

## AMERICAN RESCUE TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 18, 2021

**Task Force Meeting 4 Minutes**- Thursday November 18, 2021 at the Joseph Yenni Bldg. Room 405—9:00 a.m.

### Committee Members in Attendance

Mike Quigley  
Angela Callais  
Francisco Christian  
Bob Evans Jr.  
Brian Grenrood  
John Litchfield  
Jim Martin  
Oscar Pipkins  
Jim Young  
Steve LaChute  
Victor LaRocca  
Brett Lawson  
Ruth Lawson  
Todd Murphy

### Committee Members Absent

Pamela Watson  
Jerry Bologna

Seeing that there was a quorum of task force members, Chairman Mike Quigley called the meeting to order:

#### **1. Approval of Minutes:**

Task Force Meeting 3 minutes were forwarded on Wednesday, November 10, 2001. Seeing no additions or corrections, motion was made by Bob Evans and seconded by Francisco Christian to approve the minutes. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

## **2. Presentations**

- **Council Chairman Scott Walker** — Advocated for broadband, specifically WIFI and/or internet at our playgrounds. It can be installed in gyms and golden age centers. He estimated that approximately \$700,000 will cover the cost for 27 Playgrounds. After the initial cost, the Recreation Department will cover the cost of the subsequent fees.
  - Mayor Tim Baudier requested to include the municipalities in this broadband program for their playgrounds.
  
- **Notre Dame Health System presentation by Deacon Jeff Tully and Ron Blich** - they presented a PowerPoint presentation that is attached. They are a 501© 3 non-profit affiliated with the Archdiocese of New Orleans. They are requesting funding for the Hope Haven Campus, specifically for the St. Andrew's Village and Wynhoven Health Care Center. They opined that the project is in line with the specifications of the ARF in that it will provide isolation rooms, negative pressure system family visiting rooms and infection control provisions in case of a spike in the pandemic or any future pandemics. This will allow hospitals to have a safe place to send people to recover. They have garnered funding from the State and have some self-funding. They are in need of an additional \$12million. The project is shovel ready and have a goal to complete in 3 years.
  
- **City of Kenner by Deborah Foshee and Tamithia Shaw** — The City of Kenner is at the end of the line, it is the furthest point from the East Bank Water Treatment Plant. The problem, whereby the City loses significant water pressure, is more pronounced during weather events. Recently, following Hurricane Ida, the Fire Department had trouble fighting a large fire. They also have broadband needs.... They recently experienced a cyber-attack. The City of Kenner was hard hit by the hurricane, 37 city buildings were damaged. The City of Kenner allocation of the AFR funding is \$13 million. They are working with federal agencies to assist in their recovery. They reported they were not familiar with our format and will be happy to be invited back so they can provide more specifics and estimates on costs. Kenner has sought grant funding from Water Sector Grant, however they do not own the system, so they are hoping to get a joint application with the Parish.

- Oscar Pipkins spoke of the recently passed federal legislation - \$1.2 Trillion infrastructure bill and advised there will be funding for water projects
- **City of Harahan by Mayor Tim Baudier** -- Harahan has a \$6million budget... there AFR allocation is \$3.4 Million. He wants to promote developments and economic development but need to upgrade the sewer system. Harahan has some unique challenges to their sewer system due to the proximity to the River. He wants to explore the possibility of becoming a part of the Jefferson Parish Sewer System. His other priority is upgrading his playground with a goal of installing artificial turf. He sees it as an opportunity to get overflow tournaments from Lasalle Park. He emphasized that he is always looking to leverage funds to get projects initiated.
- **JCVB by Violet Peters** — She presented a PowerPoint which is attached. She supports the Administration's proposal of Connectivity of Lafitte to Grand Isle and the proposed Natatorium. It will increase visitors to Jefferson Parish. She was careful to state that the JCVB was not looking for funding for the agency but is there to support facilities and programs that will bring visitors to Jefferson Parish. The Travel industry has taken a big hit because of the Pandemic and Hurricane. Sports Tourism is a niche of the Jefferson Parish Market. The JCVB has a breakdown of how much income each of the sports generate. Soccer is the leader in Jefferson Parish in economic development having a \$10 million yearly impact. In spite of this, Jefferson Parish does **not** have enough tournament quality facilities when you compare to other locales. We may have a lot of fields, but they are spread out and not tournament quality. The JCVB is advocating for a large scale sports complex and particularly for the proposed Westwego Sports Complex. The Parish needs a complex that can host 16-20 fields.
  - Bob Evans stated that the JCVB presentation provided us with the best ideas yet.
  - The Westwego Sports complex is in the unincorporated Jefferson and is currently under the direction of the LSED. The property has been purchased and cleared. The current capital outlay funding does not provide the optimal amount of fields for

