



Federation of GBR Civic Associations *Meeting Notice & Newsletter*

October 2022

Keeping our members informed—our most valuable Benefit of Membership

Please Share with your association members!

This publication is intended for the private use of Federation member associations and their respective members. Please do not share the contents of this document outside of our membership community without permission from the Federation Board.

Any questions or comments, please submit to: FGBRCA@gmail.com or call 225.315.1206

October Meeting:

NOTE: The **Federation will not meet** for our regularly scheduled October member meeting. Instead, we ask that our members plan to attend one of the several Stormwater Fee public forums being scheduled across the parish. Tell your neighbors! Meetings scheduled as of Oct 1st.

Scheduled Public Forum Dates (times not firm—plan on 6-9PM window)

- ⇒ October 13th, Main Library, *Metro Council Sponsors* (Adams, Cole, Dunn)
- ⇒ October 18th, Charles Kelly Community Cntr, (Hurst, Banks)
- ⇒ October 20th, Bluebonnet Library, (Gaudet, Racca)
- ⇒ October 24th, Fairwood Library, (Moak, Amoroso)
- ⇒ October 25th, Jones Creek Library, (Hudson, Amoroso)

Please read the article on the **Stormwater Utility Fee** on page 3 for more detailed info.

Other topics that would have been presented at the October meeting are:

- Introducing the **Board of Director candidates for 2023** calendar year Please see page 2 for the candidate list to be voted on in November.
- Standing Business topics (will be shared in November)

November 10th Meeting (Tentative agenda) Annual Business meeting—including election of directors, soliciting for 2022 Federation Recognition Awards, view the new membership app and discuss new meeting structure for 2023. This will be a virtual **ZOOM** meeting.

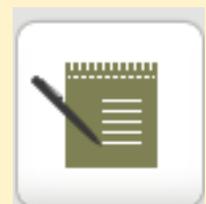
Key - Recurring City Parish Meetings:

Metro Council: Oct 12th, 19st, 26th

Planning Commission: Oct 17th

Metro Board of Adjustment: Oct 10th

Agendas may be accessed at this link: <https://www.brla.gov/AgendaCenter>



Federation Activities –2022 Summer Focus Areas

CPIDs (Crime Prevention and Improvement Districts)

Future CPID meetings: held virtually, at 6PM on the 2nd Tuesday of each odd number month 2022. **Next meeting —> Nov 8th** Topic will be included in November newsletter.

August Meeting summary: Warren Kron and Eric Romero (C-P IT Organization) demonstrated the capabilities of the OpenBRNeighborhood dbase, focused primarily on capturing and displaying crime data for the City of BR. (IT still working with the Sheriff's office to capture their data) To watch the August meeting recording, click this link [August CPID mtg.](#)

Candidates to serve on the 2023 Board of Directors

The Nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates to serve on our 2023 Federation Board of Directors (BoD). The actual member voting on this slate of candidates will occur at the November 10th Annual meeting. **NOTE: This newsletter will serve as the official 30 day notice to our membership** (due to no October meeting). 2023 BoD candidates are:

Current Board members (seeking re-election)

- Ed Lagucki (current President)
- Debra Simino (current Treasurer)
- Adrienne Bowser
- Angela White
- Roby Shields

Newly proposed Board members There were no volunteers from our membership.

A big thanks to the Nominating Committee for vetting the candidates and proposing this slate of candidates, all in short order. Members of the committee included Chairperson, Sherry Guarisco, Director Monty McNutt, Member ADs, Mary Fontenot and Danielle Bowen.

SHORT TERM RENTALS (STR)

The proposed amendments to existing UDC codes considers both an owner occupied rental and whole house rental regime and requirements for each. The amendments cover registration and taxing, zoning districts, permitting requirements (including public input), occupancy limits, parking requirements and enforcement. This proposal was presented to the Planning Commission with an amendment at their September 19th P&Z meeting and unanimously approved. The ordinance will now be presented to the Metro Councilmembers for approval on October 19th. **If you have any comments, please reach out to your Councilmember to express your concerns or support** prior to the Oct 19th meeting.

Federation Activities –2022 Summer Focus Areas

STORMWATER UTILITY FEE—Background Information.

With the recent approval of the Stormwater Utility District for EBRP, the Metro Council will now consider a Stormwater Fee to be assessed on all land parcels in the parish, excluding Baker, Zachary and Central who are (or soon to be) covered under their own MS4 permits. To educate and engage the public on the specifics of this utility fee, several public engagement sessions are being scheduled. ([See page 1 for details](#)). The forums will share information about the history of how we got here, the objectives/goals/benefits of a utility fee, the fee structure (how determined), how much money is needed, a detailed breakdown on how that money will be spent, the organization to manage this work, future projected revenue requirements (including any rate increase), a detailed discussion of the parish land use parcel count and impervious area profile, stormwater fee calculation examples, challenge process, how the fee will be billed to parcel owners and timelines. Several Board and Drainage Comm members met with Rick Speer and Kelvin Hill for a preview of the public engagement presentations and asked questions important to our members.

