

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting of Monday, November 6, 2017

**MINUTES**

(as approved at the regular meeting of January 8, 2018)

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| **Commissioners Present:** |  |  |
| Darryl Berger (ar 2:10) | Brian Furness  | Christian Pendleton (lv 4:15) |
| David Bilbe  | Sue Klein | Kim Rosenberg (ar 2:05) |
| Steve Caputo (lv 3:45) | Nicholas Musso  | David Speights |
| Jeremy DeBlieux (lv 4:15) | Jim Oliver | Robert Watters (lv 4:00) |

 Absent: Ted Young

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

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| **Guests** |  |
| Beverly Fulk, FQMD SEC | Susan Guillot, French Quarter Citizens |
| Albin Guillot | Dwight Norton, City of New Orleans, Bike-Share Program |
|  | B. McGovern, French Quarter Business Association |

# 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 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.

1. Approval of September and October Minutes

Commissioner Pendleton’s Motion (M1) to approve the Minutes of the September 11, 2017 Regular Meeting and the October 9, 2017 Special Meeting (Atts. 2 and 3, as approved) was approved unanimously.

PM1. Agenda Change – Infrastructure Committee Report

Commissioner Klein’s Motion (M2) to change the Agenda to hear the report of the Infrastructure Committee immediately before considering Agenda X.a ‘Motion of Support’ (on bike corral locations) was approved unanimously.

1. Chairman’s Comments

Chair Oliver thanked Commissioner Jeremy DeBlieux for his service on the Board, and for his service as Treasurer in recent years.

* 1. Approval of additional FQMD insurance expenditures

Chair Oliver stated that the final insurance bill exceeded the amount authorized ($15,000) at the October 9, 2017 meeting by $1,607.52 and that he had technically exceeded his authority to bind FQMD by approving the expenditure. Commissioner Rosenberg’s Motion (M3) to approve the additional expenditure, as amended by Commissioner Watters to include ratification of Chair Oliver’s action to bind the policy, was approved unanimously.

* 1. Updates from the City on French Quarter Infrastructure Repairs

Based on Deputy Mayor for External Relations Ryan Berni’s report (Att. 25) to the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association (GNOHLA) on Hotel Assessment receipts and expenditures, Chair Oliver reported that Mr. Berni pledged that funds not required to support the French Quarter Task Force (FQTF) would be used to repair sidewalks, and that the first eight blocks had already been completed. Funds for converting existing street lamps to LED would come from Convention Center funds as part of the Mayor’s Public Safety Initiative. Mr. Berni had challenged GNOHLA to identify projects for 2018. Chair Oliver said that GNOHLA expected FQMD to provide ideas.

Chair Oliver recalled that voluntary Hotel Assessment funds are contributed to the GNOHLA, Convention Center, and New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation (NOTMC). Ninety-six percent of hotels contribute.

Regarding possible project ideas, Commissioner Klein suggested reviving the Department of Health’s program to put vermin poison in drains.

Albin Guillot raised the ongoing problem of the Esplanade Avenue neutral ground being used by the homeless and ‘travelers.’[[1]](#footnote-1) He suggested that FQMD work with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to remove the vegetation that provides cover and otherwise clean up the space. SEC Co-Chair Robert Simms noted that current ‘travelers’ are urging fellows to visit New Orleans during the winter months. A recent police sweep had sent some to jail, and that DPR has cleaned out junk and debris. Chair Oliver pointed out that the landscaping should be neat and maintained, but not removed.

Chair Oliver suggested that bringing the problem to the attention of the Mayor and City Council could spur action. Commissioner Berger proposed encouraging Councilmember-elect Kristin Gisleson Palmer to attend FQMD meetings, recalling that she had strongly supported FQMD in her first term. Chair Oliver, endorsed by Infrastructure Committee Co-Chair Gail Cavett, suggested inviting her to the January meeting.

1. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Remington reported:

* *FQMD Fundraiser.* On December 11, the Hotel Monteleone will host a fundraiser for the FQMD. Because FQMD has secured funding for general operations through its sunset on June 30, 2021, the organization will need to consider how to spend any funds raised from the event. ED Remington reported having received a suggestion to purchase a Smart Car for the FQTF.
* *FQMD Commissioner 2018 Reappointments.* All commissioners and officers with expiring terms have been reappointed. Specifically, the French Quarter Business Association (FQBA) reappointed Jeremy DeBlieux and the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association (GNOHLA) reappointed David Bilbe and Jim Oliver.
* *ED Vacation Plans*. ED Remington will be on vacation the week of November 27.
* *ED Medical Leave.* ED Remington reported that, beginning in her 38th week of pregnancy (February 5), she will work from home. She will commute to meetings as necessary, but the checkbooks and printer will be at her residence from February 2 to minimize the need to cross parade routes to get to home/hospital. At the January Board meeting, she will present the Board with a transition plan for continued operations during her medical leave.
* *Report to New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation (NOTMC).* ED Remington reported that the NOTMC will contribute $75,000 in 2017 and 2018, but urged that FQMD present more data on its activities, accomplishments, and results.

