

French Quarter Management District

Monday, March 2, 2015

365 Canal Street, 20th floor, New Orleans, LA

Meeting Minutes

The following Board Members were in attendance: Jeremy Deblieux, Brian Furness, Al Groos, Lori Herbert, Lary Hesdorffer, Jim Oliver, Steve Pettus, Kim Rosenberg, Sal Sunseri, Robert Watters, Ted Young

Absent were: Darryl Berger, Tony Marino

Guests: Robert Simms (Chair of Security Task Force), Gail Cavett (Chair of Infrastructure Committee), Barbara Krieger, Pat Mead, Beverly Fulk, Meg Lousteau, Derrick Francis, Susan Guillot, Robert Freilich, Carol Gniady, Chad Pellerin, Michael Debonville, Ann Kesler, Matt Ryfo, Jenna Burla, Pat Meadowcroft

I. Meeting called to order by Steve Pettus

Steve advised the board that CE Adler had resigned from the FQMD Board and Jeremy Deblieux has been appointed as his replacement.

II. Minutes

The minutes of the January 2015 and February 2015 meetings were distributed for review.

III. Treasurer's report

No report.

IV. Status of CEA and Related Matters

Kim Rosenberg reported that she was in communication with Sharonda Williams, City Attorney, and that we are in the final stages with the French Quarter Area Supplemental Police Patrol CEA. Kim also reported that the CEA with the French Quarter Business League was executed in January.

Steve Pettus distributed a list of needed board authorizations as follows:

1. Authorize the FQMD Officers and the STF Chair to negotiate the various documents (CEAs & Patrol Plans) with the City and for the FQMD Chair to approve for the FQMD.
2. Authorize the FQMD Officers and the STF Chair to negotiate the Donation agreements and for the FQMD Chair to approve for the FQMD.
3. Authorize the FQMD Officers to open separate Bank Accounts for the Patrol donations and deposit funds received into the account.
4. Authorize the FQMD Officers to obtain General Liability & Directors Errors and Omissions Insurance. Cost NTE \$7,000.
5. Authorize the STF Chair and the Treasurer to purchase the equipment (time clock, storage cabinets, organizers, etc.) and supplies needed to create the FQMD Detail Station at the 8th District HQ. Cost NTE \$1,000.
6. Authorize the STF Chair to manage the day to day operations (Creating & stocking the Detail station, collecting and analyzing timecards, receiving performance feedback, etc.) and to coordinate with the Contract Monitor.
7. Authorize the FQMD Officers to submit the weekly timecards to OPSE and to disburse the invoices received.

A motion was made to approve the 7 board authorizations on the list with the following two changes:

1. Change all board authorizations to include the FQMD Executive Director.
2. Change the cost on board authorization # 4 from \$7,000. To \$10,000.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

V. Infrastructure Committee Report

Gail Cavett updated the Board on the Infrastructure Committee's initiative concerning the oversized truck issue. Gail explained that some business owners are considering physical deterrents. She showed examples of bollards and footage where damages occurred to bollards that were in place rather than to the buildings they were protecting. The committee met with Stakeholders who agreed to the possibility of sponsoring a bollard project at a cost of \$28,000. Lary Hesdorffer suggested expanding the range of the project to the CBD and to other areas that are experiencing the same challenges.

A motion was made that the FQMD accept funds from stakeholders to fund the installation of bollards, and for the FQMD to enter into a CEA with the City for DPW, or its assignee, to install the bollards. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

A motion was made that Jim Olivier Co-Chair the Infrastructure Committee. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

A motion was made to merge the Sanitation task force into the Infrastructure Committee. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

VI. Security Task Force Report

Bob Simms reviewed crime statistics for the month of February. Crimes against person are significantly down from January. Bob showed a block by block designation of where the crimes occurred and a presentation on crime trends in the French Quarter. He also reviewed the current NOPD staffing situation.

Bob gave an update on the status of the upcoming supplemental patrol program and discussed the implementation schedule and management requirements. He reviewed the responsibilities of the FQMD. March 15th is the proposed start date.

