

Minutes of Algiers Point Association board meeting, Nov. 20, 2025, at Mt. Olivet Church

Board members present: Susan Aspinwall, Joe Bonney, Connie Burks, Skip Gallagher, Vlad Ghelase, Jim Goodwin, Amy Hubbell, Diana Masters, Steve Mercer, Stephan Namisnak, Cindy O'Donnell, Sybil Orr, Marty Strobel, Ron Suarez, Lacey Wotring. Board members not present: Mike Miller, Kelly Rookard

Guests: Lavone Lucas, Jerald Pate, Bernice Pate, Clebert LeBlanc.

After determination that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Susan Aspinwall, APA president.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 18 board meeting was made, seconded and approved without dissent.

Diana Masters, treasurer, presented the treasury report for the months of September (the board's Oct. meeting lacked a quorum for official business) and for October.

September: Beginning bank balance of \$35,886.16. Deposits of \$31.29 and withdrawals of \$15 yielded an ending balance of \$35,902.45. Board-authorized expenditures that had not been processed by Oct. 1 totaled \$865.02, for an adjusted ending balance of \$35,037.43.

October: Beginning bank balance of \$35,902.45. Deposits of \$80.93 and withdrawals of \$1,414.41 yielded an ending balance of \$34,568.97. (These expenses included an inadvertent overpayment of \$148.62 to Jim Goodwin to cover receipts for dog waste stations and Mailchimp fees. This overpayment will be deducted from Mr. Goodwin's separate reimbursement, previously authorized by the board, for Night Out Against Crime expenses.)

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, seconded and approved without dissent.

Jerald Pate outlined a proposal to apply technology to revise and improve the APA's handling of its membership list, online dues payment, and other activities such as membership sign-up and making it easier for neighborhood residents to voice concerns and opinions and to participate in events and activities. During an ensuing discussion, several board members expressed agreement that improvements are needed in these areas.

Mr. Pate and his wife, Bernice Pate, volunteered to lead this project. Early steps would include coordination of the APA's social media efforts and a door-to-door campaign to provide residents with information about the APA and its work and accomplishments, and to expand membership. A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize up to \$500 for reimbursement of

initial expenses for this project, and for Mr. and Mrs. Pate to provide the board with a progress report in January, when the board will discuss steps to develop a more comprehensive plan.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to waive the APA bylaws' Article 9, which governs nominations and elections, and add Mr. Pate as a member to the APA board.

The APA's annual holiday party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Compass Point. Sybil Orr requested volunteers to help with setup from 11 a.m. till approximately 1-2 p.m. that day. A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize \$2,000 to cover costs including food, drink, band and other expenses.

Other forthcoming events:

- Safe Streets for All, an event to reduce roadway fatalities and injuries by focusing on safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, will be held Dec.12 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Algiers Regional Library on Holiday Drive. For information, see <https://nola.gov/next/resilience-sustainability/transportation/safe-streets-for-all/>
- City Planning Commission will hold a hearing on Dec. 9 at City Hall on the commission's updated plan for regulation of short-term rentals. Key proposals:

All historic districts should be regulated under the same guidelines, to prevent one neighborhood's problems with STRs from being pushed to another neighborhood.

The limit of one rental per block should apply for all STRs and bed-and-breakfasts.

Fees commercial STRs should be at least as high as those paid by B&Bs.

Whole-house or whole-building STRs should be prohibited.

No exceptions to the new rules should be made by the City Council.

Enforcement of STRs should be vigorous, with escalating rules for repeat offenders and bans for those attempting to dodge penalties through serial incorporation.

Board member raised the question of whether STRs are subject to the city's Healthy Homes ordinance. Lavonte Lucas, assistant director of strategic engagement, said he would determine an answer. Mr. Lucas also noted that he is available at the Algiers Regional Library from 10:30 to 5 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays to respond to residents' quality-of-life concerns and can coordinate meetings with city department representatives.

Stephan Namisnak noted that numerous traffic cones, barrels and stanchions have been left behind by street-repair and Sewerage & Water Board crews after the completion of work.

Residents are urged to report these to editorapanews@gmail.com for forwarding to the

appropriate agency. Please make sure the work has been completed before requesting removal of the cones, etc.

The APA board's annual January "retreat" to discuss goals and priorities for the coming year and to orient new board members is scheduled for Jan. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mount Olivet Church. A potluck brunch is planned.

Mr. Goodwin reported on several items:

A recycling center has opened on Burmaster Street near the Orleans-Jefferson line.

The Department of Public Works is cleaning up trash in the 100 block of Red Allen Street.

The Regional Transit Authority is accepting opinions on two proposals to revise Algiers bus routes next fall. Both expand intra-Algiers routes but would require transfers at Wilty Terminal for bus service from Algiers Point to the East Bank. RTA representatives also reported plans to extend the Airport Express bus route to the foot of Canal Street.