



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting of Monday, August 20, 2018
Brennan's Restaurant
417 Royal Street, New Orleans

DRAFT MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

David Bilbe	Susan Klein	David Speights
Heidi Raines	Nicholas Musso	Robert Watters
Brian Furness	Christian Pendleton	Jim Oliver
Jeremy DeBlieux	Matthew Emory	Kim Rosenberg

Absent: Steve Caputo

Executive Director: Emily Remington

Committee Co-Chairs:

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

Guests:

Mary Hewes, VCCF	Meg Lousteau, VCPORA
Monica Gerhart, City of New Orleans	Albin Guillot, FQMD SEC
Daniel Hammer, HNOC	Susan Guillot, FQC
Jack Greenwood, VCPORA	Commander Nick Gernon, 8 th District
Beverly Faulk, FQMD SEC, Lighting	

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:** Chair Nick Musso called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.
- II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** for consideration of matters related to Executive Director Remington. – Ms. Rosenberg motioned (**M1**) to “adjourn to Executive Session for consideration of matters related to Executive Director Remington”, seconded by Mr. Oliver and unanimously approved at 2:04 pm.
- III. **RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING & RATIFY ACTION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Musso reconvened the regular meeting at 2:55 p.m. Mr. Speights motioned (**M2**) to” reconvene the Regular Meeting...”, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved.

- IV. INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES & PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Musso asked for introductions of those present and reminded members of the public wishing to address particular items to record their interest on the sign-up sheet. The Agenda was noted.
- V. APPROVAL OF JULY 2018 MINUTES: Mr. Speights motioned (**M3**) to "...approve the Minutes of the July 7, 2018 Regular Meeting..." seconded by Mr. Pendleton, and approved unanimously.
- VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - Mr. Musso
- a. Nominations for FQMD 2019 Executive Officers:
- Chairman: David Speights (to fill any expired 2nd term of Mr. Musso)
 - Vice-Chairman: Kim Rosenberg & David Speights
 - Secretary: Susan Klein
 - Treasurer: Jim Oliver
- The Officers will be elected at the November meeting and anyone wishing to be included should contact the Chairman. Mr. Musso introduced newly appointed Commissioners Ms. Heidi Raines and Mr. Matthew Emory. Ms. Susan Guillot announced that Gail Cavett will be the new FQC representative.
- b. French Quarter Museum Association updates: Mr. Musso met with Mr. Daniel Hammer of HNOG. He gave Mr. Hammer an itemized list to address pursuant to the French Quarter Museum Association's request made to FQMD, due by the September FQMD Board Meeting. FQMD liability and expenses must be addressed before a partnership is considered. Once the FQMA's formal proposal is received, *Ms. Remington shall forward it to our insurance agent and legislative auditor for clearance.*
- c. Bourbon Street Phase II – Hard Rock is the contractor who dropped the ball on last contract and yet they were awarded Phase II. Liquidated damages are only \$3,000.00 per day. Mr. DeBlieux asked what the role of FQMD would be in moving forward. Ms. Remington, along with either Mr. Emory or Mr. Watters will attend any meetings possible on this project. There are concerns regarding business interruption, ADA compliance and a clause in the State documents when there is an unreasonable bid. Mr. DeBlieux motioned (**M4**) "to empower Mr. Emory and Mr. Watters to communicate with the Administration and the City Council regarding any related utilities, vendors or procedure on behalf of the FQMD for the duration of Phase II of the Bourbon Street Project, and to include the Chairman and the Infrastructure Committee on all communications and action requests..." seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and approved unanimously. As part of this project Sarah Porteous, City Special Projects liaison noted at the July FQMD meeting that measures would be taken for rodent control. However, it is not part of the contract and to date, there is no definitive answer from the City on this problem.
- d. Establishment or Reactivation of FQMD Committees:
- i. Creation of Environmental Committee – Mr. Pendleton volunteered to Chair, requesting a name change for this committee to be presented in September.
 - ii. Governmental Affairs Committee – This exists, but shall be reorganized. Revision of the bylaws to include a term limit for Co-Chairmen - (volunteer and commissioner). These individuals may remain to serve as volunteers on those committees. Mr. Musso would like to have this tied into the election period of officers. Ms. Lousteau asked about term limits for Commissioners and was informed by Ms. Rosenberg that no term limits exist for Commissioners per State law, only officer positions. Mr. Guillot's concern is liability with the FQTF. Ms. Rosenberg reiterated the firm understanding that no member of the SEC, the Executive Director, nor any Commissioners can give direction to NOPD officers of the FQTF, only Commander

