

**Special Events Committee
July 2, 2015**

The meeting was called order by Chairman Guy Stacy and the secretary called the roll.

Present: Guy Stacy, Chris Freret, and Asst. Chief Ron Ruple

Absent: Fire Chief Rick Tassin, Maria Radosta and Jason Kaufman

Also Present: Council Members Ernest Burguieres, Carla Buchholz, Clay Madden, Rick Danielson and Mayor Donald Villere

Gulf Coast Event Group

The ½ marathon was an annual event through the City and on the Trace. The cost for the police and fire departments were direct reimbursement cost. There were water stations on Lakeshore Drive, and the insurance certificate was provided at least 30 days prior to the event.

Mr. Freret moved to recommend approval of the application and a waiver of eating and drinking on the lakefront with the receipt of the insurance certificate, seconded by Asst. Chief Ruple and was unanimously approved.

Discussion of Ordinance 15-12

Mr. Stacy presented the discussion of an amendment to the Special Events ordinance. The proposed changes were due in part to an event on May 9th and the committee did not know about some of the problems until the introduction of the ordinance. There was a discussion at the last meeting with Council Member Buchholz being present. The consensus of the board was to change the existing ordinance with other regulations.

Mr. Burguieres asked what did the existing ordinance state in regards to these types of events. There was a discussion that locations were not identified in the existing ordinance.

Mayor Villere said any proposed changes should take into consideration the neighborhoods of the event. Everyone should consider the feelings of the neighborhood, the amount of time the activity went on, noise, traffic, and parking and make every effort to provide the least intrusion to the neighbors. There was input from the police and fire departments on each application. A problem had surfaced following the American Cancer Society's event where there was not specified times for port-a-let delivery and pick up with no penalties. He urged the committee to review those issues, strengthen the application and recommend in an ordinance form teeth to cite violations of the ordinance. They should provide more information to the applicant. A few years ago there were fewer regulations and now the applicants were required to remove their trash and recycle. The applicants had complied and kept the lakefront clean. Crawfish Cookin for a Cause and the Mandeville Family Reunion groups asked to put up portalets and dumpsters because it would be a large amount of trash and they both complied. They kept the intrusion to the neighbors to a small amount and were successful events. The public feedback for the ordinance amendment was that the lakefront should be open for events. The City held four events annually on the lakefront. With the success of the 4th of July, it may become the fifth.

Mr. Stacy said the ordinance was updated in 2011 to encompass parade issues. This issue brought to light other issues that would require an amendment.

Judy Amedee stated she was against the changes to the ordinance. One of the proposed locations would place events on the narrowest part of the lakefront and was not practical. There was not enough parking anywhere on the lakefront. She felt everyone should have use of the lakefront.

Kurt Frosch stated he concurred with Mayor Villere in respect to the application adding more stipulations like requiring port-a-lets, and in their case hand wash stations. He said the Reunion group would correct the parking and dumpster issues. Their event was located at the area of Lafayette Street and Lakeshore Drive. The first year the event was located on Coffee Street in 2012, the harbor areas in 2013 and moved back to the shaded canopy of the lakefront because of the state and the amount of area between the lake and the road. Theirs was a family event and people attending were those raised in Mandeville, who work here, and who visited here. Heart was in Mandeville. They were asked not to double park on both sides of the street but it did happen. Mayor Villere also discussed a lot of traffic on the lakefront grass that should be eliminated. As possible anything brought onto the lakefront should

be on a golf cart instead of a truck. Mr. Frosch said primarily the problem was with the band members and they had already addressed it in a post event meeting. Mr. Stacy asked if there was a complaint from anyone. Mr. Frosch said they tried to follow up on any problems. If anyone called City Hall, it was minimal.

Tracy Eisensohn said the only compliant was the heat. The second year they moved the event to the harbor and paid to be able to use the Yacht Club for those suffering from the heat and people hated being separated. It was a not a conducive location for the event. Under the oaks was the best venue. Their complaints with the ordinance was for future generations. Her grandson might not be able to put on an event in the future. The land was left to the citizens of Mandeville and no matter where she lived, she was a Mandavillian and should be able to enjoy the lakefront. Mandeville was important to her.

Brunette Simmons said the beach belonged to everyone. Some of the residents want to keep others away. The Poitevents lived there 75 years and people parked by their house and there were no complaints. People move to Mandeville because they loved it and they want to change it.

Mr. Stacy said he was from the Westbank, came to Mandeville on a Friday night to Copal Street to the end with the sand beach and had a party. He respected that, and did not want to restrict the lakefront. Ms. Simmons said fences did not last long. Ms. Eisensohn said once the ordinance was changed, it was hard to change.

Susie Weideman said the other people had represented her view. She lived three blocks from the lake, and it was a pain with the traffic but everyone knew that. She had lived in Mandeville since 1961.

