



Minutes

December 17, 2022 Board Meeting
Zoom & YouTube Live Stream
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President Bryan Jourdain at 10:12 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Bryan Jourdain, Velma Johnson, Mtumishi St. Julien, Al Parker,
Marc Barnes, Ira Thomas

Absent: Brenda Hogan

Quorum met

III. Approval of August 18, 2022 Minutes

An abbreviated version of the minutes was read. Full minutes will be provided later.

A motion to accept minutes was made by Velma Johnson.

The motion was seconded by Marc Barnes.

Motion passed.

IV. New Business

- a. End of Year Updates

The tentative date for the next meeting is January 28, 2023. The next meeting will be in person at the New Orleans East Hospital. Proper notice will be provided.

Board Member Marc Barnes will resign at the end of the year, due to moving to another community; however, he will continue to be engaged in the community. Residents interested in participating on the Board are encouraged to offer themselves in service.

Elections will occur in March. There will be four open seats:

Commissioners Al Parker and Brenda Hogan's positions will be available, as well as Ira Thomas' seat, in addition to Commissioner Barnes.

b. Security Updates

Commissioner Jourdain presented the crime incidents report through December 15, provided by SEAL Security. The full annual report will be emailed to residents. The report shows the various types of incidents and the number of occurrences.

Residents are reminded to keep car doors locked, as break ins continue. Also, remove valuables. One vehicle had a firearm. Commissioner Jourdain has spoken to NOPD and City Council members. They expect the number of these incidents to go down next year.

Commissioner Johnson encouraged residents to turn lights on at night. It is an easy and effective way to deter criminals. Also, use a timer on lights.

Commissioner Jourdain suggested that solar lights are inexpensive and will turn on automatically to illuminate an area. Lake Bullard is considered to be one of the safer subdivisions, per NOPD, which is why there isn't as much NOPD presence here. Call NOPD and file a report if an incident occurs. This will ensure that we will get the attention needed in the future.

Crystal A. Johnson, a new resident, said that she has attempted to contact the Seventh District station but there was no answer and the doors were locked. Commissioner Jourdain said this is on par with NOPD problems throughout the city. There are meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the 7th District. Residents are encouraged to attend. If the door is locked, call them and they will open the door. The station should be manned 24 hours a day, but they are understaffed.

Questions:

Ms. Johnson, asked about the organizational structure of the homeowners association (HOA). The HOA now seems to be referred to as the Lake Bullard Neighborhood Improvement District. There are also officers and commissioners.

Commissioner St. Julien explained that the HOA is a nonprofit organization founded by the developers, and was formed in the 1980s. Dues were collected at that time, but they were not paid by all residents. Around 2007 work began on a tax assessment district which was successfully established by vote of the residents of Lake Bullard to assess \$350 per year to be collected with property

taxes. The HOA remained intact because the land restrictions associated with our properties are enforced by that organization. To reduce confusion about the two organizations, joint bylaws were established for both organizations.

c. Building Permit

A resident reported a home with ongoing construction on Midpoint Drive. No one was present to discuss the issue, so Commissioner Jourdain provided information. It was believed that the changes are unpermitted, but the resident has had a building permit since 2020. The Land Restrictions state that a lot can only support a single family residence, and cannot be built higher than 35 feet. The owner is adding a garage at the bottom and an entertainment room at the top of the structure. It will not be higher than 35 feet and will not be rented out. The structure should be finished on or before February 1, 2023. The owner is available to discuss if anyone has questions.

V. Open Forum

Commissioner Thomas provided update on the “Pink Lady”. She is still in the area. The Apostolic Church at New Orleans Outreach Ministry encouraged her to go to Extended Stay and is working with her to regain her housing voucher. She was not evicted from her apartment, she just left. Per NOPD, City Council and Mayor’s Office, she is not breaking laws and she is on public property, so there is little they can do.

There is another family on the neutral ground at Lake Forest and Bullard with a school-age child and a baby. They have been loitering in the area for about two weeks.

If a resident is interested in filling a vacancy, they can nominate themselves or someone else via email. An election will take place in March. Commissioner Jourdain welcomes calls to explain the process.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.