Gernon. If any comments were made contrary to this fact, they were misspoken. Some Commissioners wanted term limits to start now, others present thought they should come in two years as the current chairmen could resign at any time, if they felt the need. Mr. Musso said he would be willing to compromise beginning in November of 2019. He noted he is trying to reinvigorate the committees with more community involvement. Mr. Simms noted he has been Co-Chairman of the SEC for six years and he is in favor of term limits. The FQTF makes him a full-time volunteer and the SEC has more duties than the management the FQTF. Mr. Simms said he is willing to continue work with the FQTF, but not to be the SEC Co-Chairman and they should be separate. He added that he would assist Mr. Musso with the transition. Mr. Musso, Mr. Simms and others agreed Mr. Simms' time was better spent managing the FQTF and not remaining Co-Chairman the SEC. Mr. Simms said he would welcome direction from the Board. Mr. Emory offered that whether it's term limits or a Board evaluation, we need to move forward. Ms. Klein agreed on the importance of Mr. Emory's comment, and that criteria for committees and task forces should be developed, since 25% of the FQMD bylaws already addresses this. Mr. Musso noted that as a majority of the budget is allocated for the FQTF, he would rather someone in FQMD's employ manage it and this did not have to be the Executive Director. Even Mr. Simms could apply for the job, but the Executive Director has to be in the "loop". SUMMARY by Mr. Musso: He is not trying to oust or replace anyone, but to secure leadership and volunteer work for the future. Recommendations will be sent to the Board before the September meeting for consideration at that meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Overview of visit to Charleston, SC – Ms. Remington made this site visit with Commander Gernon and Councilmember Palmer's chief of staff, Andrew Sullivan. They were introduced to "Sustainable Tourism", transportation options and the Charleston Livability Court which adjudicates sanitation, QOL, STR's, and graffiti, among other issues.
- b. Councilmember Palmer **will may** be developing legislation for some form of a Livability Court for New Orleans to improve the QOL for residents and visitors. It was noted it could produce a revenue stream to pay for itself, plus additional community funding.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORTS: The July 2018 Operating financials for FQMD & STF were distributed. Mr. Oliver noted after expenses, the FQMD cash balance was \$245,544.07. The Chairman reviews all detailed credit card expenses with the Treasurer, even if not listed. The final audit payment is reflected. The FQTF ending cash balance was \$246,579.61. Mr. Watters motioned (M5), seconded by Mr. DeBlieux to "approve the July financial reports as submitted," and they were unanimously approved.

IX. REPORT BY CHAIRS, INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

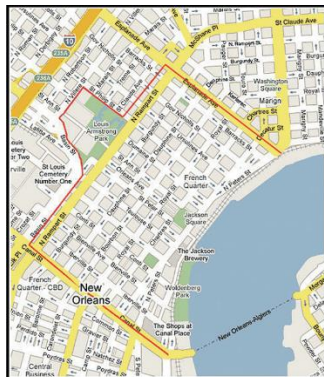
- a. Sanitation Contract - *Ms. Cavett requested that everyone check their video cameras to verify that contractual services are being provided. Any discrepancies should be reported to Ms. Cavett.* Some items include scrubbing the sidewalks with a lemon scented solution and removal of any animal or human waste. The Empire office is open 7-6 daily and is required to respond within one hour of any problems called into their office. Upon request, Empire is obligated to produce a log and provide the City with real-time viewing from their GPS recordings. Mr. Emory noted that when the sidewalks are pressure washed, it sprays residue three feet up the building façade and is left there for the owner to wash down. Mr. Pendleton thanked Gail for all her work. He noted that the current lack of sanitation has affected restaurant patrons, and all residents and visitors to the French Quarter, and is a large part

of the rodent problem. The National Automobile Association said they would not be returning to New Orleans for their convention due to the current lack of sanitation. Mr. Musso interjected that filth is the first or second exit comment on visitor responses. Mr. Watters noted that some businesses violate the law by not having contracted waste services. They put their refuse in plastic bags on the street and the City is picking it up which increases the burden to the City and may be adding to the diminished services by Empire. He suggested that FQMD make a *public records request for the waste contract listings of all businesses within the FQMD footprint*, to determine which businesses are in violation of City business requirements regarding waste removal. Ms. Lousteau noted that some businesses are violating city sanitation ordinances by leaving their *trash receptacles on the sidewalk 24/7*. This should also be part of the reporting to the City. Mr. Pendleton thanked Ms. Cavett again for all her work and noted that he and Ms. Cavett had a productive meeting with the City and that the FQMD should continue to partner with the City to pro-actively resolve issues. He shared that the City has only 10% of Health Department inspectors required to enforce the sanitation ordinances. The correct procedure, as noted by Mr. Watters is to verify that contractual services are not being received and send that information to Ms. Cavett as requested. Ms. Cavett and Mr. Pendleton will present the collected data to Ms. Lear, Director of Sanitation to document Empire's lack of compliance, suggesting that a notice of default be issued within ninety days unless the deficiencies are corrected. Ms. Gerhart, the City liaison will look into the question of re-staffing where current under-staffing exists. Ms. Cavett noted that in conjunction with Councilmember Palmer they developed a plan of action which necessitates the business and residential review of compliance, as indicated by the maps presented. They will take this collected data to the necessary channels. Ms. Rosenberg suggested that Ms. Remington include the maps and requested review information in the FQMD newsletter preferably before the weekend, as well as on the website.