our needs. The decision has not been made on who will operate the facility whether it will be under JPRD or a private management firm.

- Brett Lawson stated the site of the Oakdale Mall is the gateway to the West Bank and would be an excellent location for an athletic complex and would be a game changer for the west bank.
- Parks and Recreation Director, Mario Bazile can be invited to provide an update on the status of the Westwego Sports Complex

### **3. New business — Moved from the beginning of the meeting:**

On Tuesday 11/ 9 /21, a spreadsheet entitled “American Rescue Plan Taskforce Worksheet” was emailed to all members. The meetings we have hosted so far have allowed various presenters to propose to the task force their opinions on the best use of the funds. This worksheet is a compilation, thus far, of what has been proposed to us. The Chairman will continue to add to the list as subsequent proposals are offered. When we complete hosting presentations and we begin to convene on what the task force will recommend to the Parish council, this worksheet will be helpful in helping us prioritize our recommendations. This is an initial idea as to the content of the spreadsheet and how we will be proceeding. Members urged to offer any modifications or additions to the worksheet or suggestions on how we can best convene to make our recommendations. It should be our goal to provide a framework of how the funds should be prioritized and have the administration and council decide on the details of the initiatives/projects.

- Per the suggestions of the task force, Councilmembers, Business groups and municipalities have been invited and scheduled to present to the committee. Task Force members were asked if we need to invite anyone else and do any of the committee members want to make a formal presentation. Task Force member, Mr. John Litchfield, recommended that the Notre Dame Health Systems make their proposal today. Steve Lachute suggested we invite Mark Drewes,

Public Works Director address the Task Force on the Infrastructure needs.

- Jeremy Dwyer has prepared the resolution to extend the task forces term to the end of January.
- Per our invitation to Mayor Cammardelle, he has emailed the Chairman and requested we consider two projects to aid in the recovery of Grand Isle:

1. New Grand Isle Town Hall

2. New Tourism Building. Members questioned if this was the purview of an insurance claim and a FEMA Public Assistance Request.

- There has been a lot of discussion in regard to Broadband and how there may be multiple sources of funding and not a clear idea of how to implement. The Chairman suggested that we may invite the Public Service Commissioner to a meeting to propose ideas on how funds could be used to implement this. Steve Lachute and Anna Lisa Kelly suggested that we invite Veneeth Lyengar, State of Louisiana Executive Director for Broadband & Connectivity, to a meeting. He has a wealth of knowledge and expertise and can provide expert advice. Oscar Pipkins additionally suggested we invite School Board Superintendent, Dr. Gray, to address the task force in regard to leveraging our respective funds for broadband.
- Task Force Meeting #5 will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the General Government Building, Room 3503/3506, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053.
- Tentatively preparing Meeting #6 to be held on Thursday December 16, 2021. Confirmation on time and location to follow.

**4. Old Business** - There was none.

**5. Public Comments** - There were none.

**6. Meeting Adjourned:** Motion was made by Brian Grenrod and seconded by John Litchfield to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved.

