

# RECORD OF DISCUSSION

## Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

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**Date** 6:00 – 8:00, April 14th, 2010  
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

**Next Meeting** 6:00-8:00, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

### Participants:

Alvin Banks  
Shirley Daufauchard  
Sidney Daufauchard  
Andre Harris  
Ola James

Valerie Johnson  
Terry Jordan  
Bernice King  
Cynthia Magraff  
Emelda Paul

Ruby Regis  
Carl Richardson  
Gale Sanders  
Shuane Simon  
Beryl Thomas

Sojourner Truth Family Supportive Services: Rebekah Simon  
Providence/Enterprise: Jim Kelly, Matt Morrin, Nick Roosevelt  
HANO: Eddie Scott, Valerie Brown  
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services: Sarah Marcello  
Friends of Lafitte Corridor: Bart Everson, Ethan Ellestad

*This meeting record was drafted by Nick Roosevelt, staff at Providence. Prior to being finalized, it will be provided in draft to all meeting participants for their review. It reflects the key messages and main points raised at the meeting. It is not intended to represent a verbatim transcript.*

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The meeting began with an opening prayer by Miss Emelda Paul.

## I. Sojourner Truth / Resident Council Update

### Emelda Paul:

- **Senior Fest:** Being held May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm at 6400 Press Drive. Tickets are \$3 in advanced and you can sign up for free transportation to and from the Sojourner Truth Community Center.
- **Senior Bingo:** Held 2 to 3 times a month. The event has been very popular and attendance is growing. Ask the Residents Council how to get involved.

## II. Lafitte Redevelopment Update

### Matt Morrin

- As you can see, there is a large amount of construction underway. Providence/Enterprise expects the first of the units to be available in October or November of this year.
- H.U.D. Secretary Shaun Donovan visited the Mrs. Paul and the Providence/Enterprise team this week. He made it clear that he is excited about getting this project revved up.

- We are still working on community rules and leasing regulations. Interstate Property will be coming back for next month's meeting to discuss rules and regulations. As soon as everything is finalized, they will be reaching out to residents so that when the units start going up, former residents can be ready to move in.
- We are still working on getting the Oral History project off and running. At this point, we are waiting on SHPO to give its final okay for the project and then we can move forward. We will be sure to update all of you as things start moving.
- It looks like Lagniappe Academies, which is starting with a Kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class this Fall we be operating temporarily on the former Bell School site in modular buildings. While plans are subject to change, Lagniappe is hoping to operate its school at Wheatley, once renovations take place.
- **Question:** How should we plan on timing our current leases with moving in to the new Lafitte? **Matt Morrin:** That is a great question. While we hope units will start going up in October or November, they will not *all* go on-line at the same time. Also, as the date gets closer, we will work as hard as possible to give a clear picture of the timeline. It will be very helpful to start working with the Sojourner Truth staff as soon as possible to start planning, but there should be a way to work things out smoothly. **Sarah Marcello:** It is important to look over your lease now. There is a big difference between month-to-month leases and extended-term leases. Each lease usually varies in specifics. Either way, if any problems arise, either with landlords raising your month-to-month rent or otherwise, HANO's staff should be assisting you. As always, if you want me to look over your lease or are interested in terminating your current lease, please let me know.
- **Question:** What about business development? **Jim Kelly:** This is clearly something that is very important. The Providence/Enterprise team has partnered with Broad Community Connections to work on business developments along Broad. That organization is doing good work trying to attract a supermarket and other businesses to Broad. We are also hoping to get an update from the folks at the Carver soon.
- **Question:** What kind of modular buildings is Lagniappe putting up? Some are good, but others are terrible. **Jim Kelly:** Unclear at this point, but we will be sure to follow up with the folks at Lagniappe.

### III. HANO Update

#### Eddie Scott:

- Valerie and her staff have been working hard on getting the rehab of the Sojourner Truth Community Center roof and kitchen. Next month, we will have some updates on the new roof, which should be under construction by June. Valerie has also worked hard to make sure that the construction will not impact the normal operation of the Center

### IV. Lafitte Greenway / Friends of Lafitte Corridor Presentation

#### Bart Everson

- Bart provided meeting attendees with a history of Friends of Lafitte Corridor and a presentation of the work and plans to transform the former Lafitte railroad corridor into a walking and bicycling path and park that will run from Canal Blvd. to Armstrong Park.

FOLC has worked with the sheriff's office to do periodic grass-cuttings on the abandoned stretches of land where the park will be built. Bart also explains the recent hold-ups the project has faced, but reassures that things are moving forward.

- Friends of Lafitte Corridor is hiking the corridor on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. While the path and park have not been constructed yet, it is a fun time out and a great way to envision what the park will be like when it is finally constructed. Starting at 10am, a very big group will walk from Armstrong park to Canal Blvd., likely stopping for a quick break at the Sojourner Truth. A shuttle will run from Canal Blvd., taking people back to Armstrong Park.
- As a final note, it is important that all community members who live near the park feel like it is theirs, so its important that everyone give there input into the parks design. FOLC will try to make it to future meetings to give updates
- **Question:** Does this have anything to do with Lehman Park #2? Is there any way we can get Lehman #2 cleaned up? **Bart:** FOLC will reach out to the Sheriff's office to see if they can maybe work on the park some the next time they do a general clean-up.
- **Question:** Will the roads running through the new Lafitte also run through the adjacent park? **Bart:** Those sorts of decisions will be made when the design team does community outreach. A little ways away, but FOLC will be sure to update this group.
- **Question:** Is there a Board of Directors, or a list of names of people who are working on this? **Bart:** Anyone is able to join FOLC, but we do not have any official standing. We are a grassroots group that hopes to influence decision-makers in the Mayor's Office and City Council. The City Council has an advisory committee, which Mrs. Paul is on.
- **Question:** You mentioned the project has a budget of \$11.6 million. Is that going to cover the whole thing or will it require more money? **Bart:** We don't think we will need any additional funds for the basic design and construction, although there may be enhancement projects, such as volleyball or basketball courts that would happen in years to come.

## VIII. Adjournment

- Door prizes and dinner served

**Next Meeting:** May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Sojourner Truth.