

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting of Monday, March 6, 2017

**MINUTES**

(as approved by the Board of Commissioners May 1, 2017)

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| **Commissioners Present:** |  |  |
| Darryl Berger (Arr. 2:28) | Duke LoCicero | David Speights |
| Steve Caputo | Nicholas Musso | Robert Watters |
| Jeremy DeBlieux | Jim Oliver | Ted Young |
| Brian Furness | Dennis Pearse |  |

Absent: Mia Matassa, Kimberly Rosenberg

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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 | Mary Hewes, VCC Foundation |
| Susan Guillot, French Quarter Citizens | Albin Guillot, French Quarter Citizens |
| Beverly Fulk, Resident, Security & Enforcement Committee | Bob Freilich |
| Michelle Conway, City of New Orleans | Meg Lousteau, VCPORA |
| Louise Saenz, French Quarter Citizens | B. McGovern, French Quarter Business Association |

# Call to Order, Roll Call, Introduction of Attendees

Chair Jim Oliver called the meeting to order at 2:03 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.

# Executive Session for consideration of matters related to the Executive Director

Chair Jim Oliver called the Board into Executive Session. (Regular session resumed at approximately 2:20 PM)

# Public Comment

Chair Jim Oliver reminded members of the public wishing to address particular items to record their interest on the sign-up sheet.

# Approval of January 2017 Minutes

Commissioner Berger’s Motion (M1) to approve the Minutes (Att. 2, as approved) of the January 9, 2017 regular meeting was approved unanimously.

1. Chair’s Comments

Chair Oliver stated that Commissioner Matassa, appointee of Rampart Street Mainstreet had resigned as Vice-Chair, as a Commissioner, and as Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, and called for candidates. Commissioner Speights stated that Rampart Street Mainstreet would soon make an appointment.

Chair Oliver reminded that FQMD’s officers are term-limited and candidates will be needed to replace them at the end of the year.

1. Status of CEAs and related matters.

Executive Director Remington reported that a revised draft (Att. 7) was received from the City today (March 6) and had been circulated for review and comment. She opined that changes may need to be made.

Chair Oliver asked the negotiating team to review, and that a special session would be called to approve.

Commissioner Watters pointed out that FQMD was paying $5,000/month for supervisory review services that NOPD should be providing without cost. He suggested that this sum be capped at $3,000. He further suggested that, instead of specifying the number of detail officers to be supplied, the language (in Sec. 11(6)) should only call for “best efforts.”

Security and Enforcement Committee (SEC) Co-Chair Bob Simms observed that shift supervisors could not be relied upon to provide supervisory review services, and stated that requiring body cameras (Sec. 11(10)) would cripple operations. He also stated that the NOPD had shifted personnel to Bourbon Street.

Mr. Watters underlined the need for ways to measure the City’s commitment to use FQTF officers to supplement, not substitute for, regular NOPD patrols, keeping in mind that the French Quarter is not immune from NOPD manpower problems. (See Sec. 5 regarding commitment to use FQTF resources to supplement, not substitute for, regular assigned officers. See Sec. 6 for the reports designed to evaluate compliance with the commitment. See also Sec. 11(19)).

FQC President Susan Guillot urged that Sec 12(2) be reworded to require that FQMD be “informed of” emergency officer diversions rather than having to “consent” to such changes.

1. *Updates on French Quarter Task Force Administrative service providers.*

Chair Oliver stated that an extension of the contract with G4S would be executed at the lower rate. Negotiation of the final contract would resume when the new FQMD-CVB-City CEA was signed.

1. Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Remington reported that:

* The CVB had pledged $75,000 to support FQMD operations and thus FQMD was solvent at least through 2020;
* The audit required by State law was underway;
* All commissioners are required to complete the Louisiana Board of Ethics financial disclosure form by May 15 and undertake ethics training by December 31;
* The FQMD office would move during the week of March 13 to 400 N. Peters Street into quarters provided by the Berger Companies (applause for the Berger Companies); and
* The FQMD’s May 1 meeting would be held at the Ritz Carlton.

1. Treasurer’s Reports: January and February, 2017

Treasurer DeBlieux reviewed the operating and FQTF accounts for January and February, 2017 (Att. 3 and 4), observing that there had been no extraneous expenditures and that balances were healthy. Commissioner Watters’ motion (M2) to approve the reports carried unanimously.

1. Report by Chairs, Infrastructure Committee

Co-Chair Gail Cavett referred to City Urban Mobility Coordinator Dwight Norton’s presentation on the New Orleans’ Bike Share Program at the January 9 meeting. She reported (see Att. 5) that research indicated no French Quarter input, and that concerns included parking (including in freight zones), sidewalk space usage, advertising (which will benefit the Bike Share Program operating company), and program dimensions too large for the French Quarter: 576 commercial bike parking slots will require 1,548 linear feet. The program will disrupt historic views, including Jackson Square, and treat private bike parking different than commercial bike parking.

