

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting of Monday, September 11, 2017

**MINUTES**

(as approved at the November 6, 2017 Regular Meeting)

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| **Commissioners Present:** |  |  |
| Darryl Berger (arr 2:50) | Sue Klein (arr 2:10) | Christian Pendleton |
| Steve Caputo | Nicholas Musso | David Speights |
| Jeremy DeBlieux (lv 3:30) | Jim Oliver | Robert Watters |
| Brian Furness |  |  |

Absent: Kim Rosenberg, Ted Young

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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 | Albin Guillot, French Quarter Citizens |
| Susan Guillot, French Quarter Citizens | Jodi Poretto, French Quarter Citizens |
| Beverly Fulk, FQMD Committees | Michael Tilbury, FQMD Security Enforcement Committee |
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# Call to Order, Roll Call, Introduction of Attendees

Chair Jim Oliver called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

# Public Comment

Chair Jim Oliver welcomed newly-appointed Commissioner Christian Pendleton 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.

1. Approval of the July minutes.

Commissioner Musso’s motion (M1) to approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2017 Regular Meeting (Att. 2, as approved) was approved unanimously.

# Ratify Motions of Executive Session in 2016

Chair Oliver noted that the Board had failed to comply with Louisiana law requiring that issues discussed in executive session must be approved in regular session and proposed that changes to the Executive Director’s pay and benefits and thanks for the Rosenberg’s legal support in the matter of Riley v Watters, et al, discussed in March and July, 2016 respectively, be approved. Commissioner DeBlieux’ motion (M2):

“…that on the payroll reporting date closest to the Executive Director’s employment anniversary, the overall salary be increased by three (3) percent and that the FQMD contribution to the Executive Director’s health insurance be increased by $50 per month.”

“…that the Board accepts with gratitude the Rosenberg’s offer of services in the matter of Riley v Watters, et al.”

was approved unanimously.

1. Chairman’s Comments

Chair Jim Oliver thanked French Quarter Advocates for its donation of a smart car to the FQTF.

Chair Oliver reported that a task force had recommended a slate of officers to guide FQMD in 2018, as follows:

Chair Nicholas Musso

Vice-Chair Brian Furness

Secretary Sue Klein

Treasurer Jim Oliver

The election will be held at the December meeting.

# Executive Director Report

* 1. French Quarter Task Force (FQTF) updates
     1. *Consideration for proposed hours of Traffic Enforcement Patrol.*

Chair Oliver noted the proposal to begin the Traffic Enforcement Patrol (TEP) with an 8-hour shift from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. He noted, however, that Office of Police Secondary Employment (OPSE) billings have exceeded budget amounts. Treasurer DeBlieux provided May-August 2017 FQTF expense data (Att. 3). Chair Oliver noted reductions in G4S billings and NOPD 8th District administrative charges; Treasurer DeBlieux stated that extending the TEP in excess of the 8-hours already committed would not be fiscally prudent. He observed further the beneficial financial effect of not having G4S on station 24/7.

Chair Oliver, supported by Infrastructure Co-Chair Cavett, noted that most traffic violations took place about 8 am, and that having the TEP commence at 8 am would be more effective. Security and Enforcement Committee Co-Chair Robert Simms stated that an 8 am starting time would work for officers. Ms. Cavett noted that revenue from citations could exceed $1 million per year. At Chair Oliver’s proposal, Commissioner DeBlieux’ motion (M3) that the TEP be scheduled from 8 am – 2 pm daily, subject to review of operations and the 2018 budget, was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Speights was assured that sufficient funds were available, and that FQTF patrols accounted for the excess of OPSE charges over amounts budgeted. Treasurer DeBlieux reminded that the Patrol Plan should be reviewed, and emphasized the need to be fiscally responsible, particularly because G4S is taking on a larger administrative role.

* + 1. *Consideration for payment of 1st and 2nd Quarter SDT Bills*

Chair Oliver asked the Board to approve invoices from SDT for certain FQTF App-related expenses. He pointed out that SDT billed only for administrative expenses associated with updating the App, not for operations or profit. Treasurer DeBlieux noted that the expenses were not in the budget, but had been previously advised to the Board that such would be levied. Commissioner Watters suggested communicating with SDT regarding a breakout of App expenses.

Mr. Simms confirmed that the FQTF vehicles could not operate without access to the App, and noted that recent updates to the Apple operating system could cause difficulties.

Commissioner Watters’ Motion (M4) to pay SDT invoices for the first and second quarters of 2017, $2,887.04 and $3,904.98 respectively, was approved unanimously.

* + 1. *Consideration for negotiating a licensing agreement with SDT for the FQTF App*

Chair Oliver said that Executive Director Remington would be directed to explore licensing possibilities with SDT.

* 1. Bourbon Street updates
     1. ED Remington reported block infrastructure completion deadlines were as follows:
        1. 100 Block: end of September
        2. 200 Block: mid-November
        3. 300 Block: December
        4. 400 Block: December
     2. ED Remington reported that separate bids for the 500–800 blocks would result in separate contracts. Commissioner Musso urged a policy be adopted that work would cease from January until May. Commissioner Watters suggested that the ED arrange a meeting with City officials to underline concerns; Infrastructure Committee Chair Gail Cavett suggested meeting with Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Galloway to review the schedule. Mr. Watters reminded that the only the Mayor can make firm decisions. Mr. Musso observed that no deadlines have thus far been met.

