

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monteleone Hotel, Riverview Room

Regular Meeting of Monday, March 12, 2018

**DRAFT MINUTES**

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| **Commissioners Present:** |  |  |
| Darryl Berger (Arv 2:41) | Susan Klein | David Speights |
| Steve Caputo | Nicholas Musso | Robert Watters (Lv 3:08) |
| Brian Furness | Kim Rosenberg (Arv 2:10) | Ted Young (Arv 2:05) |
| Jeremy DeBlieux | Jim Oliver  Christian Pendleton | David Bilbe |
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**Absent:** Emily Remington, Executive Director (Parental leave)

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| **Committee Co-Chairs and Staff:** |  |  |

Bob Simms, Security & Enforcement Committee Gail Cavet, Infrastructure Committee

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| **Guests:** |  |
| Beverly Fulk, FQMD SEC | Meg Lousteau, VCPORA |

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introduction of Attendees

Chair Nick Musso called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. The roll was called and a quorum was present. Chairman Nick Musso apologized for notice snafu and reported that Emily delivered a healthy baby boy.

1. Executive Session for consideration of matters related to Executive Director Remington - Mr. Caputo motioned (**M1)** to “adjourn to Executive Session for consideration of matters related to Executive Director Remington”. Seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved at 2:05 pm. Mr. Musso reconvened the regular meeting at 2:35 pm by declaration.
2. Public Comment – Mr. Musso introduced and reminded members of the public wishing to address particular items to record their interest on the sign-up sheet. The agenda (Att. 1) was noted.
3. Approval of March Minutes – Mr. Furness motioned **(M2)** - to “…approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2018 Regular Meeting…” seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and approved unanimously by those voting.. Mr. Pendleton and Mr. DeBlieux abstained since they did not attend the January meeting.
4. Chairman’s Comments- There were no formal comments for recording purposes. Mr. Musso did thank Mr. Caputo for hosting the meeting.
5. Treasurers Reports: Mr. Oliver distributed the financials (attached) for January & February. As noted in the January report, we did not receive the NOCVB funding in time to be listed, so there are two payments in February. Mr. Oliver presented the January & February figures noting there were multiple vehicle repairs. It was noted that FQMD has two limited expenditure credit cards issued, one to himself and one to . Director Emily Remington. The Fuelman card is for the police officers to refuel the STF vehicles and corresponds to a detailed log. He also noted we share copier and internet expenses with Le Petit Théâtre Du Vieux Carré.**–** Mr. Speights motioned **(M3)**, seconded by Commissioner DeBlieux to “approve the January and February reports as submitted,” and they were unanimously approved.
6. Item relating to FQMD’s 2017 Audit: Adoption of Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s Compliance Questionnaire**–** Ms**.** Rosenberg moved **(M4)**, seconded by Mr. Furness to “approve the Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s Compliance Questionnaire as completed by Executive Director Emily Remington” and was unanimously approved. ***Addendum to the minutes:*** *Ms. Klein submitted the signed audit on March 20, 2018 to Mr. Josh Faubert, CPA of Ericksen Krentel..*
7. Infrastructure Committee Report: Gail Cavett, Co-Chairman
8. DRAINS – Exterior mounted catch basin metal plates have replaced the previously working interior mounted metal screens during the Bourbon Street project; 50% were retractable as insisted by DPW, which in short order all broke and so DPW changed to the Committee’s recommended of non-retractable. Ms. Cavett showed both designs. For Mardi Gras no drains had guards in place and all the trash went down into the catch basins. The new screen is an inferior design becoming totally blocked or allowing the free passage of trash. The new design also allows rats to pass through. The old design originally installed by Tropical Isle over 15 years ago still works correctly. Ms. Cavett has spoken to DPW, but they are moving forward with this inferior design even though this posses not only a drainage problem, but also a security (allows for knife and gun disposal) and an environmental problem (drainage to Lake Pontchartrain). Additionally, maintenance costs will increase due to heavy vehicle damage and debris vacuum removal. Ms. Cavett would like to reach out to the City Council environmental consultant for assistance. The old work was done by the previous DPW head and under a non-bid maintenance contract, but the new work will be bid and have a more specific public works process. Ms. Rosenberg motioned **(M5)** for “Ms. Cavett to pursue and advocate on behalf of the FQMD for the instillation of the original design, expanded galvanized interior-mounted metal catch basin screens for the entire French Quarter” seconded by Mr. Berger and unanimously approved
9. STREET BOLLARDS - The Infrastructure Committee questioned DPW on their suggested design and asked it to be changed due to suspected, and now proven mechanical and operational flaws. DPW went ahead with the design in question and for Mardi Gras, these bollards jammed and weren’t able to be opened. It now requires a wrench/key that’s not always available and this design is easily vandalized as demonstrated; it can be moved by hand when the track is stuck open. Mr. Musso pointed out that even when it’s in place, a bollard does not fulfill the purpose intended by Homeland Security because they are designed to be driven through by an SUV for first responders. Homeland Security is tasked with opening and closing these bollards, and that’s not being done, but rather by NOPD and street musicians that want to set up early. When they are stuck, NOPD brings in the old galvanized pipe barriers. Of most importance, Mr. Musso noted that this system does not work for Homeland Security’s intent of mitigating terrorism, even if the mechanics are functioning due to drive through ability. Also, Mr. Oliver noted that this problematic new system is not the system presented to the Hospitality Industry, which was instead a pop-up system. Mr. Oliver motioned **(M6)** for “the Infrastructure Committee and the Security and Enforcement Committee to advocate, pursue and remedy the current bollard system”, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously passed.