Ensuring a bike plan that benefited the French Quarter required, according to Ms. Cavett, authorization by the Board to limit Bike Share station locations, docks, advertising, hubs, kiosks, and Bike Share bike parking in certain areas of the French Quarter.

Commissioner Musso acknowledged that Mr. Norton’s presentation was deceptive in some areas — Mr. Norton failed to show advertising consistent with Vieux Carre Commission guidelines — but he could not support banning bike share stations in the French Quarter. He further observed that the program calls for too many bike stations, but could not be shifted entirely to the French Quarter periphery. Commissioner Watters noted that the City Council has underlined the need for alternative transportation.

Commissioner DeBlieux suggested that the Committee’s interventions show areas that would be acceptable; a proposal endorsed by Co-Chair Cavett, who reiterated the need for the Board to take a strong position to enable the Infrastructure Committee to participate fully in further review of the Bike Share Program.

Co-Chair Cavett’s Motion (M3, as amended), moved by Commissioner Speights, was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Musso urged attendance at the Vieux Carre Commission meeting that would take up the Bike Share Program.

1. Report by Chairs, Security and Enforcement Committee

Co-Chair Simms reviewed the Mayor’s security plan for the City (see Att. 6). (The remainder of the oral report was truncated due to time constraints.)

XII. New Business

Recalling his commitment at the January 9 meeting to name SEC members, Chair Oliver:

…nominated Gail Cavett be a member of the Security and Enforcement Committee. Commissioner Watters noted that Ms. Cavett was already Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, and that greater membership diversity would improve committee operations. He urged that alternative candidates be found. Commissioners Speights and Furness, and Ms. Guillot, pointed out that Ms. Cavett was an outstanding candidate with a long and proven track record of accomplishment and attention to residents’ concerns and issue and a great track record of working with the business and hospitality sectors on difficult and complex issues. Ms. Cavett’s appointment was approved (M4): 9 yeas and 2 nays (Watters, DeBlieux).

… nominated Bryan Drude to be a member of the Security and Enforcement Committee, pointing to his residence in the French Quarter and support for the FQTF. Some questioned that, notwithstanding his residence in the French Quarter, his record supported qualifying as a “residential” representative. Mr. Drude’s appointment was approved (M5): 8 yeas, 1 nay (Speights), 2 abstentions (Furness, Caputo).

1. Future Meetings: May 1, 2017 (Ritz Carlton)
2. Adjournment

Commissioner DeBlieux moved adjournment, which was approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted

/s/

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Brian R. Furness, Secretary

Annex 1: Motions approved at the Meeting of March 6, 2017

Annex 2: List of Attachments

**ANNEX 1: Motions[[2]](#footnote-2) – Meeting of March 6, 2017**

1. *Minutes (Agenda IV).* Darryl Berger: “…that the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2017 be approved as submitted.” Second: Speights. Approved unanimously.
2. *Treasurer’s Reports (Agenda VII).* Robert Watters: “…that the Treasurer’s Reports for January and February, 2017 be approved.” Second: Young. Approved unanimously.
3. *Infrastructure Committee (Agenda VIII).* Upon recommendation of the Infrastructure Committee. David Speights: “…that the FQMD Board of Commissioners votes to limit Bike Share station locations, docks, advertising, hubs, kiosks, and Bike Share bike parking in that area of the French Quarter bounded by the riverside curb of North Peters Street and Decatur Street, the downriver side of Canal Street, the lakeside curb of North Rampart Street, and the downriver curb of Esplanade Avenue. The FQMD will provide alternate locations and recommendations for Bike Share stations outside the aforementioned area.” Second: Caputo. Approved unanimously.
4. *Security and Enforcement Committee (Agenda IX):* Chair Jim Oliver “…that Gail Cavett be approved to be a member of the Security and Enforcement Committee.” Second: Musso. Approved: 9 yeas, 2 nays (Watters, DeBlieux).
5. *Security and Enforcement Committee (Agenda IX):* Chair Jim Oliver “…that Bryan Drude be approved to be a member of the Security and Enforcement Committee.” Second: DeBlieux. Approved: 8 yeas, 1 nay (Speights), 2 abstentions (Caputo, Furness).
6. *Adjournment (Agenda XII).* Jeremy DeBlieux: “…that the meeting be adjourned.” Second: Young. Approved by acclamation.

**ANNEX 2: Attachments – Meeting of March 6, 2017**

1. Agenda — Meeting of March 6, 2017
2. Minutes — Meeting of January 9, 2017
3. Treasurer’s Report-January, 2017: Operating Account/FQTF Account
4. Treasurer’s Report-February, 2017: Operating Account/FQTF Account
5. Infrastructure Committee Report for the March 6, 2017 Meeting
6. Security and Enforcement Committee Report for the March 6, 2017 Meeting
7. (Draft) “Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of New Orleans and New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau and French Quarter Management District” (undated)

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)