



Algiers Point Association

Monthly Membership Meeting | June 18, 2026 | 7:00 PM CT

Meeting Transcript

Transcript reconstructed from AI-assisted transcription. Speaker attributions may contain minor transcription errors.

Board Members in Attendance

- **Sue Aspinwall** – President
- **Jim Goodwin** – Vice President
- **Stefan Namisak** – Board Member
- **Vlad Ghelase** – Board Member
- **Marty Stroble** – Board Member
- **Jerald Pate** – Board Member
- **Lacey Wotring** – Board Member
- **Ron Suarez** – Board Member
- **Liz Strong** – Board Member
- **Kelly Juneau** – Board Member
- **Steve Mercer** – Board Member
- **Amy Hubbel** – Board Member
- **Laura Boland** – Elected to Board at this meeting
- **Evelyn Hamilton Friselle** – Elected to Board at this meeting
- **Thomas Muse** – Elected to Board at this meeting

Guests / Community Members

- Hannah Gar – Hebrew Studio (LuminOak sculpture presentation)
- Steel, Brooke, Tim – Hebrew Studio team
- Annie Watkins – President, Confetti Kids
- Russell Blanchard – Chair, The Lot park project (Confetti Kids)

Transcript

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Sue Aspinwall (President)

Meeting is brought to order at 7:03 PM.

Stefan Namisak

Stefan Namisak, board member.

Jim Goodwin

Jim Goodwin, vice president.

Vlad Ghelase

Vlad Ghelase, board member.

Marty Stroble

Marty Stroble, board member.

Jerald Pate

Jerald Pate — Jerald with a J — board member.



Algiers Point Association

Monthly Membership Meeting | June 18, 2026 | 7:00 PM CT

Meeting Transcript

Lacey Wotring

Lacey Wotring, board member.

Ron Suarez

Ron Suarez, board member.

Thomas Muse

Thomas Muse. I'm not really sure of my title yet.

Liz Strong

Liz Strong, board member.

Evelyn Hamilton

Good evening. I'm Evelyn Hamilton, community member.

Kelly Juneau

Hi, I'm Kelly Juneau. I'm a board member.

Steve Mercer

Steve Mercer, board member.

Laura Boland

Laura Boland, hoping to be a board member.

Amy Hubbel

Amy Hubbel, board member.

II. Board Member Nominations

Sue Aspinwall

First off, I'd like to make a motion for nominations to be accepted and voted on for Laura Boland to become a member of the board.

Board Member

So moved.

Vlad Ghelase

Did we vote to override the bylaws?

Sue Aspinwall

Bylaws allow for nominees to fill open seats. We're not having to deal with that right now. All in favor?

Board

Aye.

Sue Aspinwall

Congratulations. Thank you, Laura. I'd also like a motion made and seconded for Evelyn Hamilton Friselle to become a board member.

Board Member

So moved.

Board Member

Second.

Sue Aspinwall

All in favor?

Board

Aye.

Meeting Transcript

Sue Aspinwall

Congratulations. And for Thomas Muse, I'd like to have a motion made and seconded for his nomination for being a member of the board.

Board Member

So moved.

Board Member

Second.

Sue Aspinwall

All in favor? We're thrilled to have you here.

Board

Aye.

III. Guest Speakers: The LuminOak Sculpture

Sue Aspinwall

We have six guest speakers tonight. Give us a brief rundown of what your art project is and what you would like from the APA.

Hannah Gar (Hebrew Studio)

My name is Hannah, with Steel, Brooke, and Tim. We fabricated a sculpture specifically for Algiers Point called LuminOak. Jerald found out about the piece and wanted us to tell you about it. It hasn't been installed yet. The planned location is on the jazz walk.

Sue Aspinwall

Who are you working with regarding the commission?

Hannah Gar

The Arts Council New Orleans. The entire front lacework metal panel is a visual story of the history of Algiers. It is a light box and a sculptural tree that is also a bench. Right now it's in storage, but it's completely built. The intent is to draw people in from the French Quarter.

Lacey Wotring

Is there any budget for maintenance?

Hannah Gar

That is not a part of our contract. We build, install, and give a maintenance manual.

Board Member

Will the lighting require electricity or solar?

Hannah Gar

It requires electricity.

Jerald Pate

There is a pad on the jazz walk that has electricity. That's the pad they wanted to put it on.

Sue Aspinwall

Who owns it when it's installed?

Hannah Gar

Ownership transfers from the artist to the city at the time of installation.

Jerald Pate

The point of contact is Lindsey Glass. These artists are sensitive and want this handled diplomatically because they don't want issues with the Arts Council.

Meeting Transcript

Sue Aspinwall

We don't have authority over the levee, but we can advocate. Jim, Skip, and Sue know the key players at the levee authority.

Hannah Gar

We've been told getting a permit through the Army Corps of Engineers is difficult. This has been complete for about two years now.

Lacey Wotring

Is there another designated spot if that runs into roadblocks?

Hannah Gar

Triangle Park is an area, but the idea is to be visible from the other side.

Vlad Ghelase

The one to go to is Jesse Noel at the levee authority. They handle the Army Corps for additions like benches.

Sue Aspinwall

We will follow up gingerly on that.

IV. Guest Speakers: Confetti Kids & The Lot

Annie Watkins

I'm the president of Confetti Kids. This is Russell Blanchard, our chair for 'The Lot,' a new park at Alix and Homer.

Russell Blanchard

I've been a resident for 16 years. This story goes back to 2008 with Bakir Tahimbe, who wanted a green space so children didn't have to play in the street. We have playground equipment from Harriet Tubman Elementary in storage.

