

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of Monday, September 12, 2016

**MINUTES[[1]](#footnote-1)**

(as approved by the Board November 7, 2016)

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| **Commissioners Present:** |  |  |
| Darryl Berger | Duke LoCicero | David Speights |
| Steve Caputo | Mia Matassa | Robert Watters |
| Jeremy DeBilieux | Nicholas Musso | Ted Young |
| Brian Furness | Jim Oliver |  |

Absent: Dennis Pearse, Kimberly Rosenberg

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| **Committee Co-Chairs and Staff:** |  |  |
| Bob Simms, Security Task Force (STF) | Emily Remington, Executive Director | |
| Gail Cavett, Infrastructure Committee |  |  |

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| **Guests[[2]](#footnote-2) (Affiliation if listed)** |  |
| B. McGovern, French Quarter Business Association | Pat Meadowcroft, VCPORA |
| Susan Guillot, French Quarter Citizens | Albin Guillot, French Quarter Citizens |
| Beverly Fulk, Resident, Security Task Force | Jenna Burke, VCPORA |
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# Call to Order, Roll Call, Introduction of Attendees

Chair Jim Oliver called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. The agenda (Attachment 1) was noted and guests were asked to introduce themselves.

The Secretary called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.

# Public Comment

Chair Jim Oliver stated that the meeting would end at 3:30 to accommodate host Phelps Dunbar. He reminded members of the public wishing to address particular items to record their interest on the sign-up sheet.

# Approval of July and August, 2016 Minutes

Commissioner Watters’ motion (M1) to approve the July and August, 2016 Minutes was approved unanimously. (Attachments 2 and 3, as approved).

# Chairman’s Comments

Chair Oliver expressed his thanks for the work of the French Quarter Task Force Administrative Services Selection Team (Selection Team), which was nominated at the August 22, 2016 Special Board Meeting.

Chair Oliver stated that Al Groos had resigned, and the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association had appointed Dennis Pearse, General Manager of the Omni Royal Hotel, as his replacement. Mr. Pearse had sent his regrets that he was unable to attend this meeting.

1. Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Emily Remington reported that nominations for FQMD’s 2017 Officers had been solicited and recorded. She also pointed to various upcoming events.

1. Treasurer’s Reports: May, June, July, and August

Treasurer Jeremy DeBlieux presented the May–August Treasurer’s Reports, noting that there had been no extraordinary expenses and that the Bourbon Patrol account had been paid off in May and therefore now showed a zero balance. Commissioner Speight’s Motion (M2) to approve the reports was approved unanimously. (Attachments 4–7)

1. Proposed FQMD Officers: 2017

The 2017 FQMD officer nominations are Jim Oliver, Chair; Mia Matassa, Vice-Chair; Brian Furness, Secretary; and Jeremy DeBlieux, Treasurer. These are the same as in 2016. All had agreed to serve if elected.

1. Report from the RFP for French Quarter Task Force Administrative Services Selection Team

ED Remington reported that the September 9, 2016 meeting reviewed the bids submitted by four bidders in response to the Request for Proposals, and had resulted in the identification of further questions (Att. 8, as transmitted) to be submitted to the bidders. Transmittal would be scheduled for delivery not later than 11:00 AM, Thursday, September 13 to permit time for additional Selection Team comment. The proposals, Commissioner Watters pointed out, had been reviewed by City procurement officer Nate Celestine for compliance with City technical requirements. Mr. Watters further reported that responses would be due by Friday, September 14 and that the Selection Team would meet the following week. A Special Meeting of the Board would be necessary to consider the Selection Team’s recommendations and approve selection.

STF Co-Chair Bob Simms urged that Sidney Torres be kept involved, and that the revised App would change the administrator’s role and operations. He noted that the current App does not provide administrative functions but the revised App would.

Mr. Watters noted the need to ensure that the City lives up to its responsibilities, as agreed in the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA); e.g., that the City pay the full cost of supervisory services.

Chair Oliver reviewed the schedule for consideration; specifically, that the Selection Team would review the final proposals, and make recommendations to the Board of a candidate for approval, which would be followed by negotiation of the contract and specific terms. He hoped that the revised App would be available by that time.

