

Minutes
French Branch Civic Association
General Meeting
Wednesday, Nov 6, 2024
6:30 – 8:00 PM
Trinity Presbyterian Church 710 S Military Road Slidell

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Prayer

Speaker:

Will Afton, LSU Ag county agent

advice for fall and winter gardening

Mr. Afton shared pertinent information about what plants will do best in our area and what steps are needed at this time to care for our lawns and gardens. Mr. Afton discussed the LSU AgCenter recommended “Super Plants” program. This program by the LSU AgCenter tests new flowerbed plants in our area and recommends the best looking and most well-adapted plants for our area. For questions and additional information, please contact Mr. Afton at: wafton@agcenter.lus.edu.

After Mr. Afton’s presentation, the membership agreed to establish a French Branch Garden Club. FBCA VP Phyllis Waring agreed to coordinate the establishment of the club. Interested residents can contact her at: pdalewaring@gmail.com.

1. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. May 2024 to date Treasurer report

See attached report. Included in the report is a proposed budget for 2025.

2. Membership Report
 - a. Current 2024 membership-48
3. The position of Secretary for FBCA is still vacant

No nominations were received. Members were encouraged to give consideration to serving as an officer of the Association.

Note: As per the Articles of Incorporation, only current paid members, up to 2 votes per residence, can vote. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

4. New Business
 - a. Encouraging residents to follow the covenants
 1. Consider re-establishing the Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

The idea of re-establishing the ARC was discussed but not finalized. Two residents volunteered to serve on the Committee if the board decides to re-establish the Committee.

- b. Maintenance and improvement of drainage
- 5. Consideration of mailed flyer prior to first meeting of year

Motion: The Association will mail a meeting notice prior to the first meeting of 2025.

Motion made by: Debbie Foster

Seconded by: Sophie Beane

Vote: Unanimous

The Association will mail a meeting announcement to all residents of French Branch prior to the first meeting of 2025. The announcement will call the election of Association officers for 2025.

- 6. Updated FBCA meeting street signs were posted-best spots to post?

Suggestions will be forwarded to President Robert Broome or any member of the board.

- 7. Call for volunteer FBCA webmaster

A resident volunteered to assist in developing a new webpage. In addition a recommendation for a commercial service was made. Mr. Broome will investigate that idea and discuss the options with the Association board.

- 8. Committee and Member Reports

Parish Councilman Jeff Corbin gave a Parish Council report to the membership. He reported on the challenges of developing a Parish budget that meets the minimum funding requirements of parish government. By drawing down on all the remaining fund balances, the budget for 2025 was balanced. However, this is a one-time solution and unless the public supports a proposed rededication of the existing sales tax to fund mandated costs for the justice system, the parish will be unable to meet it's legally state mandated costs. Mr. Corbin discussed the establishment of the Parish Charter review committee. This committee is set up approximately every ten years to review the Parish Charter and recommend possible changes. Mr. Corbin nominated former Parish President Kevin Davis to serve on this committee. Mr. Corbin summarized a meeting he held October 29 at the Parish Council building with parish code enforcement and planning staff. The meeting was attended by several residents from French Branch including President Robert Broome. The steps for filing and investigating a possible zoning violation were discussed.

- a. Member Reports
 - b. Military Road Alliance meeting
 - 1. Proposed flood protection plans for Military Rd area by Dr. Stan Owen
- 9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

FRENCH BRANCH CIVIC ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT

For Month Ending October 31, 2024

BEGINNING BALANCE (7/1/2024) **\$9830.51**

INCOME (Deposits)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7/25/2024	Membership (1)	\$50.00

**EXPENSES (Checks
Written)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Payable To</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7/25/24	1311	St. Tammany Maint.	Sign Maintenance	\$170.00
8/5/24	1312	St. Tammany Maint.	Sign Maintenance	\$170.00
8/29/24	1313	Net Door	Quarterly Internet	\$75.00
9/5/24	1314	St. Tammany Maint.	Sign Maintenance	\$170.0
9/25/24	1315	USPS	6m PO Box	\$141.0
		(reimb. to C. Backes)		
10/3/24	1316	Semplice Pizza	Pizzas for NOAC	- \$250.00
		(reimb to C. Backes)		
10/8/24	1317	St. Tammany Maint.	Sign Maintenance	\$170.0
10/30/24	1318	St. Tammany Maint.	Sign Maintenance	\$170.0

ENDING CASH BALANCE (October 31, 2024) **\$8564.51**

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025

Revenue (Income)	
Balance on Hand	\$8000
Individual Memberships (\$50 each, 50 memberships)	\$2500
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE	\$10,500
Expenses	
Business Expenses (ArC, stamps, envelopes)	\$ 78
Decorations for entrance signs	\$1400
Maintenance for entrance signs	\$2040
Neighborhood Meet & Greet	\$ 600
NetDoor	\$300
Night Out Against Crime	\$ 500
Post Office Box (1 Yr. Renewals in March 2025)	\$ 232
Neighborhood signs announcing meetings	\$ 350
Balance on Reserve	\$5000
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$10,500