

OANA General Meeting Minutes — 2/17/2016

Nearly 80 people attended the meeting, which was held at the newly renovated Maumus Center. Maegan collected money for membership dues from many of the guests.

The meeting began in the cafeteria as Mike Pechon welcomed everyone to OANA's new meeting home. Then, Katherine Lemoine, School Board District 1, introduced the site director of Maumus – Gena Asevado.

After a brief intro, Asevado led guests on a tour of the building, highlighting some of the architectural features and the history of the building. Stops included several of the exhibition rooms, the cooking demo lab, and the theatre. Guests then were led to the Planetarium for a demonstration of the technology and sample lessons that the 800 students have experienced since Feb. 1.

After the tour and demo, guests were led back to the cafeteria. There, Mike Pechon presented his Year-in-Review slideshow. Highlights of the year, how much we raised, and how it was spent was the focus. The presentation also included some ideas to benefit Old Arabi directly, as presented by Ray Lauga at a recent Board meeting. Pechon said more projects require more help and encouraged folks to get involved.

Following that Councilman Gillis McCloskey spoke briefly about progress on the St. Claude beautification streetscape project. (March 1st is when action will begin) He also spoke of the power of the neighborhood association and the availability of grant money for neighborhoods. He also encouraged everyone to think of Carolyn Park as “our” park and said the population of the area will not sustain the old neighborhood park rec. program concept, but that Carolyn Park could have a booster club, a concession stand and bathrooms for the community to enjoy.

Pechon then introduced Muriel Altacredi, who will operate Perino's under the new name: Pirouge's Whiskey Bayou. They hope to be open by Monday, Feb 22. Her kitchen manager was also on hand and he left behind some sample menus.

Following a series of door prize drawings (5), dates for Sippin' in the Sunset were announced: March 3, April 7, and May 5, and the meeting was adjourned.

FYI: The link below is of a youtube video highlighting the history of Maumus
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWO6kJNo2z0&feature=em-subsub_digest