



Monday, September 17, 2018; 2:00 to 4:00pm
Brennan's Restaurant
417 Royal Street New Orleans

Board Meeting 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, Jim Oliver

Executive Director: Emily Remington

Committee Co-Chairs:

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

Guests:

Shaun Walsh, FQBA	Meg Lousteau, VCPORA
Miles Tepper, City of New Orleans	Albin Guillot, FQMD SEC
Daniel Hammer, HNOC	Susan Guillot, FQC
Jack Greenwood, VCPORA	Brittaney Mulla, FQBA
Beverly Faulk, Lighting Committee	Morris Kahn

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES** - Mr. Musso called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.
- II. 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.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 20, 2018 MINUTES:** Mr. Watters motioned (**M1**) to "...approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2018 Regular Meeting with the corrections as noted..." seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and approved unanimously.
- IV. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**
 - a. French Quarter Museum Association updates – Chairman Musso had another discussion with Daniel Hammer of HNOC regarding our ability for staff time. Mr. Hammer confirmed that all tasks will be handled by their staff totally. FQMD would be providing oversight. The proposal will be made available for vote at the October meeting. Ms. Rosenberg noted that FQMD

insurance coverage includes embezzlement. Additionally, FQMD handles no monies online and this procedure would be continued with two signatures, if we come to an agreement with the FQMA. Any cooperative endeavor agreement (CEA) shall be covered and consistent with our insurance policy and coverage. Mr. Emory suggested we include an administrative fee. Mr. Musso is not as in favor of a fee, because of the nature of the museum business, and this joint venture would generate wonderful public relations for FQMD. Also, the FQMA would generate a higher-end visitor. Ms. Rosenberg noted that this cooperative endeavor would be in keeping with our mission and would promote cost-benefit tourism. Mr. Bilbe stated that he would like FQMD public relations included in the proposal. Ms. Raines shared that a customary administrative fee is 7-10%. Mr. Speights noted that if our staff & liability issues are addressed and the public relations element is satisfactory, this should be worthwhile for FQMD.

- b. Potential expansion of French Quarter Task Force services – Mr. Musso shared that Councilmember Palmer would like the FQMD to expand the French Quarter Task Force (FQTF) into the French Market Corporation (FMC) area past Decatur Street to the Mississippi River in the Vieux Carré. The FMC has a budget of more than \$1,500,000 with large portion allocated to security. The Moonwalk is one specific area requiring more police presence. Expanding the FQTF with only a two and a half year tenure remaining was questioned. Mr. Kahn noted there was no Central Command and therefore, there is a huge amount of wasted communication time in the area bounded by of I-10/Claiborne Avenue, Poland Avenue, Canal Street and the Mississippi River. He requested that FQMD consider forming an over-sight group for Central Command. Currently, not all the various policing entities know the current law and they interface with the public differently. He stated this is not a legislative problem, but more of a volunteer opportunity. Mr. Musso at this point continued with the original request for FQTF expansion consideration. It could be possible for a substantial portion of the FMC security budget to be allocated to the FQTF for the FMC's Vieux Carré area. This funding would pay for additional vehicles, insurance, and detail officers, if they were available. Councilmember Palmer also asked that the FQTF provide a foot patrol on Frenchman. However, the FQMD legislated boundary does not include Frenchman Street and the FQTF does not provide a foot patrol. Part of the FMC funding should include three shifts and a full-time staff person to manage the FQTF. Mr. DeBlieux said taking on these additional opportunities could produce revenue to fund 24/7 FQTF management. Mr. Musso is investigating whether or not this is viable by the numbers. Possibly Frenchman Street could be honored, if it were co-opted with the NOPD. Mr. Furness noted that the FQTF was initiated to primarily insure police patrols to the residential area of the Vieux Carré and any expansion should not dilute the residential coverage. Ms. Rosenberg said the FQTF is not exclusive to residential areas, but was to compensate the residential areas because of the State Police assignment to the Bourbon Street area. Mr. Musso noted that there would be no shrinkage in residential or commercial coverage, but that any expansion would be with additional resources as funded by the FMC. Mr. Emory agreed with the idea of a Central Command. He sees the deterioration of the Vieux Carré from filth and vagrants and believes a Central Command would be better equipped to tackle these challenges. Mr. Pendleton noted that the Moonwalk is within our area and the FQMD should initiate controlled growth before we expand to multiple areas. Mr. DeBlieux stated the NOPD Consent Decree is responsible for the proliferation of vagrants. In addition, the Orleans Parish Prison and the New Orleans Police Department are