3 overlapping patrols areas were shown and pictures of the Polaris vehicles that will be used. Bob also reported on the smartphone app currently in development. Sidney Torres is funding a 2-month trial, donating use of the vehicles and developing the smartphone app.

Bob reported on possible funding solutions for security in the French Quarter and went over the "quarter for the quarter" sales tax increase being suggested by the Mayor's Office. The FQMD Security Task Force, along with various French Quarter organizations, has been meeting with representatives from the Mayor's Office to discuss details of the proposed tax increase. The increase would require a public vote of French Quarter constituents.

A motion was made to incorporate the Enforcement Committee into the Security Task Force. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

VII. Vision Task Force Report

No report

A motion was made to finalize the work of the Vision Task Force by the end of 2015. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

VIII. Government Committee Report

A motion was made to authorize the Chair of the FQMD or the Chair of the Government Committee to enter into an MOU or a CEA with the CVB and with the NOTMC to receive monies to fund the FQMD ED and other staffing/office needs.

IX. Cars2Go Presentation

A presentation was made by CARSTOGO, a car sharing company based in Austin, Texas. CARSTOGO operates in a manner similar to zipcar, where you pick up a car at a designated location and pay for use of the car by the minute. The vehicles used are Smartcars and no reservations are needed. Cars are located through a smartphone app, you enter the car with a pin number or by tapping your membership card, gas is free and insurance is included.

CARSTOGO plans to make a significant economic investment in the city and employ between 15 and 20 employees. They also plan to hire 3rd party cleaning contractors

Cars2go hopes to work in collaboration with the City on parking agreements that they will need to operate. Some of the items that would need to be addressed in those agreements are:

Access to meter spaces allowing payment by month or year.

Access to residential permit areas.

Relaxation of the 2-hr residential time limit.

CARSTOGO believes that every car in carshare takes 9-12 cars off the road. This number is derived by using statistics from other cities that they operate in. Dependent on the agreements they need with the City, they could begin operation in New Orleans as early as spring 2015. However, it's more likely that they will begin next fall. New Orleans will be the 13th U.S. city to feature carsharing. 200 vehicles are available to deploy immediately upon working out the arrangements with the City. They are the fastest growing carshare company, with over 1 million members worldwide. The parent company is Daimler, the manufacturer of the smart car.

X. Executive Director Search Update & Hiring Process

Al Groos reported that the search has been narrowed down to 3 candidates. Interviews of these 3 candidates will be take place this week. Steve Pettus explained that the next step in hiring the Director will be for the team to narrow the pool to 1 or 2 candidates.

A motion was made that the current ED search team narrow down the candidates to one or two recommendations, present that/those recommendation(s) to Steve Pettus, and allow Steve, who will enlist the help of Jim Oliver, to make the final decision. That person will be hired and brought to the board for ratification of the hiring at the next FQMD meeting.

XI. Discussion of Bylaws for the FQMD (Committee Structure, etc.)

Steve Pettus reported that he has met and corresponded with both VCPORA and FQC over the past month, with productive results from the meetings. Suggestions were made by all parties and resulted in Steve making a draft of the committee structure section of the bylaws. Steve handed out a draft of that section for review and asked that notes and questions be brought to the April meeting.

XII. New Business

Steve Pettus noted that, although he had originally agreed to assume the position of Chair only through March, he would be willing to continue for a few more months. Discussion was had concerning the importance of the new Executive Director and how that benefit would encourage other Commissioners to be willing to serve as Officers.

Kim Rosenberg explained that State law requires an office holder to stay in place until their successor steps in, thus preventing a vacancy. Because of this, no vote to extend the Officers tenure is actually needed.

Brian Furness suggested that, although not required by law, we make a motion to extend the tenure of the current Officers as a sign of support.

A motion was made to extend the positions of the current Officers, but not longer than through the July meeting. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

XIII. Future Meetings

Steve Pettus reminded everyone that the next regular meeting of the FQMD will be held on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 4pm. The 4pm time is a deviation from the normal schedule due to a conflicting obligation that he cannot change.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Submitted as a true copy of the minutes of the above meeting,

Lori Herbert,
Secretary