

French Branch Homeowners Association
Meeting Minutes

Date: Jan. 22, 2004

Time: 7pm

Location: Grace Memorial Baptist Church

Officers Presiding: Robert Broome- President, Ann Smith- Co-President, Dave Mannella- Vice President, Gewel Beard- Secretary, Darlene Brennan- Treasurer

Homeowners Present: 16 (see attached attendance sheet)

Agenda for meeting as follows (see attached sheet)

Call to Order: Robert Broome called the meeting to order with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Robert Broome then presented former president Debbie Stasney with a plaque for the associations appreciation of the job she has done in the past year.

The new officers for 2004 were then introduced to the association.

Minutes from November were not available therefore approval waived at this meeting.

Darlene Brennan passed out the Treasurer's report for the 2nd half of the year 2003. Ann Smith (2003 treasurer) briefly went over end of year figures. (See attached Semi Annual Report)

Robert introduced the guest speaker, John Lamarque. He is the President of the St Tammany School Board and Dist. 13 School Board Representative. He briefly spoke of his personal background and then went on to discuss what is presently going in for the school systems in St Tammany Parish. Several people, including him, from the school system have visited schools in other states to get ideas to try and implement standards to improve the school system here and the quality of education.

He went over new school construction going on and/or being planned in the parish. Also discussed the bond issue that is for an expansion program and some of the things this money will be used for. Also stressed that this bond issue will not result in raising taxes. He then took questions from the homeowners. Some of those questions were as follows:

- 1) Is there anybody to coordinate volunteers for the school systems?
 - a. He took name and phone and will have Judy Earle call about this.
- 2) Will the bond package take care of the roof for Honey Island?
 - a. ~~Yes~~-No, the contractor has gone bankrupt and the school system has to replace the roof using school board funds.
- 3) Is there a way to benchmark nationally? Most major companies ask how do we benchmark nationally before considering moving to this area

- a. A nationwide search was done to find schools similar to ours. They have visited schools in Plano, TX and Naperville, Illinois and brought back ideas from other systems to try and implement here. At this time also briefly discussed how it came about that every high school in the parish has its own athletic stadium auditorium.
- 4) Recently heard at MRA meeting that Kevin Davis is proposing Impact ~~Construction~~ fees to be imposed when building permits are issued. Is school board addressing this?
 - a. Does not know that Mr. Davis will get this approved. If so and if the school board participates, the money will probably will go into the general fund. We can't rely on impact fees for income for the school system. The school system is a \$250 million a year business. Impact fees would not be a significant amount.
- 5) What controls do we have on teachers and what about pay?
 - a. We pay more than some parishes and less than others. We have job fairs that we can pick from the best. Teachers want to work here due to money and conditions. Tenure laws in LA make is difficult to get rid of bad teachers. John went into detail about how this has to be done.

The school board discussion was over.

Robert then spoke briefly about the yards of the month. See agenda sheet for last month winners.

Then proceeded with report from Jane Dean of the ARC. She discussed the priorities of the ARC.

1st Houses that are letting the neighborhood down. (disrepair, junk vehicles, etc.)

Letters have been sent out to three people along with follow up letters. One of these has been resolved.

Jane feels we should use the newsletter to let people know we will be sending letters if they are not abiding by the covenants.

2nd RV, trailers, boats. These will be addressed later.

Robert stated that the rules (covenants) are not by our choice, they were contracts that were set up many years ago.

Dave Mannella stated that it is a parish law about not having junk vehicles in your yard and that there are fines, he thinks as much as \$100.00 a day. Dave stated that there are Parish ordinances covering problems that we are trying to deal with by enforcing our covenants. Improved enforcement of these ordinances may be warranted. Our covenants are law and are filed with the parish.

Jane stated that we are trying to resolve these issues before it gets to the point we have to go to court.

Rick Williamson then briefly went over the progress with the Walmart/Lowes situation. Discussed the traffic study that has been going on for the last couple of months. Hopefully there will be a meeting next week to go over the results of this study.

Robert then went over the goals and plans for 2004. (see agenda sheet)

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes by Gewel Beard.