separate entities and were at cross purposes under the former Mayor. Once the Justice Department finds NOPD in compliance, there will be a two-year self-monitoring period prior to removal of the Consent Decree. A joint venture with the FMC would possibly require a separate CEA. Mr. DeBlieux felt FQMD should evaluate the possibilities of FQTF expansion versus the risk. And, if the additional funding enhances our mission, through additional staff and infrastructure development, FQMD should give it full consideration. Mr. Pendleton cited there are too many issues within our footprint before we cross Esplanade to Frenchman. Ms. Rosenberg offered pending funding, the possibility of setting up a CEA with Sheriff Gusman's force to patrol vagrants. Mr. Watters noted that the current CEA with the City precludes FQMD using any security force other than NOPD. A second CEA would be required with the Sheriff's Department. This would include the booking van. It was suggested that New Orleans and Company be part of the discussions. Even with sufficient funding, Mr. Simms & Mr. DeBlieux noted to expand there must be enough post-certified Sheriff deputies and NOPD officers available to work the FQTF details. In addition, Mr. Simms noted that due to the Orleans Parish Prison's Consent Decree, the deputy pay scale is higher than NOPD officers. The FMC already hires NOPD detail officers for some security & their issue more supervision than staffing of the detail officer(s). The Security and Enforcement Committee (SEC) shall vet the FQTF request, with any agreements requiring a full vote of the Commission. Mr. Pendleton motioned (M2) to "pursue further research regarding the FQMA request for administrative assistance and pursue research regarding data-driven expansion of the FQTF to include the hiring of a FQTF manager, recognizing this would be additional services and not at the expense of the existing patrol area", seconded by Mr. DeBlieux and unanimously approved. It was noted that the hotel assessment ends in June, 2021. For clarification, Ms. Cavett reminded everyone that NOPD directs the FQTF, not FQMD.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

- a. Discussion of job description document and workflow plans – Ms. Remington met with Ms. Raines to succinctly document the Board activities in a "spirit of the activity" form which is to include items listed below. This report is a tool to monitor organizational progress and outcomes over time. This report will not necessarily follow the Executive Director's job description, since this would only cover one part of the organizational efforts. To that end, Ms. Remington created and presented this document.
 - i. Document items during the board meeting to determine if the Board agrees to turn the item into an approved organizational action item.
 - ii. Determine the order of importance of action items stated in board meetings by the Board.
 - iii. Gain approval from the entire board on the slate of action items.
 - iv. Track and trend FQMD's progress and outcomes of organizational initiatives until outcomes are achieved.
- b. FQTF – A new car was purchased in May and is awaiting the signed CEA from Mayor Cantrell. The second new car was purchased last week and that CEA is in production. The fleet requires a lot of maintenance, since they are driven 24 hours per day.
- c. Committee Restructuring – This is in production to occur in October and November.
- d. Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) Booking Van – Mr. DeBlieux, Mr. Watters and Commander Gernon met with Sheriff Gusman to discuss the benefits of having the OPSO

Booking Van in the Vieux Carré Thursday – Saturday nights. This would save the NOPD 8th District 90 manpower hours. He was receptive to the idea, but wanted to look at his work force needs. Mr. DeBlieux stated Sheriff Gusman also has a concern regarding of legitimate medical triage actual versus fake emergencies. On follow-up, Sheriff Gusman said with completion of the current six - seven week posting class, he will have deputies available on an overtime basis. Currently all the policing agencies are on the 8th District police channel when in the French Quarter. Mr. Musso suggested Sheriff Gusman underwrite at least the first year. Money is paid to the City out of the FMC \$1,500,000. Therefore, the Mayor could be approached to underwrite this out of those funds, since it would expand NOPD resources. Expansion of the new Low Barrier Shelter is needed. After opening August 8, 2018 in the old VA Hospital, it is full at the 100-person capacity. B.B. St. Roman of the Homeless Unit said a shelter of 300-400 is needed for the current homeless population, in addition to those already housed in other New Orleans homeless shelters.

- e. Bourbon St Phase II – The Roadwork email was noted for updates.
- f. Bike corrals, bike lanes, Blue Bikes - Corrals have been installed. A bike lane pilot will turn the center lane of Decatur into a bike lane.
- g. Flushing of streets – Mr. Pendleton and Ms. Cavett met with Ms. Cynthia Sylvain-Lear for over two hours. Ms. Sylvain-Lear said a big problem is Empire employees being attacked by these vagrants. Ms. Cavett followed up with Ms. Sylvain-Lear and was told the following were initiated as a direct result of their meeting.
 - i Sanitation Department has increased its oversight of Empire.
 - ii Empire is now using “walkers” in the Vieux Carré, flex shifts and increased oversight with pressure washers.
 - iii The City will be amending Chapter 138 of the City code to clarify language regarding sanitation, some specific to the French Quarter with collection to be done by 8 am and garbage carts to be off the sidewalk from 9 am to 4 pm.
 - iv A “Clean-Up NOLA campaign was launched today.

Mr. Emory will contact the Sanitation Department to secure a list of commercial trash collection contracts for businesses with occupational licenses. He will be working on a 90 day window for this. Some operators are dumping in neighbor’s carts. This is also a security issue for firearm and explosive dumping. It was noted the Sanitation Department does not have enforcement personnel and sometimes operators will file a plan and then fire the contractor to save money. Ms. Cavett added that both residents and businesses may use NOLA 311. NOLA 311 will notify Empire, and Empire is required to respond within an hour of 311 notification.

