



Federation of GBR Civic Associations *Meeting Notice & Newsletter*



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

May 2024 Member Meeting

Please join us virtually on ZOOM for our May member meeting. To register for this meeting, please click the following link: [MAY ZOOM LINK](#)

This month, our agenda will include:

- **Guest Speaker:** EBRP Tax Assessor **Brian Wilson** to share with our members the upcoming tax reassessment for the Parish. Should be interesting considering the recent inflationary trends in home prices.
- **State Legislation** – status update on bills potentially impacting HOAs
- **UPDATE:** The Mayor's proposed **Neighborhood Convention** design meeting
- **VOTING** on the **Federation Bylaws** revisions – only association ADs can vote
- General business information
- Approval of the following link to: [APRIL Member Meeting Minutes](#)

Federation Bylaws Revisions

At the April Federation member newsletter and meeting, the proposed revisions to the Bylaws were introduced. The purpose of these revisions was to update our bylaws to more accurately reflect the way we manage the day-to-day operations. Some of the primary reasons for these revisions are due to:

- New method (software application) for managing membership and new options for dues collection
- The move to having meetings every other month
- Updates to responsibilities of standing committees

- Record retention changes for IRS documents
- Changes to our financial accounts (elimination of the savings account)

The bylaws revisions are being voted on during the May Member meeting. The following documents are provided for your consideration.

- Bylaws document with the changes highlighted:
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ecirtb7bj2g1yuhxwbg/Board-Approval-Copy-2024-By-laws-Amendments.pdf?rlkey=lf6trrfenkdvha3tz8ql3uuom&dl=0>
- Summary document of the changes:
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/m2z0n3brgt0sppp6yis4/Summary-of-March-2024-Federation-Bylaws-revisions.pdf?rlkey=r76qg74lpbm8entwnrc6frqlq&dl=0>

NOTE: Only member ADs are eligible to vote. For those ADs not able to attend, a proxy form will be sent out under separate cover next week.

Legislative Dashboard

To keep up to date with the status of legislative bills impacting HOAs, please check out the following link: [Federation's Legislative Dashboard](#).

I-10 Widening – Construction Project Update

Please see the following link for a status update of the I-10 Widening project: [Newsletters | I-10 BR \(i10br.com\)](#)

Crime Prevention and Improvements Districts

The Crime Prevention and Improvement committee will meet May 15th at 6:00 PM. Our speaker is from the Baton Rouge Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Foundation, and we will be discussing the goals, programs, mission, and activities of the organization. As usual, we will meet via ZOOM and the link will be sent out the weekend before. If you are not on the notification list and wish to be added, send your name, phone number and organization to bharper3@cox.net and you will be added.

Robert D. Harper, Riverbend Crime Prevention and Improvement District

Eliminate Old Election or Event Signs / Closed Business* Signs! Report Locations & Make a Difference!

*Businesses closed for 90 days



Using the Red Stick 311 App

- Login into the 311 App
- Enter **Signage Address**
- Select **Blighted Properties**
- Select **Illegal Sign in Public Right-of-Way OR Junk, Trash or Debris on Private Property** (based on sign location)
- Provide description/sign location
- Tap **Photo** (bottom left), **+Camera**, take a picture and hit **Done**
- **Submit Request** (bottom right)

Calling the 311 Service Center

- Dial 311 & hit **9**
- Provide **Signage Address**
- Indicate **Blighted Properties**
- Indicate **Illegal Sign in Public Right-of-Way OR Junk, Trash or Debris on Private Property** (based on sign location)
- Provide description/sign location
- Provide your email address to get updates

Thanks—Federation Blight Committee!

Membership

What a fantastic response! Our membership count stands at 111, and we are proud to have members from all parts of East Baton Rouge Parish. We sincerely thank you – our members, as you are the backbone of the Federation. We started our campaign with 112 members, but unfortunately, four associations did not renew. However, we welcome them to rejoin anytime and hope they do so soon. On the brighter side, we have three new members, and two associations have expressed an interest in joining us. Please help us spread the word about our work and remember that we accept new members throughout the year!