More info about the details

The fee will be structured based on the % impervious surface area of each land parcel —*translation==>*, all roofs, sidewalks, driveway, patios, out buildings, pools, private roads that impede natural infiltration of stormwater and contribute to the stormwater system. This approach is commonly used across the country and uses LiDAR (laser scanning) technology to calculate the impervious surface area of your property. This information will be captured on this [GIS map](#) (click and zoom to your property). This fee will apply to all land parcel owners, whether it be residential, commercial, non profits, industrial, rural, parks, parking lots, schools, and for you HOAs; common areas (note-detention ponds not included). The initial proposed fee is \$1.36 per month per every 500 sq ft (referred to as the Billing Unit—BU) of impervious surface. The proceeds from this fee will be used to manage staffing and activities associated with management and compliance of the parish MS4 permit (Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System) and stormwater assets; including maintenance, water quality, engineering & planning, operation, maintenance capital improvement or additions and financing/billing of stormwater assets. This fee will NOT include the 20 year capital improvement projects recently identified in the Stormwater masterplan. For info on the legislation granting EBRP the authority to assess this fee, see [Stormwater Utility District](#)

Many of our members will question the value of new taxes or fees—especially when they are not satisfied with how our current taxes are being spent. Additionally, why is there such a sense of urgency to implement this effort without reasonably public engagement. We suggest that you attend one of the public meetings to educate yourself and ask those tough questions of our Parish leaders. This proposal is important for the longterm resilience of our stormwater system and to the more important objective of reducing the impacts of flooding on our residents. We are currently spending about \$2+B to fix an infrastructure that has been deteriorating for 50+ years. And, there are still a lot of problems to fix with our aging infrastructure. We cannot afford to let this investment deteriorate again. Additionally, the Parish has been struggling for years with the water quality issues of discharging parish stormwater into Federal regulated waterways. The Parish MS4 Permit requirements were established under the Clean Water Act and regulated by the EPA/LDEQ. What is important to understand—this is all about the Parish controlling its own destiny and not falling under the bureaucratic overview of the Feds, like we are experiencing with our current Sanitary Sewer System. Additionally, for those HOAs that have detention ponds, you can probably expect to see additional inspection/record keeping and possibly maintenance requirements of those ponds in the future.

[Please make every effort to attend one of these meetings. Listen, learn and ask questions.](#)

Additional Federation Activities & Info

Fall Elections—Don't forget to Vote!

November 8, 2022—Open Congressional Primary Election

Early voting: Oct 25th —> Nov 1st (excluding Sunday)

Offices being contested

- ⇒ US Senator
- ⇒ US Representative, 6th District
- ⇒ Judge, Court of Appeal, 1st circuit, 2nd district
- ⇒ School Board Members
- ⇒ 8 of 11 Constitutional Amendments— Click here for [PAR Guide for analysis](#)
- ⇒ Parishwide proposition—renew millage for Mosquito Abate/Rodent Cntrl

December 10, 2022— Congressional General Election

Early voting: Nov 26th —> Dec 3rd (excluding Sunday)

- ⇒ 3 of 11 Constitutional Amendments (see analysis link above)
- ⇒ Offices being contested (runoffs): TBD

Survey on Insurance rate increases for HOAs

With the current inflationary pressures we are experiencing, members have reached out to understand if others are seeing an increase in premiums for liability and/or D&O insurance. If your association carries either of these types of insurance coverages, please take this short 2 min survey to help other members.

Link to [Insurance rate survey](#)

CITY-PARISH INITIATIVES REQUIRING FEDERATION MEMBER INPUT

Reminder to our members about several initiatives that the Federation has sponsored over the last few years with the City Parish that requires HOA/CA input.

- ⇒ [Neighborhood Registry](#) (link) to ensure information impacting your neighborhoods is communicated to your HOA contact person.
- ⇒ [5G Preferred Locations](#) (link) to identify the preferred locations in your neighborhood for consideration if any new 5G cell towers are being installed.

New Mississippi River Bridge

A meeting of the Capital Area Road & Bridge District was held on Sept 26th at the State Capitol. A presentation was made by Atlas Tech Consultants that shared information on the traffic count across the parishes. You probably saw some of the results in the news media discussing the percentage of local vs through traffic and how that would be addressed by the new bridge. Interesting findings. Video of meeting: [MRBSouth presentation](#)