



Monday, October 15, 2018; 2:00 to 4:00pm  
Real Time Crime Center, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
517 North Rampart Street, New Orleans

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Commissioners Present:

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

**Absent:** David Speights

**Executive Director:** Emily Remington

### Committee Co-Chairs:

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

### Guests:

Miles Tepper, City of New Orleans	Ross Bourgeois, Real Time Camera Center
Beverly Faulk, Lighting Committee	Albin Guillot, FQMD SEC
Commander Gernon	Susan Guillot, FQC
Brittaney Mulla McGovern, FQBA	

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL** - Mr. Musso called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.
- II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A LEGAL MATTER** – Mr. Furness motioned (**M1**) to “adjourn to Executive Session for consideration of a legal matter”, seconded by Mr. Watters and unanimously approved at 2:10 p.m.
- III. **RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING & RATIFY ACTION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Musso reconvened the Regular Meeting at 2:31 p.m. Mr. DeBlieux motioned (**M2**) to “to continue with Mr. Harry Rosenberg’s services as the pro bono attorney in Federal Court Civil Action 18-6984 Tracy Riley vs ATC”, seconded by Mr. Caputo. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Ms. Rosenberg abstaining.
- IV. **ATTENDEES PUBLIC COMMENT** - Mr. Musso 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 SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 MINUTES - Mr. Caputo motioned (**M3**) to "...approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2018 Regular Meeting..." seconded by Mr. Emory, and approved unanimously.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

a. Call for Committees: A discussion ensued which included maintaining French Quarter Task Force (FQTF) services and/or create in 2019 the potential expansion of FQTF services. The committees will be voted on at the November Board Meeting. Mr. Musso opened the floor for discussion, suggesting there be three FQMD Committees be 1) Livability (Infrastructure, Sanitation and Quality of Life), 2) Government Liaison, and 3) Security and Enforcement. The Officers should probably meet regarding the finances and the committee responsibilities and goals should be delineated. Mr. Furness noted that mandated and issues-based scope of actions for all committees should be laid out. Mr. Watters pointed out that FQMD is the only commissioned district that is not in control of their dedicated funds and it sunsets in 2021. There should be an emphasis on the continued funding of FQMD. Ms. Rosenberg shared that all committees, task forces and advisory meetings are subject to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law:

[https://app.la.state.la.us/llala.nsf/BAADB2991272084786257AB8006EE827/\\$FILE/Open%20Meetings%20Law%20FAQ.pdf](https://app.la.state.la.us/llala.nsf/BAADB2991272084786257AB8006EE827/$FILE/Open%20Meetings%20Law%20FAQ.pdf) ).

The only exceptions are officer meetings and executive sessions that are followed by recommendations at the open board meeting. Ms. Reins suggested seeking UNO assistance for an economic study, while Ms. Rosenberg questioned if New Orleans & Co. would fund an FQMD economic development study. Mr. Emory noted that UNO won't certify a study of this type, because the City will not provide the appropriate sales tax information. Everyone agreed FQMD should receive its dedicated funding directly without having to pass through the City general fund or for this procedure to be transparent and verifiable. Councilmember Palmer should be able to assist with this. It was suggested at this point to have four committees:

- 1) Livability (Sanitation, Infrastructure and all QOL issues)
- 2) Security and Enforcement
- 3) Government
- 4) Finance (To include strategic planning, maintaining and expanding funding, and existing funding accountability by the City)

b. Call for 2019 Committee Member Nominations – Mr. Musso asked anyone interested in serving on committees to email Ms. Remington. She will send out an email request to commissioners & current committee members to invite per interest to serve. The leadership is considering term-limiting committee chairmen, and this is open for future discussion. Ms. Remington will be emailing all the representative organizations for committee nominations. It was recommended that individual committee scope(s) of action should be part of a 2019 master plan.

c. French Quarter Museum Association - FQMD received a draft proposal from FQMA. Mr. Musso is awaiting the final proposal containing all the FQMA organizational signatures and the completed information. When Mr. Musso is in receipt of this, he will forward to the commissioners along with his notes.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

a. Introductions of the attendees were made.

b. Ms. Remington thanked Ross Bourgeois, administrator of the Real Time Crime Center for hosting FQMD. Mr. Bourgeois highlighted the Center's work and invited everyone on a post-meeting tour.

