



Monday, June 8; noon to 2pm
Bourbon House, 144 Bourbon Street
New Orleans

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

8 June 2015

Commissioners Present

Darryl Berger (tardy)
Jeremy DeBlieux
Brian Furness
Al Groos (tardy)
Mia Matassa
Tony Marino (tardy)
Jim Oliver
Steve Pettus
Kim Rosenberg
Sal Sunseri
Robert Watters
Ted Young

Commissioners Absent

Lary Hesdorffer

Guests

Emily Remington, Executive Director

I. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

Steve Pettus called the meeting to order at 12:06pm. Emily Remington called the roll.

II. Approval of Minutes

Steve distributed May 2015 minutes. Robert moved that the Board approve the April 2015 minutes. Kim seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Al, Mia, Tony, Jim, Steve, Kim, Sal, Robert, and Ted.

III. Chairman's Comments

Steve welcomed attendees. He said that he had tried to make the agenda more detailed to include everything to be discussed, but he welcomes comment on how to improve it in the future. He said that he and others had met with Ryan Berni at the Mayor's office to discuss the French Quarter Task Force (FQTF). The City has agreed to fund the FQTF, starting possibly as early as June. A new CEA will need to be signed by the City/CVB/FQMD.

Jeremy questioned whether shifts are being filled. Steve confirmed they are. Gail said that one of the reasons the FQTF is so effective is because it is not managed by the City. Jeremy expressed concern about the FQTF's effectiveness if officers don't show. Steve indicated that OPSE is responsible for filling shifts. Kim said that OPSE works 24/7 on call on this detail and works very hard to fill vacancies. There are many pre-existing demands on officer time. Moving certain

shifts to Tier 3 pay has helped tremendously. Discussion continued about how involved the Mayor's office could/should be involved in filling shifts.

Brian asked about the issues addressed in the new CEA. Steve responded that the CEA in place with Sidney expires on June 16. The City is set to take over funding on July 1. The money from the City comes from the hotel self-assessment. Brian asked what is in the CEA currently; Steve said that it gives FQMD the authority to manage the FQTF program. Kim indicated that it is similar to the Bourbon Patrol CEA. Steve noted there are no matching funds in the new CEA.

Bob indicated that the real issue with filling FQTF shifts is that there are not enough police officers – it's a simple supply and demand issue. That's why FQMD is now paying some shifts Tier 3 rate, since police officers will jump to the most profitable shifts. Steve said that we have the ability now to coordinate efforts with the Bourbon Patrol, which will allow for administrative sharing. Robert said that replacing Sidney's funding with City funding will not cover the full administrative costs, including Pinnacle security dispatching, accounting services, and data collection services. Robert stated that any negotiations with the City should ensure administrative functions continue to be funded.

Bob suggested that FQMD take over the Pinnacle effort. Steve said that the City would need to employ administration and that there is more to the FQTF than the payment of officers. Robert said that getting Bourbon Patrol off the ground will need tight coordination and integration. Bourbon Street businesses need to understand they'll need to help with administrative costs.

Bob said that Sidney donated Polaris vehicles to the City. He indicated that FQMD cannot take on insurance liability for them, but that FQMD will need to take on maintenance, for which the City budgeted. Bob indicated that FQMD will not take over the Polaris operation. The FQTF app has already been donated.

Robert said that perhaps walking officers and Polaris patrols should be on Bourbon Street. Steve said the FQBL may want Polaris patrols in exchange for more administrative funding. Kim said the Polaris donation is being worked on.

Kim moved to authorize the Board Chair to amend and sign a CEA with the CVB/City of New Orleans to manage the French Quarter Task Force. Sal seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Al, Mia, Tony, Jim, Steve, Kim, Sal, Robert, and Ted.

Kim moved to authorize the Board Chair to amend and sign CEAs and donation agreements in regards to supplemental police patrols. Brian seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Al, Mia, Tony, Jim, Steve, Kim, Sal, Robert, and Ted.