Ms. Buchholz said specifically individual issues could happen no matter where the event was staged and it could be addressed through the ordinance. It was a matter of pulling it together. Mr. Burguires said at the last meeting the board brainstormed other issues. The board should receive a report on any issues as a reference for future applications. He asked if it was a matter of charitable and non-profit, and changing the wording to registered. The proposed ordinances last sentence was to work with the committee to determine locations and should there be recommended language of registered or chartered. He suggested looking at the rules and regulations and determine how the changes should work best for the City. Mr. Stacy said the application included if the organization was profit or non-profit as well as a recommendation of cost. With for profit organizations, there was no consideration of a fee waiver. A copy of the tax certificate or 501c3 was required. The ordinance was a reference point. The non-profit organizations mostly donated back to charities in the City. The board was strong on donations going to City organizations. The applicant stated where they wanted to hold the event, and the departments or committee recommended another location if there were concerns.

Ms. Eisensohn said the ordinance was prohibiting any events west of Bayou Coquilles. The Old Mandeville Business Association was their fiduciary as a 501c3. She asked why ban anyone unless there was a safety issue and the police could not monitor it. Mr. Stacy said now if there was a problem with a proposed location, it would not be approved. If there was a need for additional language, the board would make a recommendation.

Mr. Burguires said he was making a comment as a representative of District 3 that he had heard dozens of complaints. There were times when he was on the back porch of his house that he could not hold a conversation because of the loudness of the music. Many people were sympathetic to the use of the lakefront, but when he was a child there was no amplification for music. He had heard complaints from people up to 6 blocks away. He said events on the west coast had increased their charges for admission. He did not know how to fix it. From his perspective to Mr. Frosch, he was proud that the event was growing and it could be a future problem. The Council could require big events to keep attendance numbers. His analysis was that there were 40-80 events on the lakefront and was growing. No one complained about the weddings. Ms. Eisensohn said Ms. Rohrbaugh would disagree with that. Mr. Burguires said they don't call the mayor, but call their Council member. Mayor Villere said the calls were not being passed along. Mr. Burguires said regardless of the event, the insurance should not be waived. There were times when the City was a co-applicant. Mr. Stacy said OMBA and the

City co-op on Winter on the Water so it was the same thing, and it should be taken care of at the Council meeting.

Mr. Stacy stated that this was a volatile issue. The bottom line was that the committee should be notified of a problem. They should be calling City Hall. In the case of the American Cancer Society, it was 45 days before the board knew there was an issue and there could have been another application submitted and approved. Mr. Burguières said people were not calling because they were afraid of retaliation from the Mayor. Mr. Stacy said he was the head of the committee and Mr. Burguières was approving applications without knowing that the board existed.

Mr. Danielson provided insight in how he developed the ordinance. It was not developed based on the reaction of any one event, person or group of people. He agreed the lakefront was for everyone. He hoped and his goal was to make sure it remained for everyone for history. It was a policy and that was all it was. He knew the number of events was growing. It would be too extreme not to allow any events, but it would be best to develop a policy of four locations. With the LPO location there was 1,000 people between Coffee and Carroll Streets. This was the same location for the July 4th event and with good weather there would be a lot of people. If there was an emergency in the area side streets with parking, it would be harder for responders vehicles to get through versus parking in more public area. The Trailhead, harbor and Sunset Point had greater parking availability. In the stated locations, businesses, residents and visitors can plan for it. If traffic was too heavy on big event days, the event would be taking the use away from the regular visitors.

Ms. Elsensohn asked Mr. Danielson about birthday party control where it would get old after a while. She did not feel the council should tell anyone where they could use the lakefront. The most shaded area was used with elderly residents because of the sun. If parking was allowed on just one side of the street two fire trucks could maneuver down the street. She suggested that people with problems need to let the events know what was being done wrong.

Jay Crosby, Lafayette Street resident, said there was parking in front of his house. The music was loud. He suggested turning the speakers away from the residents. His concern was for the trees and soil compaction and the safety of the lakefront itself. He believed there should be no anchoring into the ground under the live oak trees. Also, the stage should not be set up under any live oak trees and an arborist could make that determination. We would not know the damage done for years to come. He thought a violation should be levied and uses the fees for restoration to the lakefront or parks and parkways or Keep Mandeville Beautiful. He asked at what point anyone could drive on the lakefront. Mr. Stacy none that he knew of. Mayor Villere said there was signage that stated no parking on the grass. Mr. Crosby asked about the temporary power poles since a Duley truck from Cleco had left ruts. Mr. Stacy said permanent poles were installed on the east side of the City to hook into. There were approximately 40 events, of which 25 were races on the walkway. Most major events were held at the harbor. Winter on the Water took place at the foot of Girod Street. Mr. Crosby's concern was protection of the lakefront. Mr. Stacy asked if anyone saw parking on the roots of a live oak tree or within the canopy of the tree, please call the planning department since it was against the city ordinance.