c. Current Activity:

- 1) Ms. Remington is working on a 2019 Comprehensive Plan.
- 2) There have been no major occurrences at the new City of New Orleans Low Barrier Homeless Shelter.
- 3) The VCCF Gala was a success.

d. Highlights of upcoming community events:

- 1) October 16 will be the Night Out Against Crime. The French Quarter has two events; the Upper Quarter will be held in the 900 block of St. Peter and the Lower Quarter is at the Beauregard-Keyes House.
- 2) On October 20 at 9 a.m. FQBA will hold its semi-annual Graffiti Abatement Program.
- 3) VCPORA will host its "Vive le Vieux Carre" gala on October 23.
- 4) NOPD 8<sup>th</sup> District NONPACC meeting will be held at 334 Royal Street.
- 4) FQC will host its annual gala on November 3.
- 5) FQA will host its gala on November 12.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT - Approval of the August and September Financials – The August 2018 operating financials for the FQMD & FQTF were distributed. Mr. Oliver noted after expenses, the FQMD August cash balance was \$239,677.69. The August FQTF ending cash balance was \$267,238.62. Mr. Oliver also noted that G4S has had a problem receiving checks and a replacement check was issued. The September 2018 operating financials for the FQMD & FQTF were distributed. Mr. Oliver noted after expenses, the FQMD September cash balance was \$229,776.23. In September a Smart Car was purchased. The September FQTF ending cash balance was \$184,895.96. The most recent car was purchased for the FQTF was a previously approved budget item for vehicle replacement that had been accrued at \$1,000 per month for over one year. Ms. Rosenberg motioned (**M4**) to "ratify the purchase the latest Smart Car funded from the FQTF account at a cost of \$11,120.00...", seconded by Mr. Watters and unanimously approved. This cost included the vehicle purchase and detailing. Mr. Musso noted that Smart Cars are no longer in production. Mr. Pendleton motioned (**M5**) to "approve the August and September 2018 financial reports as submitted", seconded by Mr. Emory and unanimously approved.

IX. ADOPTION of FQMD FISCAL POLICIES – Mr. Oliver pursuant to the State audit discussed the necessity for documenting our financial policy. This was done following the State recommendations to ensure financial transparency and accountability. Ms. Remington distributed this document in the Board packet prior to the meeting. It was recommended that approved budget items over \$5,000.00 may be purchased prior to ratification at the following Commission Board Meeting. Also, any non-budget approved expense item in excess of \$5,000 must be approved by the Executive Director and ratified at the following Commission Board Meeting. FQMD has free business accounts at Iberia Bank. Mr. Oliver suggested that dormant funds should be earning interest in an insured money market fund. Any of these changes will be sent to the auditor for compliance verification prior to final submission to the State. Following auditor approval, the fiscal policy document will be distributed to the Board for approval and sent to the State for final submission on, or before December 31, 2018.

X. REPORT by CHAIRS, INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- a. Sanitation – The pick-up times ordinance eminent at the City Council. Mr. Pendleton noted at the request of the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA), the City Council deferred the ordinance to amend the pick-up and cart removal times, but this should come up soon, as an agreement has been reached. Power washing is still problematic.
- b. Bourbon Street – Work is progressing and the walkways are improved in Phase II. It remains a problem for the businesses.
- c. Lighting – Light post replacement seems to be back on track.

XI. REPORT BY CHAIRS, SECURITY and ENFORCEMENT – Mr. Simms noted no ONE volunteered since the last meeting to become Chairmen of this committee. Mr. Musso suggested it would be very helpful if all committees had a 1-2 page digital summary of the months work and this should be shared with the Commissioners who in turn could share it with the entities they represent. Mr. Emory attended a meeting with Commander Gernon and the City to help advance some opportunities for a “sobering center”. Mr. Emory noted that presently City services are being consumed by inebriated individuals and a dedicated vehicle for this population would enhance response time for more severe medical emergencies. The SEC will develop some strategy and issue items for presentation to the Board for action. A possible site for a sobering center could be somewhere downtown for individuals who are non-functional due to alcohol or chemicals. Odyssey House is the major detox facility now. However, they would require funding of about \$700,000 a year to run a sobering clinic. There are 20 beds there now, but Commander Gernon noted that due to the rotation process, daily totals would average 120 individuals per day. Mr. Emory reiterated that the bylaws empower FQMD to take certain action, but many times this ends in a black hole with the City. The SEC will be working on this. Mr. Simms stated that he is working on a task or responsibility list of the activities he currently engages in on behalf of the SEC. Also, he uses his personal credit card to facilitate SEC expenses and this needs to be addressed.

