

FRIENDS of the MANCHAC GREENWAY (FMG) BOARD MEETING MINUTES - 2:00, Wednesday, May 31, 2023 @ the Sunset Stop "roundtable" (next to the Gator's Den), Galva, LA

IN ATTENDANCE: Tom Dumas, Lisa Williams, Galen Schum, Za Maurin and Ben Taylor

ACCEPTANCE of 4/26/23 MEETING MINUTES: Moved to accept - Lisa/Tom 2nd.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Galen Schum reported an ending bank balance of \$7,820.47. He also presented a detailed Annual Treasurer Report for Fiscal Year 2/1/2022 - 1/31/23 and related he submitted IRS Form 990N to maintain our non-profit status. Way to go Galen.

- Za introduced the idea of placing \$5,000.00 in a 5%-yield certificate of deposit and will research possible penalties for early withdrawal before moving forward. Moved to accept - Lisa/Ben 2nd.

GREENWAY PLANNING

Louisiana Recreational Trails Program - Tom related recently seeing an unmanned kayak rental installation on Cane Bayou and thought such a thing could be researched for our Greenway.

Tangipahoa Parish

- USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All - possible assistance for engineering the Squeeze? Ben will contact the Greater New Orleans Regional Planning Commission about Greenway plans contained in their recent DOT application for this grant.

St John Parish

- Hometown Grant - up to \$50,000 toward funding Master Plan? - no report

Bike Easy/RPC Louisiana Bootlace Bike Trail - Assistance in gathering support? no report

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Tree Plantings - no report

Sunset Park - It was noted more concrete rip-rap was recently added to the shoreline and the grass is being cut by the Parish.

Lake Maurepas CO2 storage - Apparently, "The Fix Was In." According to recent news articles, the most powerful, influential lobbyists at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge were hired to advocate for Air Products' plan to store CO2 under Lake Maurepas and as a result, the Louisiana State legislature was swayed to shoot down four bills that were intended to halt, or at least slow down the project in order to build a margin of safety and public consensus. It remains to be seen if a full Environmental Protection Agency Environmental assessment will be conducted or if the company's version of an assessment will be used for final approval.

OUTREACH:

FMG Website

- Go Daddy web hosting has royally screwed FMG by first abandoning their web-builder, preventing necessary changes to the website, then taking our money to register our website until 2024 and then "un-hosting" (deleting) it in February without notice. We are working on re-establishing our website elsewhere.

- Ben reported on his recent meeting with John Stewart who is researching locations and other details for possible eco-tours on or near the Manchac Greenway.

NEXT MEETING:

2:00, Wednesday, July 19, 2023 @ the Gator's Den/Sunset Stop in Galva, LA