**Hotel Self Assessment Tax Improvement Fund – 2018 Infrastructure Comm. Recommendations**

* Redesign and replace catch basins screens
* Graffiti removal plan like Jefferson Parish has
* Lighting plan for repair and replacement when necessary.
* Maintain and repair sidewalks
* Hire additional task force officers for enforcement of sidewalk trespassing, encroachment and impediment of public flow. Officer’s can approach people who are obstructing a property if the building owner has a “standing complaint” letter on file for this action. However, officers are influenced if the person requests medical care and the current Consent Decree, as it would suspend any promotions for that officer, if the person files a complaint. Mr. Burger said FQMD should report stats to NOMTC & NOVTB for more funding for this.
* Showed slides on vagrants camping on sidewalks. A property owner can issue a standing complaint and file with NOPD, then vagrants can be moved, but NOPD won’t act until consent decree is removed, because they are not eligible for any promotion. Pursue a camping law to prevent sidewalk loitering or sleeping. Sanitation- Pursue a camping law.
* *Commissioner request:* Improved regular cleaning of the French Quarter to include pressure washing throughout. Mayor Landrieu stopped pressure washing below Dumaine and it has fallen off even in the contracted Upper French Quarter. Gail said she would add this to the list.

1. LIGHTING – Ms. Fulk noted the next lighting survey will be performed in April to generate a report for the new District C Councilmember.
2. Security and Enforcement Committee Report: Bob Simms, Co-Chairman
   1. ENFORCEMENT: Mr. Simms asked the Health Department how FQMD could be of help with sound enforcement and presented current examples of problems. The Health Department initially started with education and the City attorney told them not to proceed with Phase 2, which is enforcement. The Health Department, as requested by the City attorney came up with an enforcement protocol. This was given to the City attorney who passed it onto Mayor Landrieu a year ago; he has not moved on it. Mr. Simms agrees as Mr.Watters previously suggested that the City should author the new ordinance with input from FQMD. Mr. Musso said that sound monitoring discs (about $10) can be set up to monitor and record sound for evaluation and enforcement.
   2. CRIME: There were 3 Armed Robberies & 14 Simple robberies for the last 2 months and in is widespread by area. The closing of two strip clubs cleaned up that block up a lot. There were 4 homes graffitied on St Ann with 2 of the perpetrators caught; 35 buildings were tagged that night (a week ago last Sunday) and NOPD is building this into a Federal felony case; 1,330 vagrant’s were moved by the Security Task Force.
   3. TRAFFIC: There were 714 app calls in Feb because of Mardi Gras, as well as being a 5 week month. The vehicles drove over 6,000 miles with 93% of the shifts filed for MG. 243 (64 for over-sized trucks and party buses) traffic citations; 122 parking citations. Party buses could be & were cited for being too big, not for sound. It is a $500 per incident fine to the City general fund and this is why the City agreed to this enforcement
   4. SECURITY TASK FORCE: App enhancements are set to launch in early April, St. Tammany Sheriff’s Office will start a 90-day trail with all their officers. The 911 dispatcher will notify officers that are waiting for their technology. This same process could work for NOPD. The SOS button is new with a location notifier coming soon. Push notification is an option.
   5. VEHICLES: Run 16-20 hours/day with 32 drivers. Maintenance expenses are high due to streets, a/c, brakes and motor mounts. Mr. Simms keeps a spreadsheet per vehicle; $1,500/month is the maintenance budget and what we are at. He presented various car models for STF vehicular replacement/addition. A $10,000 budget may be low for a prior-owned vehicle, since it costs $4,000 for the wrap & equipment instillation.

***FUTURE ACTION:*** *Mr. Musso requested that this information, stats and the Committee work be presented to VCC, the City Council, the Mayor’s office, other relevant stakeholders and the public. Mr. Musso will task Ms. Remington upon her return from parental leave to produce a PR piece to share our positive STF stats for a press release.*

1. New Business
2. Mr. DeBlieux noted that all Commissioners must complete the State Ethics Compliance documentation. Ms. Rosenberg will send to Ms. Klein who will distribute to the Board.

***Addendum to the minutes:*** *Information was distributed on April 5, 2018.*

1. Ms. Rosenberg – Requested perhaps through a partnership could produce and Economic Impact Statement for the FQ. This was a key point of the RHI Summit held in New Orleans. It would be interesting to see the ratio of nighttime revenue production to the cost of City services required. Mr. DeBlieux shared that he met with UNO to do a study just for the Oyster Festival and it would have cost $15,000. The entire French Quarter would be costly. The RHI Seminar noted the best information comes from the 3rd parties.
2. Ms. Lousteau – Asked that committee topics be made more precise in advance, so the general public may have more time to prepare. Mr. Musso agreed with some of Ms. Lousteau’s concern, but noted that sometimes last minute developments & time restraints are hard to work around. FQMD strives to fulfill the “reasonable specificity” as dictated in law. Given time restraints, last minute developments and Executive Sessions, Agenda items are listed as action is known to be required, and not necessarily topics that arise from discussion.
3. Ms. Klein suggested that starting in July to hold all Commission meetings on the second Monday of odd months versus the first Monday, since half of our 2018 meetings are on the 2nd Monday anyway. This would also give the Treasurer more time to close out the month and review the financials. Mr. Musso tasked her with sending an inquiry to the Board. ***Addendum to the minutes:*** *Inquiry was distributed on April 5, 2018.*
4. Future Meeting: May 7, 2018 (location to be announced)
5. ADJOURNMENT : Mr. Young motioned **(M7)** and Mr. Caputo seconded “…that the meeting be adjourned…” and was approved by acclamation at 4:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

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Susan Klein, Secretary

List of Attachments:

* Agenda
* Financials