1. Report by Chairs, Infrastructure Committee

Co-Chair Gail Cavett presented the Committee’s Report (Att. 9), which included:

1. *Street Lighting.* Outages were reduced from 115 to 58;
2. *Sidewalk Repairs.* Co-Chair Cavett referred to the City’s status report, which stated that the sidewalks would be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) -compliant and that October 31, 2016 was the targeted completion date. Commissioner Musso observed that ADA compliance was bizarre, and applied incorrectly.
3. *Parking on Sidewalks.* Fines would be increased to $500, but would require an implementing ordinance and the identification of specific addresses. Co-Chair Cavett stated that a new schedule of fines would be put forward. In response to a question of whether Board approval would be required for FQMD endorsement, it was agreed that Chair Oliver could decide without further Board action.
4. *Drainage Improvements.* Co-Chair Cavett stated that DPW was continuing work to correct problems at the Royal Sonesta after water problems in August. Comments included the problems that heavy equipment usage could cause to houses and the need for homeowners to be involved.
5. Report by Chairs, Security Task Force (renamed Security and Enforcement Committee)

Co-Chair Bob Simms supplemented his submitted report (Att. 10) saying that Mike Roberts had resigned, and that John Zimmerman had agreed to return. He stated that efforts to help deal with Officer Tony Mitchell’s death had raised $26,000.

Co-Chair Watters spoke to the need that the STF’s name should be changed to better reflect its responsibilities and place in the FQMD organizational structure, and the need to approve the nomination of Mr. Zimmerman. His motion (M3) to change the name of the Security Task Force to the Security and Enforcement Committee and to name John Zimmerman as a member of the Committee was approved unanimously.

Co-Chair Simms provided a 17th-month review of FQTF operations and concluded that it was doing well. Co-Chair Watters reported that the consensus at a business meeting was that crime was increasing and that the numbers of State Troopers had declined since the passage of the tax increase to defray expenses.

Co-Chair Simms reported on FQTF Phase 3, emphasizing commitments by Sidney Torres, the City, the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Board and others. He also reviewed progress on the revised FQTF App, which would feature slight revisions in the public App, and new features providing for officer-centered functions that would run on the IPADs, and a completely new administration and management function. A soft rollout was targeted for the end of September.

1. New Business

Commissioner Musso stated that the Vieux Carre Commission had appointed a subcommittee to look roof-top use issues.

Albin Guillot raised issues associated with the proliferation of short-term rentals in the French Quarter, including the impact on local businesses, and raised the possibility that the FQMD could be involved. Chair Oliver noted that hotel and lodging associations were opposed to illegal short-term rentals. Further noted was State law that precluded the FQMD from taking positions on land use issues.

1. Future Meetings: November 7, 2016
2. Adjournment

Adjournment was approved by acclamation at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted

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Brian R. Furness, Secretary

Annex 1: Motions approved at the Meeting of September 12, 2016

Annex 2: List of Attachments

**ANNEX 1: Motions[[3]](#footnote-3) – Meeting of September 12, 2016**

1. *Minutes (Agenda III).* Robert Watters: “That the Minutes of the Meetings of July 11 and August 22, 2016 be approved.” Second: Matassa. Approved unanimously.
2. *Treasurer’s Reports (Agenda IV).* David Speights: “That the Treasurer’s Reports for May, June, July, and August, 2016 be approved.” Second: Matassa. Approved unanimously.
3. *Security Task Force (Agenda X)*. Robert Watters: “That the Security Task Force be renamed the ‘Security and Enforcement Committee’ and that John Zimmerman be named a member.” Second: Matassa. Approved unanimously.
4. *Adjournment.* “That the meeting be adjourned.” Approved by acclamation.

**ANNEX 2: Attachments – Meeting of September 12, 2016**

1. Agenda — Meeting of September 12, 2016
2. Minutes — Meeting of July 11, 2016 (as approved)
3. Minutes — Special Meeting of August 22, 2016 (as approved)
4. Treasurer’s Report-May 2016: Operating Account/FQTF Account/Bourbon Patrol
5. Treasurer’s Report-June 2016: Operating Account/FQTF Account/Bourbon Patrol
6. Treasurer’s Report-July 2016: Operating Account/FQTF Account/Bourbon Patrol
7. Treasurer’s Report-August 2016: Operating Account/FQTF Account/Bourbon Patrol
8. FQTF Request for Proposals: Additional Questions for Bidders (as finally transmitted)
9. Infrastructure Committee Report at the September 12, 2016 Meeting
10. Security and Enforcement Committee Report at the September 12, 2016 Meeting

1. Technical note: The meeting was recorded on an Etekcity USB disk recorder. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. From sign-in sheets. Undecipherable names not included. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Approved unanimously” means the Motion was approved by all Commissioners present. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)