Russell Blanchard

We've been working with the city to trade properties so this can become a NORD park. The CPC approved the trade, but a soil test 3 to 5 feet deep found glass and rubble. The city says it needs remediation before the swap.

Russell Blanchard

Remediation costs between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Brownfields and NORA are putting in money, but we had to take \$10,000 from our installation fund. We are now about \$20,000 short for the installation, which costs about \$100,000 total.

Vlad Ghelase

Spending public money on remediation for non-toxic construction debris five feet down seems idiotic to me.

Russell Blanchard

It's a liability issue for a kids' park. They will lay a barrier so nothing rises up.

Kelly Juneau

How many quotes did we get for the install?

Russell Blanchard

There are only two playground installers in New Orleans.

Sue Aspinwall

When can we see kids playing?

Russell Blanchard

If the swap is approved next month and remediation takes a month or two, hopefully by Christmas.

Sue Aspinwall

I suggest a few board members meet with them to bring a plan back to the board next month.

Meeting Transcript

Vlad Ghelase

Who is the professional of record for the project?

Russell Blanchard

Kristen Palmer is all the way up to speed and has helped us beyond belief.

V. Board Policy: Diversity and Recruiting

Amy Hubbel

We want a more structured process to identify and approve board members based on diversity — race, ethnicity, age, length of residence, etc. — to be representative of the neighborhood without using quotas.

Board Member

Could we add geography? We have not had board members in recent years from the neighborhood between Newton and Opelousas.

Sue Aspinwall

I think it's just talking to more people in the community. That is how you build diversity — diversity of thought, intellect, skills, and ethnicity.

Vlad Ghelase

I find it ironic that the first time we've had a discussion about DEI and vetting was when a person of color wanted to be on the board.

Amy Hubbel

Successful boards of nonprofits tend to be fairly selective and look at what each person brings.

Sue Aspinwall

All in favor?

Board

Aye.

Jim Goodwin / Vlad Ghelase

Abstain.

VI. Administrative and Treasurer Updates

Sue Aspinwall

Motion to approve the May 21st minutes and treasurer's reports. Vlad, these are fabulous minutes.

Board

So moved / Second / Aye.

Vlad Ghelase

I process them the next day while it's fresh. I put them on Slack. It's a valuable tool because there's a record and it's split by categories.

Steve Mercer

I'll send the invitation link for Slack to everyone.

Jim Goodwin

For the treasury report, we need a volunteer.

Laura Boland

Just teach me what to do.

Jim Goodwin

I will. It isn't hard — just a simple program and signing a check or two.

Meeting Transcript

Sue Aspinwall

Laura, we need a treasurer. All in favor? Aye.

VII. Fundraising and Events

Marty Stroble

Which board members are meeting with Confetti Kids? I'd like to know more details.

Sue Aspinwall

Muse and Kelly.

Kelly Juneau

If we are \$20,000 short, there are ways where we can cut labor costs and volunteer our time.

Jerald Pate

Possible dates for the Business Roundtable are Monday, July 20th or August 3rd.

Board

July 20th is best.

Jim Goodwin

I have a request for \$1,166.02. This includes \$132 for Mailchimp, \$153.98 for a new embroidered flag, and \$879.96 for four pedestrian crosswalk bollards.

Sue Aspinwall

Those have all been approved in the past.

Board

Approved.

Amy Hubbel

I want to restart the mini-grant program with a \$2,500 budget and a \$500 max per grant for grassroots neighborhood projects.

Thomas Muse

If we don't have a way to make money, we can't make these great ideas happen.

Kelly Juneau

Every meeting we talk about spending money, but no one talks about how we increase fundraising.

VIII. APA Home Tour

Lacey Wotring

There is interest in a house tour this fall. The idea is that we could make a huge financial contribution to the Confetti Kids park with the proceeds.

Sue Aspinwall

The event is the Algiers Point Association event — Kristin Palmer has no jurisdiction over this.

Jerald Pate

We agreed to raise this money for Confetti Kids because they are at a point where a little money might put them over the finish line.

Lacey Wotring

Kristin Palmer and Sarah at Barge Board are willing to help. We just need the board to stand behind it.

Amy Hubbel

Sponsorships from real estate agents used to be a big part of the funding.

Sue Aspinwall

Meeting Transcript

Motion to grant Lacey's committee an initial budget of \$2,500 for expenses.

Board

So moved / Second / Aye.

Sue Aspinwall

Second motion: net proceeds after expenses will be directed to Confetti Kids.

Board

All in favor? Aye.

Jerald Pate

This will be branded as the Algiers Point Association Home Tour.

IX. Committee Reports and Closing

Jerald Pate

Pool Hours: Crime involving juveniles has doubled since school let out. I told the NORD Board they need to extend hours on weekends. Connie spoke with the NORD CEO, Natasha Robinson, and we need to keep the pressure on.

Jerald Pate

Bylaws: We can change them in-house. We do not have to register them with the Secretary of State.

Jerald Pate

SAM Registration: It expired in 2022. We haven't used it in 15 years. Don't bother re-registering.

Jerald Pate

Ferry Terminal: The terminal is due at end of year. Replacement barges might not arrive until Q2 next year (April–June), which may cause a service shutdown.

Jerald Pate

Safety: Watch out for Infiniti car thefts — they are being targeted.

Jerald Pate

Dog Waste: I installed new dispensers on the levee and by ISL.

Sue Aspinwall

Does anyone want to renovate the garden space in front of the Algiers Point sign?

Steve Mercer

I'd be very interested in having that look beautiful.

Jim Goodwin

One urgent thing: go to the RTA website. They are talking about replacing streetcars with rapid transit vehicles. Take the survey.

Sue Aspinwall

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.