

MICOI Minutes of Meeting April 28, 2021

President Bonnie Peyroux called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Larry Lehans welcomed everyone and introduced Monica Tyler who recited the invocation and then led the attendants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bonnie then turned the microphone over to Naomie Hess, Sec./Treas. for her reports. Both reports were placed on the tables before the meeting and Naomie gave attendants time to read both reports. A motion was made by John Cervini to dispense with reading of the minutes and treasurer's report; motion was second by Larry Lehans. Motion carried.

Bonnie then introduced Kim Ledet as our newest member of the Board and that she was spearheading membership. Kim talked to the attendants about how impressed she was with the email information that she was getting. She then went to Bonnie's house to introduce herself and volunteer to help. Little did she know how very much help is needed. She told the attendants that she had lived all over the United States and had never seen a homeowners' association that was so involved and transparent. What she really could not believe was that the dues is only \$50. per year. That's when she said to Bonnie, "Why doesn't everyone belong to this association?" That's when she became the membership chair!

Sgt. Casnave then addressed the meeting. He gave stats on the recent complaints in our area handled by the Sheriff's Dept.:

- 14 extra patrols were made by Sheriffs
- 8 911 calls were received
- 4 complaints of trash
- 3 domestic disturbance reports
- 1 Fire
- 8 Medical Emergencies
- 1 Suspicious Person
- 1 phone harassment
- 2 thefts
- 2 auto accidents

He further stated that golf carts were becoming an issue. Kids are using the carts on the streets. Golf carts can be made street worthy but must be certified and licensed by the State Police. The operator must have a valid driver's license - this would not allow children who are unlicensed to drive any golf cart on any street. If cart is driven on Private streets such as those in gated communities, it still has to be certified to be driven on the street. The State Statute to have golf carts certified is LRS - 32299.4 Sgt Casnave also reenforced the value of having "Ring" at our doors. The biggest value is that the police can immediately notify the neighborhood of suspicious activity or of persons of interest being sought by the police. This gives the police hundreds of eyes and keeps the community safer. "Ring" can be purchased on line and at local stores for less than \$100. They are easily installed. He also stated that the "round about" being installed on the east side of Oak Harbor was to help traffic flow from the newly opened housing area off Frontage Road. He suggested that a light was needed at the on-off ramps to the I 10 at the Eden Isles exits. He stated that the most recent date to complete Hwy 11 bridge is August, 2021.

John Faust our neighbor and member of the Levee Board than gave us an update on flood protection. The protection was now in Phase 3 for our area and Lacombe. This means that gap analysts is complete as is the modeling for proposal. The Corps of Engineers are on board with the proposal. The next phase is getting the funding. This will be funded fully by federal, state and local governments. The people will most likely have to add a tax on themselves for the maintenance of the levees. The time line is uncertain. The cost will likely be around \$400,000,000. This seems like a huge sum; however, just recently the Federal government proposed to give Orleans Parish 2.2 - 2.4 billion dollars for renovations of their levees. There is now a movement in Washington DC to do away with the "grandfather" clause and to require a building elevation of 12 - 14 feet above sea level. Most all homes built prior to 2021 are below that level and will suffer great increases in flood insurance. John further stated that the new administration's restrictions on the oil companies will cause funds for building levees to dry up as most of the monies came from oil and gas companies.

Bonnie talked about the 20 Year plans that the Parish was proposing and how detrimental it would be to our way of life. We already have way too many low income apartments in our area which does not attract the best of tenants. The proposal calls for more diversity and more low income dwellings. This is exactly what most people were trying to escape when they moved from New Orleans to the North Shore. She urged everyone to contact Jake Airey, Councilman for our area and Sharon Hewitt, State Senator for our area and let them know that we do not support this plan and will not support any elected official who does support this plan.

Bonnie spoke on how hard it is to get the Parish and our councilman to help us in our needs. We STILL do not have the lights promised 5 years ago. Our speed indicator was given to another neighborhood; she has been trying for over 1 1/2 years to get the turning lanes put back by the Moonraker/Clipper Bridge. She is constantly being told that the street is in need of repair and that it is on the agenda - but no sound activity has been taken there.

Lee Longstreet was then called upon to speak about the proposed Casino. He read a letter that he had written to the Slidell Independent and which was published in that newspaper. As a resident of Kenner and a businessman when the Kenner casino was proposed, he was against it. He now has a completely difference of opinion. He stated that Casino's are great neighbors. They improved the area in which he lived - a very upscale neighborhood at that. The police presence was tripled and his "strip mall" was never unoccupied and he never had trouble getting his rents. He further stated that the traffic situation was for the most part unaffected. He pointed out that persons going to Casinos go at all different times - the same as people do when they go to Walmart, Sams or any other big box store. He also brought up the "short term" rentals in our area and how they will lead to the demise of our way of life. The statutes are clear on what can and cannot be done in a "single family zoned" area. All that is needed to stop the "short term" rentals is to enforce the statutes on the books.

John Cervini said that he was against a Casino because it is his opinion that they promise everything and deliver little in the end. He further stated that the State Legislature always earmarks these funds for certain important things such as education and infrastructure. But always end up moving the funds to the General Fund where it is untraced and probably used for frivolous things it was never intended for. Naomi Hess agreed with that part of John's statement but stated that was not the fault of the Casino; it was the fault of the public for reelecting the same group of people who are not transparent and that when asked about where the funds went, they are not forthcoming with details.

To end the meeting, a ticket was pulled for the 50/50 winner. The winner was Bonnie Peyroux; she won \$51.00.

Monica Tyler gave a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned for 8:30 PM.