Chair Oliver directed that the ED arrange meetings with DPW and the Mayor’s Office and appointed a task force composed of Commissioners Musso, DeBlieux, Watters, and Furness.

* 1. Results of insurance audit

ED Remington reported that the insurance audit recommended that FQMD lower its general liability coverage (and consequently its excess liability coverage) and add crime, hired/non-owned auto, and assault and battery insurance. She hoped that this would reduce insurance expenditures overall. The policy expires October 2. Commissioner Musso opined that, if FQMD actually did all of the things called for in its enabling legislation, the responsibility assumed would require additional insurance.

* 1. Upcoming events

Executive Director Remington presented the FQMD September newsletter (Att. 4) and reviewed an extensive list of events affecting the French Quarter, including (1) the FQMD fundraising and holiday event on December 11 at the Hotel Monteleone; and (2) that she was scheduled to give birth (general applause) on February 18, 2018 and would be taking parental leave as set out in the terms of employment.

1. Treasurer’s Reports (July and August, 2017)

Treasurer DeBlieux presented Treasurer’s Reports for July and August, 2017 (Attachments 5 and 6) and reported that revenues and expenditures were generally in line with expectations. He noted the change in administration fees. Commissioner Berger suggested that a recap of achievements be prepared to buttress continued support by funding organizations. Commissioner Speights’ Motion (M5) to approve the reports was approved unanimously.

1. Report by Co-Chairs, Security and Enforcement Committee

The report (Att. 7), presented by Co-Chair Bob Simms, included:

a. *French Quarter crime statistics*. Mr. Simms reviewed crime statistics for the first, second, and third quarters of 2017. He noted that nine different police entities are working to protect the French Quarter but pointed to an assault on Royal St. that highlighted the lack of coordination between these multiple resources.

b. *Update on crime in the 800–1000 blocks of St. Louis St.* Mr. Simms underlined that the 800–1000 blocks remained a major source of citizen concern. He noted a resident lead initiative that resulted in the City placing restrictions on the Double Play bar.

c. *FQTF statistics.* Mr. Simms’ review of FQTF operations again highlighted the important role FQTF operations play in addressing French Quarter public safety issues. He noted that since inception the FQTF has responded to almost 47,000 incidents and has driven 134,000 miles.

d. *NOPD FQTF supervision shortcomings*. Mr. Simms pointed to problems in FQTF operations occasioned by a shortage of NOPD “supervisors,” as required by the CEA, to supervise FQTF details. Chair Oliver opined that the issue could perhaps be addressed by hiring an outside person (instead of G4S) to perform the supervisor role.

1. New Business

No new business was brought before the Board.

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

Adjournment (M6) was approved by acclamation at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Brian R. Furness

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Brian R. Furness, Secretary

(hand-signed original in FQMD files)

Annex 1: Motions approved at the Meeting of September 11, 2017

Annex 2: List of Attachments

**ANNEX 1: Motions[[2]](#footnote-2) – Regular Meeting of September 11, 2017**

1. *July 10 Minutes (Agenda III).* Nicholas Musso: “... that the Minutes for the July 10, 2017 Regular Meeting be approved.” Second: Speights. Approved unanimously.
2. *2016 Executive Session (Agenda IV).* Jeremy DeBlieux: “... that decisions reached in Executive Session be ratified as follows:

*Executive Director Remuneration.* Executive Session of March 7, 2016. “…that on the payroll reporting date closest to the Executive Director’s employment anniversary, the overall salary be increased by three (3) percent and that the FQMD contribution to the Executive Director’s health insurance be increased by $50 per month.”

*Appreciation for Legal Services.* Executive Session of July 11, 2016. “…that the Board accepts with gratitude the Rosenberg’s offer of services in the matter of Riley v Watters, et al.”

Second: Watters. Approved unanimously.

1. *FQTF Traffic Enforcement Patrol hours (Agenda IV.a).* Jeremy DeBlieux: “... that the FQTF Traffic Enforcement Patrol be scheduled from 8 am – 2 pm daily, pending review of operations and the 2018 budget.” Second: Caputo. Approved unanimously.
2. *Payment of SDT app-related invoices (Agenda IV.b).* Robert Watters: “... that SDT invoices for $2,887.04 and $3,904.98, covering FQTF app-related expenses, be paid.” Second: Speights. Approved unanimously.
3. *Treasurer’s Reports (Agenda VII):* David Speights: “... that the Treasurer’s Reports for July and August 2017 be approved.” Second: Musso. Approved unanimously.
4. *Adjournment (Agenda XI).* Nicholas Musso: “... that the meeting be adjourned.” Second: Watters. Approved by acclamation.

**ANNEX 2: Attachments – Regular Meeting of September 11, 2017**

1. Agenda — Meeting of September, 2017
2. Minutes — Regular Meeting of July 10, 2017 (as approved)
3. FQTF Expenses May 2017 – August 2017
4. FQMD “September 2017 Newsletter”
5. Treasurer’s Report-July, 2017: Operating Account/FQTF Account
6. Treasurer’s Report-August, 2017: Operating Account/FQTF Account
7. Security and Enforcement Committee Report for the September 11, 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)