



---

## Meeting Minutes & Action Items

---

### Board Members Present

---

- **Sue Aspinwall** – President
- **Jim Goodwin** – Board Member
- **Ron Suarez** – Board Member
- **Evelyn Hamilton Friselle** – Board Member
- **Amy Hubbell** – Board Member
- **Steve Mercer** – Board Member
- **Cindy O'Donnell** – Board Member
- **Lacey Wotring** – Board Member
- **Kelly Juneau Rookard** – Board Member
- **Connie Burks** – Board Member
- **Vlad Ghelase** – Board Member
- **Jerald Pate** – Board Member
- **Stephan Namisak** – Board Member

### Guests Present

---

- John Hirt – New APA member (guest)

### Absent

---

- Laura Boland (Treasurer) – on vacation
- Thomas Muse – called to emergency Plaquemines Parish utilities meeting
- Skip Gallagher
- Mike Miller

---

### 1. Introduction of New Member: John Hirt

---

Jerald Pate introduced John Hirt, a new APA member, who has spent approximately five years researching a significant historical event in Algiers Point: the 1888 fatal wounding of a New Orleans police officer (the ancestor of Hirt's wife) at the corner of Alix and Opelousas. A second officer was also killed that day. The perpetrators were three of the era's most notorious criminals, politically connected in the Mayor Shakspeare administration.

- Jerald Pate shared a draft article with board members for potential posting to the APA website, and suggested the story might merit a historical plaque at the relevant intersection.
- John Hirt lives on the street where the events occurred; his home was built in the 1890s.
- Jim Goodwin recommended Hirt contact Kevin Herridge, head of the Algiers Historical Society, which meets monthly at the Algiers Regional Library. Their next meeting is this Saturday.
- Steve Mercer noted relevant books at the local library and at Nomad.
- Board members suggested a website history column as a vehicle for ongoing publication of neighborhood historical content.

**OUTCOME:** John Hirt will prepare a formal presentation for a future APA meeting. The board will explore posting a summary article to the APA website and investigate the feasibility of a historical plaque at the Alix and Opelousas intersection.

---

### 2. Approval of Minutes

---

---

## Meeting Minutes & Action Items

---

- Sue Aspinwall noted a typographical error in the June 18, 2026 minutes: the header read “June 2018” rather than “June 18, 2026.” She will correct before posting.
- Motion to approve the June 18, 2026 minutes as amended. **Approved unanimously.**
- Sue Aspinwall raised the issue that approved minutes have not been posted to the APA website since February. Going forward, approved minutes (with any amendments) should be sent to the webmaster promptly after each meeting.

### 3. Treasury Report and Bank Signature Authorization

---

#### a. Treasurer’s Report

Laura Boland (Treasurer) is on vacation, as is Diana Masters. The June 1–June 30 Treasurer’s Report is deferred to the August meeting, once Boland and Diana have had a chance to meet and transfer records.

#### b. Bank Signature Authorization – Gulf Coast Bank

Jim Goodwin requested this be recorded in a single set of minutes for presentation to Gulf Coast Bank, consolidating votes from prior meetings:

- **Removed as authorized signatories:** Jim Goodwin, Diana Masters
- **Added as authorized signatories:** Sue Aspinwall, Laura Boland

*All changes were previously voted on; this entry provides a consolidated record.*

### 4. Board Communications: Slack

---

- Vlad Ghelase explained that Slack keeps all board records — conversations and files — in one centralized place, organized by topic channel. Files are retained indefinitely on the paid account.
- Steve Mercer clarified that the APA qualifies for a **free nonprofit paid account**, providing full paid-tier features at no cost, as long as the workspace remains active.
- Additional benefits noted: AI-generated meeting synopses, easy polling, and the ability to approve and distribute minutes quickly so they can be posted to the website in a timely manner.
- Board agreed to continue using both email and Slack during the transition period until all members are reliably using Slack.

### 5. Algiers Point Business Roundtable

---

Jer Pate reported that July was not feasible for the Business Roundtable — too many businesses were closed or unavailable. Jer and Ron Suarez are targeting the third week of August. Jer also noted that businesses are contributing donations for welcome baskets (e.g., \$10 gift certificates from local restaurants).