Federation Email Blasts

Some members have unintentionally blocked the receipt of all emails from the Federation by selecting the option to **no longer receive email blasts**. The terminology used in this option can be confusing, as it is labeled "email blasts" and none of us want more of them!! However, it is important to note that this option also affects the delivery of newsletters and other important communications from the Federation. If you have any questions about email preferences or wish to unsubscribe from our emails, please contact us by emailing fgbrcamember@gmail.com or calling Sherry at 225-963-7383.

EBR PARISH'S LIBRARY'S COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

What happened? Federation Board members, Monty McNutt and Margrett Fels, participated in the **Facility Planning-Phase Zero** meeting at the Main Library on Thursday, April 25th. As part of the Community Advisory Committee, they reviewed the results of a Community Survey compiled from a pool of approximately 100,000 Library users with email addresses on file. The survey, conducted by Carson Block Consulting, Inc. for the EBR Parish Library (EBRPL) included demographics and utilization statistics, along with rating the current library facilities and recommendations for additional programs/services needed in the next 5 years.

Goal: To solicit input from the Community Advisory Committee, which will then be used as a preliminary assessment of the library's facilities and technology. The survey, combined with the voices from the Baton Rouge Community Advisory Community, harvested more data to be used in developing the Facilities Master Plan (release date-later this year).

Who: The approximately 30 community stakeholders in attendance shared perspectives from the community organizations they represent, providing input that will help create the best facilities plan for the EBR Parish Library system. The Federation representatives noted there is a need to identify nationwide library best practices for comparison and that there is a lack of community awareness regarding available library services. Also voiced was the need to harness the power of advancing technology, especially the need for better AV technology implementation at all EBRPL locations, something that had been identified on the survey.

Methodology: Data process collection began a year ago. EBRPL Patrons with emails on file were sent the Community Survey. Due to the way individual Communication Preferences were registered with the library, many Patrons did not receive the survey. ***By clicking this***

link, you will be able to share your thoughts and perspectives on what you feel the library should focus on for the next 5 years. The survey must be completed by May 15, 2024: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F73876X> Hit Control & click to open. Please note: If you already completed the original survey sent in the summer of 2023, please do not fill it out again as the previous results have already been tabulated.

Next Steps:

1. If you did not receive the **Community Survey** it may be an issue of your Library card being expired, or your Communication Preferences do not allow emails, which includes the library's monthly newsletter. This information is readily available and only changeable by calling the Library's Circulation Department (225-231-3740).
2. Any member wishing to receive a copy of the Power Point used for the presentation containing very detailed data, just email Margrett @ fgbrcasecretary@gmail.com.
3. The Community Advisory Committee will meet again in May or June to answer two major questions:
 - a. What are the greatest community opportunities you see for the library as it plans the future of its facilities and;
 - b. Thinking about the people and communities you represent: How can the library serve you better?

This is your chance to be involved in how your property tax dollars are spent. Completing the survey will impact the level of services you can expect to receive at libraries in the future.

Margrett Fels, FGBRCA Secretary

Key - Recurring City Parish Meetings

Metro Council

Dates: May 8th, 15th, 22nd at 4PM

Agenda Center: <https://www.brla.gov/agendacenter>

Planning Commission

Date: May 20th, at 5PM,

Agenda: https://www.brla.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_05202024-1844

Board of Adjustment

Date: May 13th Agenda: <https://www.brla.gov/agendacenter>

For Tax Exempt Entities Like 501(C)(3), Time To File your 990

IRS Form 990 is due by the 15th day of the 5th month after the accounting period ends. Therefore, if your tax-exempt organization's fiscal year end is December 31st, your 990 informational tax report is due May 15th. Nonprofit organizations can e-file for free with the IRS. Click [here](#) for details.