



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

7 December 2015

Commissioners Present

Darryl Berger (tardy)
Jeremy DeBlieux
Brian Furness
Mia Matassa
Lary Hesdorffer
Jim Oliver
Steve Pettus
Kim Rosenberg
Sal Sunseri

Commissioners Absent

Al Groos
Robert Watters
Ted Young

Guests

Emily Remington, Executive Director
Claude Silverman
Rachel Rumbelow
Meg Lousteau
Carol Gniady
Beverly Faulk
Patricia Meadowcroft
Susan Guillot
Albin Guillot
Bob Simms
Tracy Riley
Gail Cavett
Carolyn Goodman
Ann Kesler
Thomas Johnson

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

Steve Pettus called the meeting to order at 2:04pm. Emily Remington called the roll.

Jim moved to adopt the July, September, and October minutes. Mia seconded. Those in favor were Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mia, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

Steve requested the agenda be amended in order to give his comments in the presence of Darryl Berger, who was running late. Kim moved the amendment, and Sal seconded. Those in favor were Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mia, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

IV. Executive Director Report

Emily stated that in deference to the Board's ambitious agenda, she wished to be brief. She thanked Jeremy and the auditors for their help in preparing the annual budgets. She thanked Kim and Steve for their support and guidance this year, and she presented them with gifts.

V. Treasurer's Report

Jeremy asked Commissioners to look at the reports he was submitting for November and noted ending cash balances for each of the three FQMD checking accounts.

Sal moved that the Treasurer's Reports be accepted. Kim seconded. Those in favor were Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mia, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

Jeremy asked Bob if he knew what FQBL wanted to do with the remaining balance in the Bourbon Patrol account. Ann said that Bob had tried to get an answer from Jude. She believes they would like to have daytime patrols to work on keeping Bourbon Street clear of vagrants. Jeremy said he needed direction from Ann's Board for what to do with the balance. Ann said maybe they would run patrols around New Year's Eve.

VI. Presentation of 2015 and 2016 budgets

Jeremy discussed the proposed budgets and mentioned that, in accordance with state law, they had been published in the paper three times. He noted that this was only an operational budget; it does not include the French Quarter Task Force or Bourbon Patrols. Jeremy said that he would present amended budgets for Board approval at January's meeting and that this was compliant with state law. Claude stated that he and Rachel would help develop and formalize best practices moving forward.

Jeremy moved that the Board adopt the 2015 budget as presented. Lary seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mai, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

Jim moved that the Board adopt the 2016 budget as presented. Mia seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mai, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

Darryl asked if the budget included funds for an Operations Director to provide support to the French Quarter Task Force. Jeremy said yes.

Claude stated that things are on track for the audit. He said that there had been preliminary meetings and discussion to formalize the audit procedure. He said that anything that merits public discussion will be brought to the Board's attention. He said that the firm would help with implementation and would provide guidance in developing policies and procedures going forward.

III. Chairman's Comments

Steve welcomed attendees and thanked them for amending the agenda.

He said that when he accepted the nomination to be Chair that his first mission was to find funding, which he believed was a critical step in the success of FQMD. Without funding, all other endeavors would fall short. He stated that he has had the pleasure of serving on the FQMD from its inception. He said in the past year, FQMD has completed and adopted bylaws, built a new coalition between the various interests and entities of the French Quarter, secured funding for the next five years, hired an Executive Director, and established a permanent office for the FQMD. He said that the truth is that these were not accomplished in one year; it took eight years to get here. While he has served as Chair for the past year, he recognized that he was standing on the shoulders of giants: the previous Chairs, Darryl Berger, Kim Rosenberg, and Robert Watters, who laid the foundation for what this organization has accomplished. Steve noted that their

dedication and efforts have ensured a promising future for FQMD and to have held the same office as these individuals is one of his greatest honors.