Ms. Elsensohn said they had met with someone with the Parks and Parkways Commission about the location of the temporary pole. Mr. Crosby said it was the Cleco truck and the temporary pole for the American Cancer Society that was there for several weeks. Mr. Stacy said there could be up to a \$500 fine for the port-a-lets removal. Mr. Crosby said fees were waived for some events. He asked if there could be a published sliding scale of cost for cleanup, police patrol and items to protect the people at the event. The Reunion had one officer by the boat launch. There should be more police officers but the people of Mandeville should not have to bear the cost. Mayor Villere said the police, fire and public works departments reviewed the application and assigned people and costs. He could waive costs up to \$700. Over that amount or any waiver of eating or drinking on the lakefront was forwarded to the City Council for action. He would waive costs if there was a benefit beyond the fee. For four police officers it was a cost of \$160 each and the clean up on the lakefront was \$25 per hour plus a vehicle. Mr. Crosby asked how many officers were needed for 0-500 peoples. Mr. Stacy said it was listed as departmental costs on the application. The board recommended approval or denial.

It was stated that Reunion had grown minimally since it was not advertised outside of the Mandeville area. Ms. Elsensohn had a sign up book at each year's event and it was hard to get people to sign in so they could have a head count.

Mr. Burguieres said he had attended Crawfish Cookin for a Cause and it was a packed event. Lakeshore Drive and Jackson Avenue were impeded, but there were no complaints. There were also places to sit.

Ross Boyle said he was not in support of the amendment because the four sites were all right, but it was just not the same when an event would have to change a good working location. There was less than 1% of the people that lived on the lakefront.

Ms. Radosta said there was nowhere with a large event that there would not be some complaint. The solution was to correct the issues of the complaints. A decision should be based on what the majority of people wanted.

Mr. Freret said the size of the event was related to the feedback. He did not know how much traffic and people could be supported in any particular area. The board made recommendations to waive fees if it was within a guideline established. The board would not know if trees would be a concern. He agreed to have the trees protected as much as possible. He did not think the ordinance was designed to limit any group of people from using one area. There was enough information gathered to make some changes to benefit everyone without impacting any particular event.

Mayor Villere said there were three citizens on the board and the board would like to have more members if anyone wanted to volunteer.

Ms. Simmons asked Mr. Danielson why parking was worse on the west side than the east end. Mr. Danielson said there were few to no public parking bays. There were City owned parking lots off Girod Street. There were areas between Marigny Avenue and Carroll Street that were narrow and some areas that were wide. Carroll and Coffee Streets was a wide area.

Mr. Frosch said their event would spot vehicles and made sure they were not near any root areas. The temporary pole was spotted with someone from the Parks and Parkways Commission. There were parking issue at the end with no parking bays so it was not good to hold events there. Lafitte, Girod and Carroll Streets would have parking on both sides of the street. The ordinance prohibited anyone from having an event west of Coffee Street and it was unfair to the people of Mandeville. Ms. Elsensohn said she did not want children playing in front of Donz. She suggested fining the event who did not have the port-a-lets picked up on a timely basis. Fine them if don't pick up port-a-let. Mr. Danielson said he thought of the area by the Barley Oak.

Mr. Stacy thanks everyone for attending. He reiterated if there was a distress to a live oak tree to file a complaint with the planning department. This would apply to the entire canopy around the tree. The Reunion representatives stressed that they wanted to be under the trees. Mr. Stacy said people should not be walking on the roots.

Mr. Stacy summarized that the creation of the committee began with concern about the Copeland Christmas lights in Mariner's Village and the associated traffic. The ordinance was originally for seasonal displays, and grew to include parades, races and festivals. Over the years changes had been made and the regulations worked well. The proposed ordinance was to restrict the area of the events. The board would recommend changes to the ordinance or an addendum to the application. Common sense, police and fire would dictate the areas of usage. He announced there would be another meeting on July 13th at 6:30 p.m. with specific suggestions for the board recommendation.

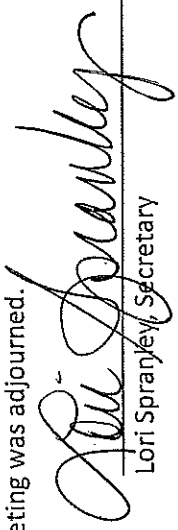
Minutes

Ms. Radosta moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2015, seconded by Mr. Freret and was unanimously approved.

The last sentence of the first long paragraph on page 2 should be reworded. Mr. Stacy moved to approve the amended minutes of June 11, 2015, seconded by Mr. Freret and was unanimously approved.

With all business complete, the meeting was adjourned.

9/8/15


Lori Spranley, Secretary