Noting the desirability of a report on FQMD initiatives and accomplishments, Commissioner Klein suggested that the Downtown Development District (DDD) report might serve as a model; Commissioner Rosenberg suggested using an end-of-year report; for instance on the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the FQMD, as a vehicle that could include a description of FQMD’s activities from the beginning, such as the traffic enforcement efforts on over-sized vehicles that underline the need to change state law and New Orleans’ ordinances.

Pointing to Commissioner Rosenberg’s comment that FQMD’s ability to track activities and accomplishments is hindered by the use of private email accounts, Commissioner Watters, endorsed by Commissioner Musso, suggested creating email accounts usable by FQMD committees and commissioners.

Commissioner Berger stated that the year-end report should be authoritative and comprehensive, and noted that Councilmember questions, such as those posed by Councilmember-at-Large Stacy Head, were reminders that FQMD need to describe its activities better. Infrastructure Committee (IC) Co-Chair Cavett suggested that the report include volunteer hours contributed and other indications of activity. Security and Enforcement Committee Co-Chair Simms stressed that reports needed to be read.

Commissioner Caputo underlined the need for FQMD to be more publicity conscious, and to involve the French Quarter’s Councilmember. Inviting District C Councilmember-elect Kristin Gisleson Palmer to the January meeting was suggested.

Chair Oliver suggested that summary reports be prepared semi-annually, and reported that NOTMC’s Mark Romig would help arrange a meeting on how best to promote FQMD.

1. Treasurer’s Reports: September and October 2017

Treasurer DeBlieux presented reports for September and October, noting that the only unforeseen expenditure was the September expenditure of $300 for the Executive Director’s attendance at the Committee for a Better New Orleans (CBNO) Bryan Bell Metropolitan Leadership Forum. Commissioner Watters’ Motion (M4) to approve the Treasurer’s Reports for September and October 2017 (Att. 4 and 5, respectively) was approved unanimously.

1. Presentation of 2018 Budgets

Executive Director Remington pointed to budget materials (Att. 6–19) and observed that 2017 FQMD income and expenditures were generally in line with FQMD’s approved budget. For 2018, expenditure projections incorporated increased (1) insurance costs; (2) greater professional development, especially for the ED to attend relevant conferences; and (3) salary and health insurance that would have to be approved by the Board.

Commissioner Furness asked about the omission of expected fund-raising revenues and expenditures. Mr. DeBlieux stated there had been none in 2017 and that 2018 projections would have to be incorporated subsequently. Mr. Simms noted potential funding sources could be pursued and suggested that 2018 goals be set. Chair Oliver said fund-raising goals could be considered during the Executive Director’s performance review. Ms. Rosenberg observed that other organizations established fund-raising goals and expenditures in their annual budgets.

Chair Oliver pointed to the FQTF budget breakout, noting that it included expenses not encountered in 2017 and the expansion of Verizon cell-phone service to provide for unlimited data. Mr. Simms observed that FQTF costs were basically in line with expectations; Mr. DeBlieux noted that receipts and expenditures were balanced.

Commissioner Klein’s Motion (M5) that the 2018 FQMD and FQTF budget be approved was approved unanimously.

1. FQMD Officers: 2018

Commissioner Speights Motion (M6) that the officers of FQMD for 2018 be Commissioners Nicolas Musso – Chair; Vice-Chair – Brian Furness; Secretary – Susan Klein; and Treasurer – Jim Oliver was approved unanimously. Commissioner Berger expressed the thanks of the Board for those who had served in 2017.

1. Signatories to the FQMD checking account

Reflecting change in officers, Commissioner Rosenberg’s Motion (M7) to add signatories Nicholas Musso and Susan Klein to the FQMD checking account was approved unanimously. Commissioner Pendleton’s Motion (M8) to remove Jeremy DeBlieux and Mia Matassa as signatories to the FQMD checking account was approved unanimously.

*PM2.* Agenda Change: 2018 Meeting Dates.

Commissioner Rosenberg’s Motion (M9) that the Board take up Agenda XIII Future Meetings’ before Agenda X ‘bike corrals’ was approved unanimously.

XIII. Future Meetings (See Motion 9 above)

Commissioner Rosenberg’s Motion (M10) that the FQMD’s 2018 Regular Meetings be held on January 8, 2018; March 5, 2018; May 7, 2018; July 9, 2018; September 17, 2018; and November 5, 2018 was approved unanimously.