IV. Executive Director Report

Emily thanked the Board for the welcome reception they threw for her in May. In regards to funding, she reported that she had met with Jon Smith and Kurt Weigle to develop partnerships with them. Emily said that she had researched 501(c)3 applications and believed it would be beneficial to FQMD to have a foundation created to support its efforts and projects. Emily indicated that the NOTMC funding would be submitted for by the end of June. She discussed the French Quarter Task Force success and the Bourbon Patrol launch. She requested attendees to RSVP to the NOLA Patrol reception on June 10. Emily provided an update on the proposed EDD legislation. She informed the Board that she was working with a web designer to revamp the FQMD website.

Kim moved to authorize Emily to expend money on the website. Sal seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Al, Mia, Tony, Jim, Steve, Kim, Sal, Robert, and Ted.

Kim asked who had been invited to the NOLA Patrol reception; Emily responded. Kim requested that information about the reception be added to the FQMD website. Kim asked why the 501(c)3 was necessary. Steve said FQMD may or may not have to apply for this. FQMD should receive money as a political subdivision. Darryl suggested that FQMD connect with NOTMC about their research on this topic. Tony indicated that nonprofit status would bring additional deductions

and exemptions to the organization. Steve asked whether NOTMC was going to apply. Darryl said they were still waiting to vote.

V. Treasurer's Report

Tony indicated that FQMD has money in all of its accounts. He's working on making sure all of the information is in place to write the legislative report.

VI. Approval of Co-Chairs of each Committee

Steve indicated that the recently adopted bylaws include that each FQMD Committee and Task Force shall have co-chairs. Steve recognized that there may need to be some clarity on who the co-chairs for each committee is. Steve asked the Board to ratify these co-chairs: Jim Oliver and Gail Cavett, Infrastructure Committee; Darryl Berger and Sue Klein, Vision Task Force; Robert Watters and Bob Simms, Security Task Force; Kim Rosenberg and Mark Wilson, Government Committee.

Kim moved to ratify. Jeremy seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Al, Mia, Tony, Jim, Steve, Kim, Sal, Robert, and Ted.

Brian requested that contact information for the Committees be distributed.

VII. Report by chairs, Infrastructure Committee

Gail presented. General discussion about signage, including suggested edits, ensued. General agreement suggested that all signs read "French Quarter" rather than "Vieux Carre." Jim asked if the courtesy bulletin had been distributed. Gail informed attendees that NOLA Patrol cannot enforce moving violations. She said that she is partnering with the Security Task force to educate NOLA Patrol, including a picture book and a walking tour. Jeremy asked that the Board review the text of any educational guides before they are given to NOLA Patrol. Robert noted that committee meetings often lack quorums. Steve asked co-chairs to bring their member lists to the Board meeting in July.

VIII. Report by Chairs, Security Task Force.

Bob presented. Sal inquired about French Quarter lighting and lampposts. Kim asked about bollards. Gail indicated that the Department of Public Works is not in favor of bollards. Robert asked if funding for these projects had been received. Gail said no. Robert indicated that security funding is Emily's job. Gail said that she was happy to include Emily in her conversations so that all parties are approached in an integrated way.

Robert asked who was paying for gas in the Polaris vehicles. Bob said that he is, at the cost of about \$200/week, but he will request reimbursement from FQMD. General discussion ensued about administrative duties, responsibilities, and costs. Robert said that the Board needs data. Jeremy asked that Bob's presentation be sent to Commissioners.

IX. Report by Chairs, Government Committee

Kim said that Infrastructure Committee had already discussed NOLA Patrol; the Government Committee is looking at what NOLA Patrol should prioritize for enforcement. Not everything is on the "did you know it's illegal" flyers, so information for the NOLA Patrol specialists will need to be enhanced.

X. Adjournment

Brian moved to adjourn at 2:11pm. Sal seconded. The meeting adjourned.