

EAST NEW ORLEANS NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION
(ENONAC) www.enonac.org
GENERAL MEETING
7th District NOPD, 10101 Dwyer Rd., New Orleans, LA 70128
Tuesday, May 10, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Executive Board Members:

P – Denotes member present, E – Denotes member excused, A – Denotes member absent, V – vacant position

P	Sylvia Scineaux-Richard, President	P	Romona Baudy , 1 st Vice President
P	Brenda Jackson, 2 nd Vice President	P	Karol Sanders, Treasurer
P	Carroll Denesse, Member At Large	E	Joan Heisser, Member At Large
P	Arthur Busby, Parliamentarian	E	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 6:16 p.m. After the roll call, a quorum was established.

II. Introduction of Special Guests

Miles Granderson, Sherman Strategies representing RaceTrac gas station

III. Approval of Agenda

Comm. McWilliams made a motion to approve the agenda for the General Meeting and Comm. Duckworth seconded. After the vote the motion passed.

IV. Approval of April 12, 2016 General Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April 12, 2016 General Meeting were read and Comm. Williams made a motion to accept the minutes and Comm. Weaver seconded. After the vote, the motion passed.

V. Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer’s report was read by Comm. Sanders and everyone was given copies of the report. Comm. Busby made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and Comm. Hebert seconded. After the vote, the motion carried.

VI. New Business

A. Zoning Docket 051/16: Proposed gas station & ABO sales at 5700 Read Blvd. ENONAC has taken a cautious view of liquor licenses. The RaceTrac gas station will need approval. There was concern at the time about 24 hr. security and loitering. Pres Scineaux Richard stated that we want the Mall back and have for 10 years. We did not approve mall development several years ago because of questions reference expected deliverables of the project and no identified experienced shopping center developers. We have met with the current new developers and asked all the needed questions about taxes, rents, etc. We want it to be a family destination for shopping, restaurants, and services and to have a good front facade. The developer stated that RaceTrac has agreed to move next to the Save-A-Lot so the interest and quality of the front of mall development are assured. The level of liquor sales was questioned. We want it not be the emphasis of gas sales. We must work with and reach a compromise with RaceTrac so it will not be a deterrent or hold up Mall development. The developer has given us a drawing of the East Town Center (new name of the Plaza Mall). They will finance the Mall with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) money (tax write-off). We need to give proviso’s for the RaceTrac to keep up their space for cleanliness and lawn care; no loitering. We do not know who the manager of this Mall will be. After working out the numbers, the developer stated that they will come up lower than the estimated revenues project. The City Council will vote on the 24th of May. Comm. Weaver questioned the naming of the mall. Do we have any rights to change the name? Comm. Hamilton asked if the TIF transfer is from the old developer or is this a new TIF for these developers. The taxes generated will be put back into this project. No TIF funds, no development. What can ENONAC do to make this development work and ensure quality of life issues are met? Special attention should be given to the landscaping of the back end of the Plaza area.

Attorney Miles Granderson, a representative from RaceTrac, fielded questions on the proposed gas station. He stated that they are willing to work with the community regarding landscaping, and loitering. RaceTrac is giving up the first option of purchase to move over to parcel #3. Comm. Legaux stated we needed commitment with ENONAC and return with info at another meeting. ENONAC's HLUZ committee will get with the planner and pass on the info to the ENONAC body at another meeting. Comm. Jackson made a motion not to be in opposition but to work toward a consensus on the level of liquor, safety, landscaping, etc. Comm. Busby seconded the motion. After the vote, the motion passed.

B. Master Plan Open Application Period: We need to be careful with zoning changes. Developers may request more zoning changes in this application period. Be the eyes in your own residential area. Pay attention to what is being proposed. Once the Council approves, we are stuck. ENONAC should not be the only eyes on the look-out for violations. ENONAC has fought long and hard for the current zoning and new standards presently in place for new developments. We do not need developers who are non-compliant and inconsistent; we want more green spaces, lush landscaping, low density, walking paths, etc.

It was suggested Zoning Personnel meet with us and explain the use of slabs which are 50% damaged. It appears current laws are not being followed. We need to support or have fundraisers in order to get an attorney to fight these issues of non-compliance. Comm. Duckworth suggested we invite the Vietnamese community to speak with us about an attorney. Comm. DeGrasse suggested we get the media involved with these developers making plans to continue to develop these low income projects without regards for sitting zoning laws, building standards, etc. Comm. Hamilton stated that the non-passing of the \$5 parcel fee hurt us and we will continue to be bombarded with these developments. Comm. Kingvalsky suggested that we ban with the French Quarter on these issues. The news media seems to listen to these residents. They have a strong lobbying system.

Comm. Baudy stated that she spoke with Councilman Gray's office and was told the zoning will not be changed to accommodate a developer wishing to build an apartment complex at Crowder and Edgelake.

C. Strive NOLA: Amy Bryant spoke reference the program being in New Orleans since April, 2016 and is presently in 20 other cities. It is 4 weeks of training for those unemployed. They are trained Monday thru Friday, from 9-4pm; working on skills, resume, interview, and placement on jobs. There is a 2-yr support system. Referrals are accepted and you must be 18-65 years of age. It is free of charge. They work with the Urban League; women and men. She gave the office information: Angela Shilou, 1340 Poydras, Suite 100, 658-4279. You can get 1 hour of free parking.

VII. Old Business

A. Versailles Apt. Complex update: Village of East Coalition, Maple Ridge, Willowbrook, VAYLA, and Mary Queen of Vietnam Church are working on a petition for signing.

B. Dredging of NOE Canals: Comm. Hamilton spoke and said that Cedric Grant stated the 2016 budget allows for this dredging. We seem to be getting nowhere with this project. Bullard, Lake Forest, Bundy and Michoud had water during the last rainfall. Drains are 5-8 feet deep with sediment; drains need to be cleaned out. We will have flooded homes and businesses if this is not handled. Pumps cannot work with this condition. Comm. Hamilton made a motion that there should be a meeting and letter should be requested of Cedric Grant and Hydraulic Engineers. Comm. Baudy seconded. After the vote, the motion passed. Once the meeting is set, residents should come in droves. The canals were last dredged in 2008.

VIII. Community Info

A. Lake Forest Charter School will have a KaBOOM Playground build. They need 200 volunteers to help. It is on May 20th from 9-3pm.

B. There is new contact information for Police Engagement. Please refer to your email for more information.

C. The letter to the Political Representatives of NOE was drawn up. The 'Meet, Talk and Plan' meeting for conversation with our political representatives voicing ENO residents goals for the future will be on Saturday, June 18 2016 from 10:00 to noon at New Orleans East Hospital.

IX. Adjournment: It was moved by Comm. Duckworth and seconded by Comm DeGrasse that meeting be adjourned. After the vote, the motion passed.

Pres Scineaux-Richard mentioned that she is on the board of Gallier Hall Preservation Committee and they are hosting a 'Porch Party' on Thursday, May 12, from 5:30-7pm.

Prepared by Carroll Denesse
June 12, 2016