

## **Minutes from Faubourg Marengo Neighborhood Association Meeting on 2-29-08**

We had a great neighborhood meeting last night.

Below are the minutes:

### **Introduction and Updates**

- Bob Smith thanked Reverend Parker for letting us use Austerlitz Baptist Church for our meetings.
  - It seems Austerlitz Baptist Church has adopted us as their "outreach program"
  - We passed the hat to make a donation to the church (to pay for electricity, etc.)
- Bob pointed out we had heated discussion last month about crime & quality of life issues. We have had several positive things happen since:
  - Just several days after the meeting, Officer Eddington had red van at Marengo and Annunciation towed
  - Drug busts in 3800 block of Constance, drugs busts in 700 block of Peniston. (Anne McKinley is going to help us track these cases on Docket Master)
  - Stacy Head's office is going to help us get the 2 huge debris piles in 800 block of General Taylor removed.

### **Advice we have received from Neighbors:**

- One neighbor had attempted break in of his home. The criminals ripped the phone wiring off of the side of the house. They also switched off all of the breakers to the house. He suggests that everyone with a breaker box on the outside of your home, padlock it.
- One neighbor has asked us to remind people to keep your storm drains clear of leaves and debris.
- If you keep your outside light on 9 hours a night, it only costs \$1.50 A MONTH. Let there be light! This will deter crime.

### **Quality of Life Officer, Edgar Staehle and Lieutenant Mike Fields:**

- Edgar Staehle, our Quality of Life Officer spoke to us.
  - He gave everyone his cell phone - 874-5969. (He works in day).
  - His office number is 658-6029. The 2nd District station number is 658-6020
  - His email is [EStaehle@cityofno.com](mailto:EStaehle@cityofno.com)
  - Officer Staehle promised that the red van with Arizona plates that has been outside the Austerlitz Baptist Church will be gone by Tuesday.
  - Officer Staehle said there are 2 homes on Annunciation where they have contacted the landlords about their problem tenants.
- We met Lieutenant Mike Fields, the night supervisor.

- Lt. Fields said to always call in suspicious activity to 821-2222. He said don't hesitate to do this. "You are our eyes and ears. Don't feel you are bothering us."
- He also encouraged everyone to always lock their car doors.

**Carla Gendusa, Stacy Head's aide:**

- Stacy Head continues to try to find out the status of crime cameras in the 2nd District.
- If you know of any illegal FEMA trailers, report this to Carla Gendusa at [cdgendusa@cityofno.com](mailto:cdgendusa@cityofno.com)
- If improper or illegal activities are occurring at Section 8 and/or HANO properties, contact Stacy Head's office. They will contact HANO.
- Stacy Head is trying to get new initiative on blight passed. Hearing is Monday at 2:30. This proposal would allow some blighted homes to go to sheriff's sale and would put property back in commerce quicker. Carla encouraged people to contact council people, mayor, etc. to support this. (I sent out an email about this on Feb 12. Let me know if you want me to re-send it to you.)

**Gill Benedek of Neighborhoods Partnership Network:**

- Gill talked to us about the mission of NPN and his mission as our neighborhood liaison. He wants to connect with FMNA to create lasting partnerships, provide us with resources and develop program content.
- He invited us (FREE) to Festival of Neighborhoods. Sat March 8 - 10:00 am to 6 pm at Gentilly Terrace School - 4720 Painters St. (Children's activities, performers, food, etc.)
- He suggested that we think about having a Block Captain system and having pot luck dinners.
- Gill's phone is 940-2202. email is [gill@npnnola.com](mailto:gill@npnnola.com)

**Tommy and/or Troy Keller re: 3900 block of Tchoupitoulas/Annunciation (This didn't happen)**

- A few hours before the meeting, Troy Keller, brother of Tommy Keller, called to say no one would be attending the meeting.
- They had a proposition for the 7 lots in 3900 block of Tchoupitoulas/Annunciation but it just fell through. (Someone was thinking of opening a Green Parrot type of nursery but decided it would be too close to the Green Parrot)
- Troy Keller apologized to Bob on phone for being a bad neighbor. (Until the day before the neighborhood meeting, the property had not been cleared off. Has been very overgrown and filled with trash.)
- We believe they are planning to put up fences.

**New FMNA Website:**

- New neighbor and attorney, David Nance, has designed a webpage for FMNA! Check it out.

<http://www.fmnanola.org/index.html>

- One great feature - Under the heading "Contact" - are NOPD Hot Sheets.
  - If you fill them out online, David will see that NOPD's 2nd District gets a copy and Bob Smith gets a copy
  - If you prefer, you can just print out form and mail it or fax it yourself.
- There is also a link to Cops II on the home page of the website. You can print out form to join Cops II (only \$24 a year).
  - Money donated to Cops II goes to 2nd District police. This money helps fund urgent needs, special purchases such as computers, etc.
  - Remember - 70% of our 2nd District police lost their homes and possessions. Let's give back to them for all they do.
- David Nance is interested in selling ads to local businesses to advertise on the website. Would only be about \$25 or \$50 a year.

### **Sugar is Still Missing:**

- Brian Tarney's dog, Sugar, is still missing. She's an older black lab with a docked tail. She's not wearing a collar. She's big (100 lbs.) and might look intimidating but she's very sweet and has never bitten anybody. Brian's phone number is 400-6050 and his address is 4029 Annunciation.
- A neighbor at the meeting thinks she saw Sugar being walked by a woman near Louisiana and Delachaise.

### **Upcoming Neighborhood Watch Meetings:**

- Bob has arranged for FMNA to go through 4 Neighborhood Watch meetings to learn how to make our neighborhood safer.
- These meetings will be at Austerlitz Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m. on these **Thursdays - March 27, April 17, May 8 (not 18th as stated in earlier email!), and June 19.**

Julie T. Graybill

Secretary, Faubourg Marengo Neighborhood Association