- b. Lighting - Ms. Klein noted Ms. Fulks attended the last District C coffee with Councilmember Palmer and she followed up to request a contact person for lighting issues. She will provide a full new survey report at the September Board Meeting.

X. REPORT BY CHAIRS, SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: Mr. Simms

- a. CRIME – 1 Homicide at 3am during the shift change. 1st there was the FTSTF, 2nd there was State Police, 3rd there was EMS, 4th there was Fire Department and then 5th was NOPD. 2 armed robberies, 17 simple robberies (up) because of lack of NOPD, 1 shooting an FQTF officer made Bourbon & Conti arrests without incident and garnered good press. Mr. Musso noted that we were asked to extend the FQTF coverage to Frenchman. However, that is outside of our footprint, but FQMD could incorporate Waldenberg Park to Esplanade, because FQMD's footprint extends to the Mississippi.



Ms. Raines says there is an omission in the CEA on the number of officers they will supply. The City would not commit to that, which could be a violation of the CEA. The

FQTF seems to be more efficient than NOPD & the State Police. Ms. Rosenberg noticed that whatever the number of officers assigned at the initiation of the CEA on January 1, 2017, should be the number assigned today. It was noted that a meeting should be set up with the major stakeholders; the Mayor, NOPD Superintendent, 8th District Commander and New Orleans and Company to discuss this discrepancy. Ms. Rosenberg is to initiate an economic development study for both active and passive funds and also related City services...security, fire, medical, sanitation. Mr. Oliver said we could take the QftQ (Quarter for the Quarter) 2.5% of \$2,500,000,00 along with assessment taxes into the equation. Some suggested retail taxes and indirect revenue. Over 90% of visitors to the City come to the French Quarter. **Mr. Musso tasked Ms. Raines to develop a task force to development this information for follow-up with the Administration.**

- b. TRAFFIC – 38 traffic citations. Big trucks and buses going down because of fines
- c. SECURITY TASK FORCE – This was meant to augment the NOPD 8th District, but it appears NOPD personnel have decreased with the success of STF. It seems the State Police and the STF are more efficient than NOPD 8th District. **Often at night there are more FQTF officers on the street than “beat” NOPD officers in the French Quarter. However, that does not include the undercover and the mounted officers.** Mr. DeBlieux asked that Mr. Simms send him proof of the diminished NOPD staffing, because that violates the CEA with the City. Every night Mr. Simms sends his stats to State Police and their and our info are logged into the system. However, the daily NOPD duty log is not given to the State Police to log in with the State Police and the FQTF stats. Mr. Emory noticed that at times the NOPD has to wait with an injured party until EMT arrives and then may have to assist. The FQTF app continues to evolve with additional investments ay SDT. At this point Commander Gernon entered the meeting. Commander Gernon noted that the consent agreement with the Justice Department requires it continue until there is “substantial compliance” as determined by the judge and then 2 years of self-monitoring. Commander Gernon feels compliance will be accomplished by the end of the year. He shared the duty roster stats for the last week. **(10:25pm – 7am; 7 officers on night watch, 5 undercovers, 12 Bourbon St officers, 4-5 mounted officers; reporting takes about 1.5 hours; also booking transport takes a hugh amount of time; 8th District knows they have the most community support and have the highest moral.** However, the French Quarter is only part of the 8th District detail, but most are located in the French Quarter because the crowds are in the French Quarter, since 17.7 M people came to FQ last year. *Commander Gernon stated the best way FQMD could help the 8th District now is to get Sheriff Marlin Gusman to send his booking van to the French Quarter every Thursday – Saturday night.* He will give Emily the man hours that would be saved by having the booking van.

- XI. NEW BUSINESS – Mr. DeBlieux brought up Councilmember Palmer’s “hit list”. Ms. Raines said Ms. Remington should provide a follow-up action list from Board meeting discussions and decisions. Mr. Musso said there will be an emphasis on a more informative newsletter. He noted that he and Ms. Remington are the clearing house for action items. He suggested that Ms. Raines could work to develop a working action item list for follow-up.
- XII. FUTURE MEETING: September 17, 2018 at Brennan’s Restaurant.
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Oliver motioned (**M6**) “...that the meeting be adjourned...” seconded by Mr. Emory and was approved by acclamation at 4:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary

Attachments: Committee Reports