

Planning Advisory Committee

May 17, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Chair – Stephen Kroll

City Planning Commission – Rachael Berg

Historic District Landmarks Commission – Tracy St. Julien

The Department of Real Estate and Records – Toni Thompson

No Quorum

Item #1 – Withdrawn

Item number 2 – Consideration of Tulane’s University’s request for long-term leases for site control and access for the following streets

A City Planning Commission representative called the meeting to order by describing the function of the PAC and stating the item was on the agenda for preliminary comments and a formal application had not been submitted. As such, no action would be taken by the committee. The representative from the City Planning Commission read the preliminary request by Tulane requesting leases of certain streets.

A representative from Tulane University explained the only street they wished to close is S. Liberty Street in the Central Business District. The closure would likely be during the day to provide amenities to employees, students, and re-open in the evening. The uptown street leases would only be to surface and maintain the streets, filling in potholes and mitigation of flooding, especially near a daycare center.

The representative from the City Planning Commission read the comments from Entergy stating that Entergy has no objection to any of the items; however, Tulane’s long term lease needs to be subject to Entergy accessing their electric facilities currently installed above and under ground along proposed streets.

A representative from the Sewage and Water Board was not present at the meeting, but the representative from the City Planning Commission stated the lease would also need to be subject to SWB’s full access to utilities located below the street.

Real Estate and Records asked a few questions regarding property ownership along the proposed street leases, specifically if any of the lots fronting these streets are in private ownership. Tulane responded they’re in an agreement to purchase the one building not currently owned by Tulane within the next several years.

Three individuals from the public spoke.

The first individual from the public stated he and other neighbors were concerned about the loss of housing and were hypersensitive to Tulane’s encroachment. They also spoke to equity issues – if private entities start improving streets it could create a tiered street system.

The second individual from the public reiterated Tulane's concern about flooding near Plum St. and wanted to make sure Tulane was not proposing to close the Uptown streets.

The third individual from the public wanted to ensure the future leases stated explicitly that there would not be street closures for the Uptown streets and had some questions regarding noticing of the meeting and public comments. The City Planning Commission representative responded that all procedures for notice and public comment were followed and that the public comment deadline would be added to the meeting announcement for future meetings.

No action was taken or necessary at this meeting.

Planning Advisory Committee

July 19, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Chair – Stephen Kroll

City Planning Commission – Rachael Berg and Ava Monnet

Historic District Landmarks Commission – Tracy St. Julien

The Department of Real Estate and Records – Ashley Spangenberg

The Department of Parks and Parkways – Tica Hartman

Sewage and Water Board – LaJoyce Steib

The Department of Public Works – Louis Haywood

Item #1 – will be considered at the next PAC meeting.

Item number 2 – Consideration of renaming Terpsichore Street between St. Charles Avenue and South Rampart Street as Professor Longhair Lane.

A City Planning Commission representative called the meeting to order by describing the function of the PAC and stating the Street Name Change request was on the agenda for members to offer comments on the technical merits of the request. The representative from the City Planning Commission read the preliminary request by Council District B and explained there had been a previous request to rename Terpsichore Street between St. Charles Avenue and Magnolia Street but it was withdrawn and the request to truncate the proposed street name change is what is under consideration.

The daughter of Professor Longhair was present and spoke at length about why her father should be honored. She stated she did not want the name extended to Magnolia Street because her father was not known above S. Rampart Street. She also stated she did not understand why the initial proposal had been withdrawn.

After the daughter of Professor Longhair spoke, the representative from the Department of Public Works asked why the proposed name was Professor Longhair Lane rather than Professor Longhair Street. Ms. Byrd stated Lane fit better than Street and that Professor Longhair Lane was an easier street to say and pronounce over the current street, Terpsichore.

The representative from the Department of Parks and Parkways asked about the honorary street name change. Ms. Byrd stated she wanted her father honored the same way other musicians in the city have been honored such as Fats Domino and Allen Toussaint. The representative from the Department of Real Estate and Records asked why we weren't considering the honorary street name change. The representative from the City Planning Commission stated it was because Council District B has sent the City Planning Commission the request at-hand for a Street name change, not an honorary street name change, so that's what's being considered.

The representative from the Historic District Landmarks Commission put forth a Motion to approve the Street Name Change as proposed. The representative from the Department of Public Works seconded the Motion. The Motion did not pass.

The representative from the Historic District Landmarks Commission put forth a second motion to reject the Street Name Change as proposed. A representative from the City Planning Commission seconded the Motion and the Motion passed.