### 6. Old Business: Confetti Kids / The Lot Park

---

- **Property transfer:** The final transfer of The Lot will go before the City Council at the **July 23rd city council meeting**.
- **Remediation:** Expected to begin the week of July 20th.
- **Funding shortfall:** Russell Blanchard estimates approximately a **\$10,000 shortfall** after NORA’s remediation contribution. Annie Watkins applied for ~\$12,000 in grants; results not expected until December. Storage costs and equipment repair have also reduced the project’s reserve.
- Thomas Muse (absent tonight) has confirmed he will help in any way he can. Kelly Juneau Rookard and Muse remain the APA’s liaison committee for this project.
- **Exterior sidewalk:** The park has no exterior sidewalk. Confetti Kids has approached DPW for years without result. Board members asked if anyone has a DPW contact who could help.
- Vlad Ghelase stated for the record that the proposed remediation approach — paving one section and excavating 5 feet in another — is wasteful and represents a misuse of approximately \$100,000 in public and nonprofit funds.

---

## Meeting Minutes & Action Items

---

### 7. Neighborhood Communications: 311 System

---

Stephan Namisak encouraged board members and residents to use the **311 online system** for neighborhood complaints. Repeated filings appear to elevate issues in the city's task management system, making them more likely to be addressed.

### 8. APA Home Tour – Fall 2026 Update

---

- **Dates confirmed:** October 3rd and 4th, 2026.
- **Homes confirmed:** Five homes secured so far.
- Lacey Wotring reported that Valerie Robinson (Algiers Main Street) confirmed advertising support and day-of volunteers for the Home Tour.
- Natalie Fowler will photograph the homes at no charge.
- Stephanie Bruno will write the home descriptions.

### 9. Christmas in July Event

---

Jim Goodwin reminded the board of the **Christmas in July** neighborhood shopping event on **Saturday, July 25th**, featuring discounts up to 20% at participating businesses. Board members encouraged to spread the word.

### 10. NORD Pools and Juvenile Safety

---

- Connie Burks attended the NORD board meeting and reported: pools are open until 5:00 PM on Saturdays through July, but that will stop August 1st due to NORD's assumption that lifeguards are returning to school.
- Jim Goodwin noted that NOPD data confirms juvenile crime has doubled since school let out, and that extended pool access is a public safety tool.
- NORD's stated reason for not extending hours: lifeguards cannot be required to work overtime.
- **New NORD CEO:** Tyrone Casby.
- **Key contacts for escalation:** Janet Avegno (Deputy Mayor, Recreation) and Michael Harrison (Deputy Mayor, Public Safety).

**OUTCOME:** Board to continue pressure on NORD regarding weekend pool hours. Connie Burks and Jerald Pate to follow up with NORD CEO Tyrone Casby. Board members encouraged to also contact Deputy Mayors Avegno and Harrison.

### 11. Civic and Infrastructure Updates

---

#### a. World Monuments Fund

Jim Goodwin reported that New Orleans has been named to the World Monuments Fund's list of irreplaceable sites — the **only U.S. city** to receive this recognition. An editorial by Quinn Hillier was published the same day. Credit given in part to Kristin Palmer and the Preservation Resource Center.

#### b. Ferry Terminal

The RTA has partnered with the Algiers Economic Development Foundation to manage the main floor of the renovated ferry terminal.

#### c. NOPD 4th District

The new NOPD 4th District Commander is **Kevin Burns**, previously head of the homicide section with a record of high conviction rates.

#### d. Pedestrian Crossing Signs

Four new pilot pedestrian crossing signs have been installed: two by the mural, one by Tout de Suite, and one by Delaronde.

#### e. Bureau of Government Research



## Meeting Minutes & Action Items

A recent BGR meeting addressed New Orleans population trends and emphasized the need to diversify the local economy beyond tourism.

### 12. Membership and Neighborhood Spotlight

- Jerald Pate reported new members have been added again for July.
- **Next Neighborhood Spotlight:** Carmine Rau, head librarian at the Hubbell Library on Pelican Ave — agreed by the board.

### 13. Community Recognition: Ronnie Ruiz

Sue Aspinwall brought to the board's attention the case of **Mr. Ronnie Ruiz**, a resident who has voluntarily mowed the lawn at McDonogh for the past 30 years at his own expense, currently spending approximately \$25 per week on gas. His address is 537 Bermuda Street.