- a. Crime – There is no elevator in low-barrier shelter after VA business hours, so it doesn't meet Federal ADA standards at night. There are many repeat offenders that are bailed out and wind up back on the street. On a positive note the bollards have been repaired by the City. It was noted that \$7,000,000.00 is spent by various sources in submental security, but it can't be seen. This figure does not include the French Market Corporations security budget, which is over \$1,000,000. There used to be 175 officers assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> District. Today there are 113 and this includes the mounted patrol. Mr. Emory sought a proposal to access the security situation and he will email this to the Commissioners and the SEC members. Mr. Musso noted that we must provide empirical numbers to continue and seek new funding. If our funding is removed, Commander Gernon said there will be a downward spiral. Before the supplement security there were 6 armed robberies a week, now there are 65 a year, an 80% decrease. Our District does not have gang violence like other parts of the City, but more of “easy targets”. He suggested that FQMD review the various entities patrol packages to extract relevant statistics. Having these numbers would be very helpful to address and improve security. Another issue are “bond angels” that bail out repeat offenders who commit additional crimes once back on the street. Mr. Emory suggested that we evaluate these funds and their allocations and make recommendations to streamline services. Ms. Raines suggested we may want to have a proposed-to-actual budget for evaluation purposes. This will be discussed more at the November meeting.
- b. Traffic – Deferred due to time constraints.
- c. FQTF – Deferred due to time constraints.

## XII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commander Gernon noted that the 8<sup>th</sup> District is responsible for all of the NOPD 27 horses which now manages its own breeding program, because Angola Prison no longer has a breeding program to sell horses. Two of the horses are now pregnant and there will be a November fund raiser to help fund this vital program. The top crime pressure points are the Bourbon Street construction; the lighting is better with Phase II, but policing is much more difficult. Convention Lane construction also is a problem, especially for large conventions on the up-river side of Canal Street. State Police supervision is better and the officers are more spread out. The McDonalds owner would like to help with current problem there. He wants to install cameras and is working with corporate to have menu items at a higher price point. He is also considering the hiring of NOPD detail officers versus private security guards who can become friendly with the problem patrons. The Bayou Classic had 27 gun arrests last year and traffic is very problematic. Mr. Bourgeois said they are trying a different accountability system and are now assigning the officers with specific base areas to patrol. The reporting format for all other areas of Louisiana does not work for the French Quarter, so now two different forms are required. Also, there are five troopers being trained for the mounted patrol. They will not be added to the existing numbers. When the time is right, he would like FQMD to submit a support letter for the State Police mounted patrol. The 100 block of Royal continues to be a problem and some attention will be directed there. Also, the 300-500 blocks of North Rampart has an increase in crime activity. Commander Gernon feels the crime moved from the bars in the 900 and 1000 blocks of St Louis to the bar in the 500 block of North Rampart around the corner. With regards to vehicles versus foot patrol, Mr. Bourgeois believes vehicles are better for wider coverage. However, many in the meeting felt “boots on the ground” were better. There are five to eight officers on Bourbon during day for 5 hours of foot patrol, with the remaining officers in vehicles. After the five hours foot patrol, NOPD takes over the foot patrol and the State Troopers move to mobile patrol. Last week the State troopers recovered seven stolen weapons, four stolen cars, had four vehicle pursuits, four uses of force, and multiple arrests. Officer Bourgeois is investigating a hybrid vehicle patrol versus large patrol cars. Ms. Rosenberg motioned (M6) to “send a letter of support for the State Police mounted patrol at the appropriate time...” seconded by Mr. Caputto and unanimously approved.
- b. Assessment of French Quarter public safety programs and initiatives.
- c. Culture in the Quarter Mr. Musso requested any questions regarding committees or officer positions to be sent to Ms. Remington or him.

XIII. FUTURE MEETING: November 12, 2018. Elections to be held at the November 12, 2018 meeting.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Caputto motioned (M7) “...that the meeting be adjourned...” seconded by Mr. Watters and approved by acclamation at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary