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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of Monday, January 9, 2017

**MINUTES**

(as approved at the March 6, 2017 Board Meeting)

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| **Commissioners Present:** |  |  |
| Darryl Berger (Lv 3:50) | Duke LoCicero | Dennis Pearse |
| Steve Caputo | Mia Matassa (Lv 4:00) | Kimberly Rosenberg |
| Jeremy DeBlieux | Nicholas Musso (Lv 4:10) | David Speights |
| Brian Furness | Jim Oliver | Ted Young |

Absent: Robert Watters

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| **Committee Co-Chairs and Staff:** |  |  |
| Bob Simms, Security and Enforcement  Committee | Emily Remington, Executive Director | |
| Gail Cavett, Infrastructure Committee |  |  |

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| **Guests[[1]](#footnote-1) (Affiliation if listed)** |  |
| B. McGovern, French Quarter Business Association | Jenna Burke, VCPORA |
| Susan Guillot, French Quarter Citizens | Albin Guillot, French Quarter Citizens |
| Beverly Fulk, Resident, Security & Enforcement Committee | Michael Tilbury, Resident, Security & Enforcement Committee |
| Dwight Norton, City of New Orleans | Meg Lousteau, VCPORA |
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# Call to Order, Roll Call, Introduction of Attendees

Chair Jim Oliver called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. The agenda (Att. 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 reminded members of the public wishing to address particular items to record their interest on the sign-up sheet.

# Approval of November Minutes

Commissioner Speights’ motion (M1) to approve the Minutes of the November 7, 2016 Regular Meeting as submitted was approved unanimously. (Att. 2, as approved).

# Chairman’s Comments

1. *Status of CEAs and related matters*. Chair Oliver stated that Pinnacle Services had informed that it would terminate services on December 23, 2016. Chair Oliver expressed heartfelt thanks to SEC Co-Chair Bob Simms, who stepped in to fill the gap left by Pinnacle’s termination. Attendees applauded Mr. Simms’ actions.
2. *Updates on French Quarter Task Force Administrative service providers.* Chair Oliver stated that G4S would start work on January 9, 2017 at 5:45 PM. He stated that he had signed a 60-day contract with G4S. The contract was temporary, pending signature on a new City-FQMD-Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA). FQMD provided initial comments to the CVB on December 22, 2016 and was awaiting comments by CVB President and CEO Director Stephen Perry. A copy would be circulated electronically to individual Board members. He thanked the negotiating team for their work, and stated that his goal was that all should work together on the new CEA.
3. *Committee nominations*. After unanimous approval to amend the Agenda (M2) to permit the nomination of Committee members, Chair Oliver nominated Commissioner Mia Matassa to be Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Committee and Commissioner Dennis Pearse, an appointee of the hospitality sector, to be a member of the Security and Enforcement Committee. Some stated that Mr. Pearse’s nomination should be balanced by the nomination of a member of the residential community to achieve an equitable balance between business/hospitality and residential members. SEC Co-Chair Simms stated that a delay in considering the candidacy would work a hardship on the Committee. It was agreed to proceed with consideration of Mr. Pearse, with the expectation that he would abstain on any votes pending nomination and approval of a residential community candidate.

Commissioner DeBlieux moved (M3) the approval of (1) Ms. Matassa to be Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Committee and (2) Mr. Pearse (M4) to be a member of the Security and Enforcement Committee. Both motions were approved unanimously.

1. *Committee meetings: expectations for notice, attendance, and frequency*.

Chair Oliver observed that published meeting schedules should generally be observed. Commissioner DeBlieux noted the December 15, 2015 Board decision relating to committee decision making and leadership.  Ms. Cavett described the workings of the SEC, noting that 4-5 meeting dates had been changed to accommodate the availability of having both co-chairs present. She noted that Co-Chair Simms provides information on crime and operations whereas Co-Chair Watters speaks primarily to the policy issues. Thus, the co-chairs handle different parts of the agenda and their presence is complementary. Chair Oliver saluted Ms. Cavett’s points, and urged that Committees meet monthly according to scheduled meeting dates, which the FQMD will post. Commissioner Rosenberg pointed to the notice requirements in State law and the Bylaws. Responding to FQC President Susan Guillot, Chair Oliver stated that co-chairs/chairs were to observe the notice requirements, and that it was beneficial but not mandatory to have both co-chairs present. However the concurrence of both co-chairs was required to cancel a meeting.  Thus, he stated, there would no need for a vote to revise committee operating procedures.

1. Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Remington:

* + Reported that all requested general operating funds had been received;
  + Stated that all categories came in under budget in 2016;
  + Stated that an audit will be conducted this year, in accordance with Louisiana law;
  + Reminded that by May 15, all Commissioners must submit the Board of Ethics form and complete one hour of training;
  + Expressed gratitude for the leadership of the NOPD’s new 8th District Commander;
  + Discussed Mayor Landrieu’s proposed security plan for the French Quarter, noting that only $7 million of the proposed $24 million was available, although federal earmarks might be possible;
  + Stated that FQMD would be moving to new quarters in mid-February; and
  + Said that problems related to recent security-related Bourbon Street traffic closures should be reported to the NOPD 8th District.

Addressing the issue of Bourbon Street traffic closures, Commissioner DeBlieux stated that the traffic restrictions, especially prohibiting traffic from crossing Bourbon Street, caused serious problems for restaurants and Royal Street merchants, impeding customers, deliveries, and staff access. Problems also included the lack of crossing passes and traffic back-ups on Decatur Street and elsewhere. Commissioner Matassa stated that the late announcement exacerbated the difficulties.

Commissioner Musso stated the problems underlined the need for a comprehensive transportation study, as proposed by the Vieux Carre Commission (VCC) for over four years. He disagreed with Ms. Cavett, who had stressed utilizing a local company with knowledge of the French Quarter’s particular circumstances, stating that the work required experts and substantial expertise.

SEC member Albin Guillot recalled that Mayor Landrieu, in recent meetings on public safety initiatives, had raised the need to defend against possible truck terrorism. Bollards, as installed in other cities, were a possible answer.

Mr. Musso noted that the lighting problems noted by the Mayor stemmed in part from non-working street lights, and referred to the VCC’s comprehensive French Quarter lighting study.

1. Treasurer’s Reports: September and October 2016

Treasurer Jeremy Deblieux presented the November and December, 2016 Treasurer’s Reports (Att. 3 and 4), noting that there had been no extraneous entries and that the 5 percent allotment would change to 3 percent. He further noted that the December statement showed a healthy balance, and that FQTF expenditures were routine. He reported that contingency FQTF funding, approved at the November Board meeting, was not used. Commissioner Matassa’s motion (M5) to approve the reports passed unanimously.

1. Introduction to the New Orleans Bike Share Program

Dwight Norton, Urban Mobility Coordinator, Mayor’s Office of Resilience and Sustainability, described the City’s Bike Share Program (Att. 5), emphasizing that the objective is to improve the city’s transportation alternatives. The program will be launched in 2017, and have eventually 700 bicycles and 70 parking stations, all privately financed. The residential emphasis will be reflected in the pricing: $15 per month for up to one hour per day but for low-income residents, it will be $20 per year for one hour per day. Community meetings are planned in March and April, inter alia to discuss parking station sites.

Ms. Guillot noted that taking existing French Quarter parking would worsen existing parking problems; Mr. Norton stated that using unused freight and other restricted spaces would be explored, and that he looked forward to a dialogue with business and community organizations. Mr. Norton clarified that existing transportation service providers had not expressed concerns about competition from bike share program.

Commissioner Musso noted idiosyncratic conditions in the French Quarter and dangers from turning vehicles; he reiterated the need for a comprehensive traffic study.

Infrastructure Co-Chair Cavett offered to provide a list of approved locations and other data from FQMD Infrastructure Committee work. She noted the need for the program to take account of one-way streets and truck traffic, and to emphasize bike safety and the prohibition on riding bicycles on the Royal Street Mall.

1. History and Purpose of FQMD

Chair Oliver read the “History and Purpose of FQMD” paper (Att. 6), which is also posted on the FQMD website. During the ensuing discussion of achieving greater understanding of FQMD and French Quarter issues, Commissioner Musso (and VCC Chair) invited attendance at televised VCC meetings during which he would enable presentations on community issues.

Ms. Guillot and Ms. Lousteau noted that illegal short-term rentals (STRs) were a major problem. Mr. Musso stated that the VCC had not yet been asked to help identify illegal STRs. Commissioner Berger opined that highly-publicized enforcement actions could have a deterrent effect and encouraged FQMD to figure out how to help. Ms. Lousteau suggested support in the Louisiana legislature for raising the $500 cap on fines. Mr. Musso noted that imposing fines daily would have an impact; Commissioner Rosenberg suggested that raising the cap only for certain activities might alleviate Bourbon Street merchant opposition.

1. Report by Chairs, Infrastructure Committee

Co-Chair Gail Cavett presented the Committee’s Report (Att. 7), which included outlining the Committee’s 2017 work plan. She further described Phase I Bike Corral plans and displayed photographs showing damage to recently-repaved Iberville Street, indicating the Convention Center money had been misspent.

Ms. Cavett referred as well to the need for smart and strategic Bourbon Street lighting.

1. Report by Chairs, Security and Enforcement Committee

Co-Chair Bob Simms supplemented his submitted report (Att. 8) with a review of crime statistics and FQTF operations.

Due to time constraints, Co-Chair Simms provided a shorter than planned briefing on FQTF operations. In December 2016, the FQTF responded to 1,492 calls, drove 4,723 miles, and made 29 arrests and 17 apprehensions. The officers made 583 citizen contacts, 193 business checks, relocated 527 subjects, and filled 96 percent of the shifts for the month.

Co-Chair Simms then summarized progress on Version 3.0 of the French Quarter Task Force App. Version 3.0 is a major upgrade and is composed of three related and integrated Apps (Citizen, Officer, and Administration). The revised Public App has an “Uber-like” interface and is easier to use. The new Officer App allows the officers to document Dispatch and Self-Initiated calls, has built-in GPS tracking capability, electronic trip sheets, and electronic timesheets. The new Administration and Management App provides shift management, vehicle assignments and iPad assignments. In addition, it has enhanced oversight tools and easily exports data to Excel. The Officer and Administration Apps went into fulltime use on the FQTF on December 26. The public App is planned to be released on January 15. Co-Chair Simms noted that the new App significantly reduces the administration cost freeing up funds that could be used to hire additional officers.

XII. New Business

There was no new business brought before the Board.

1. Future Meetings: March 6, 2017
2. Adjournment

Adjournment was approved by acclamation (M8).

Respectfully submitted

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Brian R. Furness, Secretary

Annex 1: Motions approved at the Meeting of November 7, 2016

Annex 2: List of Attachments

**ANNEX 1: Motions[[2]](#footnote-2) – Meeting of January 9, 2017**

1. *Minutes (Agenda III).* David Speights: “…that the Minutes of the regular meeting of November 7, 2016 be approved as submitted.” Second: Rosenberg. Approved unanimously.
2. *Agenda Change.* Kim Rosenberg: “,,, that the Agenda be amended to include naming individuals to be Committee members and officers.” Second: Berger. Approved unanimously (as required by Bylaws).
3. *Committee Co-Chair (Agenda IV.c).* Jeremy DeBlieux “…that Comissioner Mia Matassa be approved as Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Committee.” Second: Young. Approved unanimously.
4. *Committee Co-Chair (Agenda IV.c).* Jeremy DeBlieux “…that Comissioner Dennis Pearse be approved as a Member of the Security and Enforcement Committee.” Second: Rosenberg. Approved unanimously.
5. *Treasurer’s Reports (Agenda VI).* Mia Matassa: “That the Treasurer’s Reports for November and December, 2016 be approved.” Second: Rosenberg. Approved unanimously.
6. *Adjournment (Agenda XIII).* Jeremy DeBlieux: “…that the meeting be adjourned.” Approved by acclamation.

**ANNEX 2: Attachments – Meeting of January 9, 2017**

1. Agenda — Meeting of January 9, 2017
2. Minutes — Meeting of November 7, 2016 (as approved)
3. Treasurer’s Report-November 2016: Operating Account/FQTF Account
4. Treasurer’s Report-December 2016: Operating Account/FQTF Account
5. Presentation: New Orleans Bike Share Program (electronic only)
6. History and Purpose of FQMD
7. Infrastructure Committee Report at the January 9, 2017 Meeting
8. Security and Enforcement Committee Report at the January 9, 2017 Meeting

1. From sign-in sheets. Spelling is not guaranteed. Undecipherable names not included. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Approved unanimously” means the Motion was approved by all Commissioners present. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)