1. Bike Corrals

Presentation by Dwight Norton, Urban Mobility Coordinator, City of New Orleans, Office of Resilience & Sustainability

Mr. Norton reviewed progress on the New Orleans Bike-Share program, and particularly locations of bike corrals (Att. 21) in the French Quarter and in immediately adjacent areas. Stating that locations and design had received much input from community organizations, he underlined that the number and location reflected those discussions, as did the design of the bike corrals themselves. There would be no program branding on the corral near the corner of Bourbon and St. Philip Streets (CC’s Coffee). He did note that it may be necessary to add additional corrals in the Upper French Quarter.

Responding to comments and questions, Mr. Norton stated that program evaluation would be used to make changes as necessary, vertical visual obstructions would be minimized, and that the possibility of theft was addressed by technology incorporated in the bike.

X. Infrastructure Committee Report (Inserted before X.a as approved by M2)

Co-Chair Gail Cavett referred to Mr. Norton’s Bike-Share program update (Agenda X) and reviewed the extensive efforts undertaken to revise the original proposed bike corral locations that had led to FQMD motions (see inter alia Minutes of the May 1, 2017 Regular Meeting) of opposition. Meetings with sponsor Blue Cross-Blue Shield and with the city had resulted in very positive changes, reflected in the revised proposed locations (see Att. 21 “Bike Share + Public Parking”), that the Committee recommended be approved, except that the public bike corral at Conti and Chartres Streets be moved to Chartres and St. Louis Streets as had been requested by Napoleon House.

X. Bike Corral/Bike Share Updates

* 1. Motion of Support (Agenda order as determined by Motion 2 above)

Commissioner Musso’s Motion (M11) that the FQMD follow the lead of the Infrastructure Committee and recommend approval of the bicycle corrals as set out in the City’s “Bike Share + Public Parking” presentation (Att. 21) except that the public bike corral at Conti and Chartres Streets be moved to Chartres and St. Louis Streets, as requested by Napoleon House, was approved unanimously.

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

Co-Chair Robert Simms reviewed French Quarter crime and incident statistics (Att. 23).

Mr. Simms reported that Aaron Miller, Director, New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, had briefed on French Quarter security issues. Executive Director Remington stated that the report (Att. 24) would be sent to Commissioners when available.

Mr. Simms stated that the work of the FQTF’s Traffic Enforcement Program (TEP) had been undermined by the Department of Public Works’ (DPW) routine issuance of over-sized vehicle permits. Working with Infrastructure Committee Co-Chair Cavett, DPW was informed that such issuance was contrary to law. DPW apologized and rescinded 16 permits. Commissioner Rosenberg suggested sending a letter of thanks to DPW for the rescissions. Commissioner Musso stated that the Vieux Carré Commission (VCC) would share reports of vehicles hitting French Quarter architectural features and suggested that the DPW Director be invited to attend FQMD meetings.

Chair Oliver expressed the appreciation of the Board for the work of Ms. Cavett and Mr. Simms.

1. New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

1. Adjournment

Commissioner Rosenberg’s Motion (M12) that the meeting be adjourned was approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted

Brian R. Furness (signed original available)