- Vlad Ghelase proposed a \$500 grant presented as a welcome basket (bottle of wine, personal notes from the board, and the check).
- Amy Hubbell expressed appreciation and raised the philosophical question of whether the APA should financially support civic duties the city should be performing, but did not oppose the motion.

**MOTION PASSED: Authorize a \$500 grant to Mr. Ronnie Ruiz, presented with a letter of recognition from the APA.**

### 14. STR / CSTR Reform – ‘Strong’ Coalition

Jim Goodwin presented a request from a group called “Strong,” which advocates for short-term rental reform — specifically the ban on Commercial Short-Term Rentals (CSTRs) — and asked the APA to join their coalition.

- Kelly Juneau Rookard stated she could not support something she did not fully understand, noting the materials provided were insufficient.
- Vlad Ghelase expressed opposition to joining any coalition whose full positions the APA may not endorse.
- Jim Goodwin moved to join the Strong coalition.

**VOTE: 5 in favor, 7 opposed. Motion fails. APA will not join the Strong coalition at this time.**

### 15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

### Action Items

| Responsible             | Action Item                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| John Hirt / Jerald Pate | Prepare a formal historical presentation on the 1888 Alix & Opelousas crime story for a future APA meeting. Jerald Pate to coordinate timing with Sue Aspinwall. |
| Jerald Pate / Board     | Draft a summary article of John Hirt's 1888 historical research for the APA website. Explore feasibility of a historical marker/plaque at Alix and Opelousas.    |
| John Hirt               | Contact Kevin Herridge, Algiers Historical Society, regarding a potential presentation at their monthly meeting (Algiers Regional Library).                      |
| Sue Aspinwall           | Correct the June 18, 2026 minutes header (reads “June 2018”) and send corrected approved minutes to the webmaster for posting.                                   |
| All Board Members       | Send approved minutes to Sue Aspinwall promptly after each meeting for posting to the APA website.                                                               |



# Algiers Point Association

Monthly Membership Meeting | July 16, 2026 | 7:05 PM CT

## Meeting Minutes & Action Items

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Jim Goodwin</b>                          | Provide Gulf Coast Bank with these minutes as the consolidated record of authorized signature changes (removed: Goodwin, Masters; added: Aspinwall, Boland).                                    |
| <b>Jim Goodwin / Ron Suarez</b>             | Finalize date and logistics for the Algiers Point Business Roundtable, targeting the third week of August.                                                                                      |
| <b>Kelly Juneau Rookard / Thomas Muse</b>   | Continue as APA liaisons to Confetti Kids / The Lot. Obtain updated cost and shortfall figures from Russell Blanchard and return with a concrete APA support proposal at the August meeting.    |
| <b>Kelly Juneau Rookard / Board Members</b> | Identify any DPW contacts who could assist Confetti Kids in obtaining the exterior sidewalk around The Lot park.                                                                                |
| <b>Stephan Namisak</b>                      | Draft and distribute a neighborhood communication encouraging use of the 311 online system for reporting issues, emphasizing that repeated filings help elevate priority.                       |
| <b>Lacey Wotring / Home Tour Committee</b>  | Continue Home Tour planning for October 3–4: coordinate with Natalie Fowler (photography) and Stephanie Ferlin (write-ups); continue recruiting additional homes; begin ticket sales logistics. |
| <b>Connie Burks / Jerald Pate</b>           | Follow up with NORD CEO Tyrone Casby to push for extended weekend pool hours. Escalate to Deputy Mayor Janet Avegno (Recreation) and Deputy Mayor Michael Harrison (Public Safety) as needed.   |
| <b>Sue Aspinwall / Board</b>                | Spread the word about the Christmas in July neighborhood shopping event on Saturday, July 25th.                                                                                                 |
| <b>Cindy O'Donnell / Board</b>              | Coordinate the next Neighborhood Spotlight feature on Carmine, head librarian at the Hubbell Library.                                                                                           |
| <b>Sue Aspinwall / Vlad Ghelase</b>         | Prepare and deliver the \$500 recognition grant to Mr. Ronnie Ruiz in the form of a welcome basket with a letter from the APA board.                                                            |

*Minutes prepared from AI-assisted transcription | Algiers Point Association | July 16, 2026*