr. Capo noted that the Third District was contacted twice to get assistance with radar enforcement in the area by Brisbi's Restaurant. NOPD advised that when additional manpower is available, officers will be dispatched to patrol the area with radar. Captain Boudreaux, Orleans Levee District Police, advised that Levee District police were dispatched to the area and approximately eight tickets were issued as a means of helping get the word out that the area is patrolled and tickets are being issued.

Chairman Lupo requested Mr. Capo provide a schedule of when officers close Lakeshore Drive at night. Presently the times are very erratic. The "One Way" signs need to be put out because people that are parked will pull out and head the wrong way down Lakeshore Drive because the signs are not put out. Mr. Capo advised that he would request a schedule. The Flood Authority has previously advised that the police force is strictly for flood protection on the levees.

- 3) Installation of crosswalks or other warning devices at West End**

Chairman Hassinger advised the Committee that pedestrian traffic back and forth across the street in the area of Brisbi's is an issue. There was some discussion regarding the cost of the crosswalks and if pedestrians would use the crosswalk to cross the street. It is possible that a set of blinking yellow lights be placed at each end of the area to create a pedestrian zone from Landry's past the Condominiums. An e-mail was also sent to Commissioner Stack to determine if there is DOTD grant money available because this is a safety issue.

Mr. Baudier suggested flashing lights be erected in the area indicating a pedestrian area. Flashing lights could be placed near Lake Avenue on each side, the parking lot west of Shelter #1 and the two existing crosswalks could be lit. Signs could be erected to slow down the vehicles and the speed limit could be reduced from 25 to 20 mph. The more lights put up in the area is more indication that the area is a pedestrian crossing area.

Mr. Baudier advised of a study being performed for the Regional Planning Commission because Leake Avenue has a similar problem. The issue is how to dampen the traffic speed. Some suggestions included a bike path, brick crosswalks, pedestrian signs and flashing lights.

Chairman Lupo suggested that DEI prepare a proposal and a plan sketch to present to Commissioner Stack and La. DOTD to see if there is funding available. In the interim several glue down "Pedestrian Cross Walk" posts could be placed in the area to draw attention to the pedestrian crossing ahead. Mr. Baudier advised that there are also lighted brick crosswalks in which the street lights where the bricks are. Instead of just bricks, the street itself flashes. Walter Brooks has advised that there are funds to address issues such as this and that is who Commissioner Stack would request funding through Walter Brooks.

4) Status of Lake Terrace Fountain repairs

Mr. Baudier informed the Committee that the Lake Terrace Fountain repair project is approximately 70-80% complete. There are two designs for the fountain: 50 lights for \$125,000 and using only 10 lights at the top of Fountain. The plans include to remove, clean and install the existing nozzles, clean and repair the existing pump, re-plaster the upper bowl of the fountain and clean, repair and repaint the entire fountain. The entire electrical system will be removed and replaced with a new system. The electrical sub-contractor is redesigning the electrical system which is no longer useable. An anemometer will be installed to slow the fountain when wind is blowing or change the height of the water. There are 10 white LED lights with a very simple design. The estimate on the Fountain is \$76,000 and is not reimbursable from FEMA.

The Mardi Gras Fountain is reimbursable and the Corps is involved on that project. There are two parts to the Mardi Gras Fountain: to bring utilities across the levee at the Mardi Gras Fountain that serve Lakeshore Drive and the Mardi Gras Fountain itself. Chairman Lupo informed the Committee that the Mardi Gras Fountain is very impressive. Everyone will be amazed by what Mr. Baudier and his team was able to do with FEMA. Water Works has made the Fountain more beautiful than it was in 1964 because technology is much more advanced. The 26 lights in the water can create any color in the spectrum of a rainbow. The programming is very sophisticated and can program the nozzles to make water dance a certain way at a certain time and in whatever colors are chosen. Operation of the Mardi Gras Fountain is all accessible via the internet and can be accessed by whoever has the password. Staff could stand in front of the fountain with a laptop and program the while you watch the display change. Mr. Baudier noted that the lights have six additional lights inside of the outer light and the lights can be programmed so individual lights are different colors than the light fixture itself. The effect will be the same as the lights on the Superdome, but on water.

Mr. Baudier added that two cameras were added to the Mardi Gras Fountain project which will be funded by FEMA. The cameras were designed to fit on the lights that circle the Mardi Gras Fountain, but those lights are not compatible because the cameras arrived and are too big. The lens on the camera has a windshield wiper. The cameras turn 360 degrees and can retrieve a license plate number off of a vehicle from 800 feet. One camera will be placed behind the Mardi Gras Fountain or slightly to the west and a second camera will be placed south of Lakeshore Drive

to record up and down Lakeshore Drive and the Plaza so staff can view vehicles and people up and down Lakeshore Drive from the office. Chairman Hassinger noted that the cameras could be used to monitor the contractor and all of the traffic on Lakeshore Drive.

Mr. Baudier advised of a change order to the contract. The cameras came in very large and will have to be mounted to one of the left over light posts from the original Plaza work along Lakeshore Drive. The camera will be mounted to the light post at an elevation 30. A connection must also be made for the camera so there will be a change order to the contract. Chairman Lupo noted that the cameras will enable staff to view activity along the Lakefront and Mardi Gras Fountain. There will be a recording device that saves the video. The recordings can be saved to show the amount of traffic that will be traveling down Lakeshore Drive due to the upcoming pump station project. The videos can be saved so there is a record of the traffic.

Mr. Baudier advised that the contract for the plaza work on Lakeshore drive between Landry's and the current plaza ends February 22, 2014. The contractor advised that work would be complete in November, but the contractor is currently 30 days behind that schedule and it will be January before the project is complete. DEI will bid Reach 4 and 5, which is another 360 day project, in September and start the project in November of 2013. SLFPA-E forwarded a proposal for Reach two to be completed in the same manner as Reach one, four and five. SLFPA-E also requested crosswalks to be placed by Shelter 2 and to stripe Lakeshore Drive in that location. Reach two is from Orleans Canal to Rail Street and is approximately 3,300 linear feet. Lakeshore Drive in that location belongs to the City of New Orleans, it does not belong to the Non-Flood Authority or the Flood Authority, but they will stripe it anyway.

Chairman Lupo questioned if the same sort of sheet piling was in front of and behind the seawall when Reach 2 was previously repaired. Mr. Baudier stated that it was different because steel sheet piling was previously used, not the vinyl that is presently being used. The steel sheet piling will not be removed even though the Corps requested DEI to consider that in the proposal. The seawall was also tied back because Rail St. was raised and fill material was placed at Rail Street and Lakeshore Drive. The tie back system was added due to concerns that because the levee was raised so high it would overload the seawall. The tie-back system holds the seawall in place in that area.

5) Report on the status of the discussions with USACE contractor regarding use of land along Lakeshore Drive adjacent to current right of way

Chairman Hassinger noted that this item tied into Item No. 1, which was previously discussed in this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Hassinger announced the next Recreation/Subdivision meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2013 at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ernst a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Trask and unanimously adopted. The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.