- f. Rodent Control - On September 15 rodent baits were distributed by the New Orleans Department of Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control to the Bourbon Street Phase II work area.
- g. French Quarter Festivals contacted FQMD & French Quarter Business Association (FQBA) regarding recycling during the Festival and Ms. Remington will report back following their meeting.
- h. Vagrants & Loiterers – FQBA’s Quality of Life Committee will also be looking at this and Ms. Remington sits on this committee. Mr. Pendleton requested that she bring up this problem up as a priority every chance she gets. Mr. Musso noted that vagrants today are more aggressive and dangerous.

- i. French Quarter Revenue Statistics – Ms. Remington will be meeting with Councilmember Palmer on Wednesday to follow-up on this and report back.
- j. eBlasts – There is a current 30% reply rate. It was felt a monthly newsletter was sufficient, but that it should be more informative and not just a list of French Quarter activities. Suggestions included the baiting we were able to secure, the FQTF statistics, our positive response from the Sanitation Department, et cetera. Ms. Rosenberg requested that Ms. Remington report on the Low Barrier Shelter for next month.

Ms. Raines noted that she worked with Ms. Remington to formulate the action list and would serve as her “hit list” everywhere she goes and to collaborate with other organizations. She suggested a 7-10 item action list which will include sanitation and vagrants.

VI. Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Musso announced the August Financials would be deferred until the October meeting due to the Treasurer’s absence from illness.

VII. Report by Chairs, Infrastructure Committee

- a. Sanitation – reported above.
- b. Bourbon Street – reported above.
- c. Lighting – Most of damaged & missing lights are in commercial areas because of delivery trucks. There are four missing lamp standards (posts) this year, which is down from 10 over last year. However, the posts are not being placed in every location as requested. The interim Director of the Department of Public Works has not responded to our inquiry. Mr. Musso requested that Ms. Faulk repeat her report at the next VCC meeting. The residential areas are much darker due to the lack of full-time residents. In previous years, there was a campaign asking residents to keep their exterior lights on dusk-to-dawn. Mr. Emory asked if this could be revisited. Residential organizations continually remind people to keep their lights on. Ms. Faulk requested that property management companies be contacted to keep the property lights on.

VIII. Report by Chairs, Security and Enforcement Committee did not meet in August.

- a. Crime – In this third quarter to date, there was 1 homicide, 3 armed robberies, 24 simple robberies and 1 shooting. Most incidents are crimes of opportunity. One perpetrator was arrested over 500 times and pries primarily visitors. Solicitors are supposed to be licensed. Employees should be educated to use the FQTF app. Code 2 calls coming into the 8th District are being dispatched to the FQTF, as permitted by the CEA. Bob pointed out the stats and lack of NOPD detail. Regarding vagrants, the Federal Government ruled that sleeping is a basic human right according to the 8th Amendment. If a city is not able to provide a homeless person a place to sleep, they can sleep on the street, gratis of the ACLU. You cannot move them, unless you have a place to move them to. The exception is that the homeless *can* be moved for reasons of sanitation and /or if a condition endangers the public at-large. This is a matter to address with Commander Gernon.
- b. Traffic – Non-legal vehicles should be reported. Fines do not include damage to buildings and property; that damage must be litigated. One repeat offender has a golf cart and offers “free” rides to people for a donation. He had a stolen shot gun in vehicle when stopped. He was arrested, released and re-arrested carrying a golf club this time.

- c. FQTF – There are not enough officers to go around. Due to the lack of NOPD officers, they are allowed to work their regular 40 hours, plus 24 overtime hours, plus 56 detail hours. That is over 17 hours per day. There are only 3 G4S officers that can do the job and one left to become an NOPD officer. We will have four smart cars on the road, once the CEA's are processed. The Polaris is kept as a back-up vehicle.

IX. New Business

- a. The Short Term Rental (STR) report from the City Planning Commission is available tomorrow and there will be a public meeting on STRs Thursday at 6 pm at 2012 St. Bernard Avenue.
- b. Mr. Musso noted he has been educating insurance companies he comes in contact with on STR usage and they are beginning to cancel or not cover claims.
- c. Pursuant to Mr. Emory's request, Mr. Musso will request all permits totaling \$10,000-\$20,000 to be sent to Ms. Remington to start a Vieux Carré work log. Mr. Musso noted that the VCC non-compliance list was an excellent document to review.
- d. Mr. Musso requested any questions regarding committees or officer positions to be sent to Ms. Remington or him.

X. Future Meetings: October 15, 2018. Elections to be held at the November 12, 2018 meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Speights motioned (**M3**) "...that the meeting be adjourned..." seconded by Mr. Emory and approved by acclamation at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary

The French Quarter Management District is a state entity created by the Legislature as a means for the residential and business communities to work together to protect, preserve, and maintain the world famous French Quarter as a safe, clean, vibrant, and friendly neighborhood for residents, businesses, and visitors. www.fqmd.org