Steve said that so profound is his appreciation for those who have dedicated themselves to this organization, he felt it necessary to acknowledge at least one of them with the inaugural Chariman's Award. He said that this is her last of eight continuous years as an office of FQMD, she has an unwavering dedication to the FQMD's mission, and she has given tireless years of exemplary service. Steve asked attendees to please help him express the gratitude of the FQMD to Kim Rosenberg.

VII. Nominations for Personnel Advisory Board

Steve noted that Bob has spent an incredible amount of hours on FQTF. The Board has decided to bring in a new Operations Manager to coordinate efforts, since the community has invested a lot of money into supplemental police patrols. Therefore, he has created a Personnel Advisory Committee and stated that he expects the people on the Committee to work together to hire an Operations Manager.

Susan asked what criteria had been used for the selection of the Committee. Steve said that creating a special task force is part of being the chair, and Bob cannot sustain this role in perpetuity. The role of the Operations Manager will fulfill the obligations of Bob's current voluntary role. Susan asked if it would be a professional role. Steve stated that he believes the Personnel Advisory Committee will be instrumental in determining the job description.

Bob said that he has put a lot of hours in, but he does not think it is wise to change horses midstream. He will make sure that there is an appropriate transition. He stated that he believed it was best to divide the job up between the Security Task Force and the Operations Manager. Today, Pinnacle supplies administrative support, but Bob does not think private security should be part of the next five years.

Steve asked what was the best direction to head in, and Bob said that FQMD needs to have NOPD involved to provide input in terms of how FQTF operations.

Meg asked if this was a search committee. Steve said that it was a committee to define the role to replace Bob, and it needed to move quickly. Carol asked if it was only for the purpose of defining the role. Steve said yes; the Committee is for a limited duration. Steve said that his nominations for the Committee are Bob Simms, Jeremy DeBlieux, Emily Remington, Jim Oliver, and Brian Furness.

Darryl said that the job description needed to be defined first. Steve agreed. Jim stated the position is funded in 2016. Jeremy said that the Committee would get a job description to the Board for approval in January so that the search can then begin immediately.

Gail said that all task force meetings are open to the general public. Steve said that legal or personnel issues are excluded from public meetings.

Kim moved to accept Steve's nominations for the Personnel Advisory Committee. Darryl seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mia, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

VIII. Status of CEAs and other related matters

Steve said that all CEAs have been executed, and Jim has copies of them for his records.

IX. Report by Chairs, Infrastructure Committee

Gail reported on the sidewalk repair program that the City will undertake after Mardi Gras 2016. She spoke about street drain pipes around the Royal Sonesta Hotel where after Katrina Israeli engineers conducted emergency repairs. In a meeting with the hotel staff, the hotel engineers indicated the correct size pipes were not available so the

Israeli engineers installed temporary smaller size pipes that have never been replaced with the correct size. She said, according to documents provided by the hotel engineers, the small size pipes appear to be causing the pipes to disconnect, sink, and cause underground tunneling. Gail said that hotel engineers' reports indicated that caverns of water are starting to form under the pipes causing the street above to collapse. Gail stated that the hotel was built with sheet metal pilings surrounding the foundation of the hotel so there are no structural issues for the hotel but rather flooding issues during rain storms. She indicated the hotel engineers provided documents indicating the solution is to replace the 14" temporary replacement pipe with the correct 24" size pipes. Gail said that she has requested a meeting with Director of Department of Public Works, Mark Jernigan; Al Groos; and Royal Sonesta engineers so that the engineers on location can show Col. Jernigan video of their issues. Col. Jernigan has set the meeting for January and Gail will report back to the Commission on the findings. Gail mentioned that the hotel engineers indicated they have been trying for a long time to interact with the DPW to resolve the problem but had not been successful. She said that hopefully the weight of FQMD's interest in the situation will help move the initiative forward.

Lary asked where the 24" pipes would go. He said that if there's a flooding problem in one area, the concern is that everything has become below grade in the Quarter. Gail answered the location is the box culvert on the corner of Conti and Bourbon but the street drain pipes in front of the hotel on Bourbon are also involved. Gail said it may have been FEMA's intention for it to be a temporary emergency fix to get the hotel back up and running after Katrina and that it would be corrected by DPW at a later time when the City was stable. Lary said that it's imperative to have capacity for storm drains.

Gail mentioned that the Sewerage and Water Board had created an Environmental Task force to address environmental concerns of French Quarter business owners and residents

X. Report by Chairs, Security Task Force

Bob discussed the need to make the Polaris vehicles more weather and winter ready. Kim moved to authorize Emily on advice of the Chair to purchase whatever was needed to make both electric vehicles roadworthy and update one Polaris, not to exceed \$5000. Mia seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mia, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

Jeremy asked if the \$5000 would come out of the FQMD operating account or the FQTF account. Steve said that repairs, gas, and maintenance has been FQTF. Bob said that these expenses run about \$2500/month. Jeremy said that if the FQTF account runs short, money can be transferred between accounts. Lary suggested that FQMD eventually sell the three Polaris, but the electric vehicles needed to prove themselves worthy first.

Jeremy thanked Bob for his service and asked how the FQTF patrols are dispatched on NOPD calls. Bob said they are dispatched via radio and the CEA says that Code 2 responses are allowed. The FQTF officers themselves choose whether to respond to NOPD calls. Bob stated that he believes this has been a good thing.

XI. Signatories

Steve stated that with the change in FQMD Officers, there needed to be a change to the checking accounts. Steve said that this is a bittersweet moment for him: his term as an appointee of the CVB had ended. The new appointee is Steve Caputo, general manager of the Hotel Monteleone, who Steve believed would be a great addition to the Board.

Steve stated that he believes the hiring of subordinate personnel falls within the responsibility of the Executive Director. He said that his intention was to be even more inclusive than required. In accordance with FQMD bylaws, he stated that he expected this Advisory Committee to remain as transparent as possible and that Bob Simms will be an essential part of it.

Jeremy moved that Mia, Jim, and Brian be added to the three checking accounts. Kim seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mia, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

Jeremy moved that Steve and Kim be removed from the three checking accounts. Kim seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mia, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

XII. New Business

Jim said that by January 1, businesses would need to start collecting an additional 0.25% tax. Jim asked if the City would notify businesses about how to collect these funds. Steve said that Ryan Berni would let businesses know. Mia said that the tax was meant to go into effect in three weeks. Steve said he would reach out to the City and to the Louisiana Restaurant Association.

XIII. Future meetings

The Board adopted its 2016 meeting dates: March 7, May 2, July 11, September 12, and November 7. Brian moved that the January meeting move from January 4 to January 11. Kim seconded. Those in favor were Darryl, Jeremy, Brian, Lary, Mia, Jim, Steve, Kim, and Sal.

Kim asked about the scope of the Personnel Advisory Board: is it just the search? Steve said that the Committee is tasked to define the role and come back to the Board with a job description to get it approved. Kim asked about a search committee, and it was agreed that this issue could be resolved in the January 2016 meeting.

Bob stated that there are liability issues. He asked if he and Gail are covered by the FQMD insurance. Kim said that Bob and Gail were covered by the policy. Bob stated that whoever FQMD hires will have to be covered. Jim said that that person would be, as an employee of FQMD.

Steve thanked everyone. Darryl said that as an observer since FQMD's inception, he recognized that the organization was in particular need of leadership when Steve became Chair. Darryl said that Steve had enumerated his achievements during his tenure but failed to mention that in those months, \$5-6 million was being overseen or running through the organization. Darryl congratulated Steve on hiring an Executive Director and for seeing the need for an Operations Manager so that the return on the EDD's investment would not diminish. Darryl stated that everyone in the FQ now shares a common interest.

XIV. Adjournment

Kim moved to adjourn at 3:25pm. Darryl seconded. The meeting was adjourned.