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Brian R. Furness, Secretary

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

Annex 2: List of Attachments

Annex 3: Acronyms and Abbreviations

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

1. *Minutes for September and October, 2017 (Agenda III).* Christian Pendleton: “... that the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2017 and the Special Meeting of October 9, 2017 be approved.” Second: Klein. Approved unanimously.
2. *Agenda Change (PM1 after Agenda III)*: Susan Klein “... that the report of the Infrastructure Committee be inserted in the Agenda immediately before Agenda X.a.” Second: Musso. Approved unanimously.
3. *Additional FQMD Insurance Expenditures (Agenda IV.a).* Kim Rosenberg (as amended by R. Watters): “... that Board approve the expenditure of an additional $1,607.52 to the authorization of $15,000.00 granted the Chair at the October 9, 2017 Special Meeting and that the Chair’s action to bind the insurance be ratified.” Second: DeBlieux. Approved unanimously.
4. *Treasurer’s Reports for September and October, 2017 (Agenda VI)*. Robert Watters: “…that the Treasurer’s Reports for September, 2017 and October, 2017 be approved.” Second: Speights. Approved unanimously.
5. *2018 Budget (Agenda VII).* Susan Klein “… that the budgets for the FQMD and the FQTF be approved as presented.” Second: Pendleton. Approved unanimously (DeBlieux absent).
6. *2018 Officers (Agenda VIII).* David Speights “… that the officers of FQMD for 2018 be Commissioners Nicolas Musso – Chair; Vice-Chair – Brian Furness; Secretary – Susan Klein; and Treasurer – Jim Oliver.” Second: Steve Caputo. Approved unanimously.
7. *Add signatories to the checking account (Agenda IX.a)* Kim Rosenberg: “… that Nicholas Musso and Susan Klein be added as signatories to the FQMD checking account.” Second: Jeremy DeBlieux. Approved unanimously.
8. *Remove signatories from the checking account (Agenda IX.b)* Christian Pendleton: “… that Jeremy DeBlieux and Mia Matassa be removed as signatories to the FQMD checking account.” Second: Musso. Approved unanimously.
9. *Agenda Change: 2018 Meeting Dates (PM2 after Agenda IX).* Kim Rosenberg: “… that the Board take up Agenda XIII ‘Future Meetings’ before Agenda X ‘bike corrals’.” Second: Musso. Approved unanimously (Caputo and Pendleton absent).
10. *2018 Meeting Dates (Agenda XIII).* Kim Rosenberg: “… that the FQMD’s 2018 Regular Meetings be held on January 8, 2018; March 5, 2018; May 7, 2018; July 9, 2018; September 17, 2018; and November 5, 2018.” Second: Furness. Approved unanimously (Caputo and Pendleton absent).
11. *Bike corral locations (Agenda X.a and Motion 2 above)*. Upon recommendation of the Infrastructure Committee, Nicholas Musso: “… that the FQMD recommend approval of the bicycle corrals as set out in the City’s ‘Bike Share + Public Parking’ presentation (Att. 21) except that the public bike corral at Conti and Chartres Streets be moved to Chartres and St. Louis Streets, as requested by Napoleon House.” Second: Rosenberg. Approved unanimously (Berger, Caputo, DeBlieux, Pendleton, Watters absent).
12. *Adjournment (Agenda VII).* Kim Rosenberg: “... that the meeting be adjourned.” Second: Musso. Approved by acclamation.

**ANNEX 2: Attachments – Regular Meeting of November 6, 2017**

1. Agenda — Regular Meeting of November 6, 2017
2. Minutes – Regular Meeting of September 11, 2017 (as approved)
3. Minutes – Special Meeting of October 9, 2017 (as approved)
4. Treasurer’s Report (FQMD Operating and FQTF Accounts) – September 2017
5. Treasurer’s Report (FQMD Operating and FQTF Accounts) – October 2017
6. FQMD Budget: 2018 (Press Version)
7. Budget Table: FQTF adopted 2017 vs. proposed 2018
8. Budget Table: City of New Orleans Proposed FQTF: 2017
9. Budget Table: FQMD Adopted FQTF: 2017
10. Budget Table: FQTF adopted 2017 vs. actual 2017
11. Budget Table: FQTF proposed 2018
12. Budget Table: FQMD Adopted FY17 Budget
13. Budget Table: FQMD adopted FY17 budget vs. YTD 2017
14. Budget Table: FQMD adopted 2017 vs. proposed 2018
15. Budget Table: FQMD proposed FY18 budget
16. FQMD Budget: 2018
17. Budget Table: FQMD FY17 operations revenue
18. Budget Table: FQMD Projected FY18 operations revenue
19. Budget Table: FQMD Revenue vs. expenditures: projected
20. Bike Share Design Review (presentation by Dwight Norton)
21. Bike Share Design Review “Bike Share + Public Parking”
22. Bike Share Design Review “Bike Share Stations”
23. Report: Security and Enforcement Committee
24. Report: Briefing by Aaron Miller, Director, New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
25. Report: Report by Ryan Berni, Deputy Mayor of External Affairs, on Hotel Assessment Receipts and Expenditures (copy requested)

**ANNEX 3: Acronyms and Abbreviations**

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| Att | Attachment |
| CBNO | Committee for a Better New Orleans |
| CEA | Cooperative Endeavor Agreement |
| DDD | Downtown Development District |
| DPR | Department of Parks and Recreation |
| DPW | Department of Public Works |
| ED | Executive Director |
| FQBA | French Quarter Business Association |
| FQC | French Quarter Citizens |
| FQMD | French Quarter Management District |
| FQTF | French Quarter Task Force |
| GNOHLA | Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association |
| IC | (FQMD) Infrastructure Committee |
| M | Motion |
| NOPD | New Orleans Police Department |
| NOTMC | New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation |
| PM | Procedural Motion |
| SEC | (FQMD) Security and Enforcement Committee |
| TEP | Traffic Enforcement Program (FQTF) |
| VCC | Vieux Carré Commission |
| VCPORA | Vieux Carré Property Owners, Residents and Associates |

1. ‘Travelers’ are itinerant visitors, often young, without fixed New Orleans address whose behavior is often characterized by camping out in public spaces, begging or panhandling, or busking. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Approved unanimously” means the Motion was approved by all Commissioners present. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)