



Wednesday, January 9, 2019
3-4pm
Brennan's Restaurant

Livability Committee Meeting Notes

Members present: Beverly Fulk, Albin Guillot, Christian Pendleton, Kim Rosenberg, Adrienne Thomas (tardy)

Members absent: Gail Cavett, Brittany McGovern

Guests present: Jodi Poretto, Susan Guillot

FQMD staff present: Emily Remington

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm. Remington called the roll and stated a quorum was present. Pendleton reviewed the mission statement. Rosenberg asked for the Committee's mission statement to be at the bottom of each agenda.

Rosenberg moved to amend the agenda to approve December notes. Pendleton seconded. All agreed. Pendleton moved to approve the December notes. Guillot seconded. Fulk, Guillot, and Pendleton approved; Rosenberg abstained. The notes were adopted.

Pendleton reviewed the Committee's annual goals for all attendees.

Pendleton recounted a recent meeting with Matt Torri with the Department of Sanitation. Pendleton stated that Cynthia Sylvain-Lear is on extended leave from the City. Pendleton stated that Torri listened to the Committee's concerns about the Big Belly trashcans. Pendleton offered Torri's explanation for why the Big Belly trashcans are unlikely to be removed from the French Quarter. Susan Guillot stated that the Big Belly trashcans get moved in the night and need to be moved back. Members discussed that Empire's responsibilities have not changed and that the Mayor has added a stronger degree of accountability. Pendleton asked for a copy of whatever was agreed upon from the City re: Empire contract, as it was his understanding that there are no changes in cleaning requirements, materials, etc. Pendleton relayed that the Mayor expects far better results, and she wants to hear from the community that things have improved; she doesn't want to hear from Empire or from the Department of Sanitation that things are better. Pendleton stated that no power washing has occurred in front of Brennan's.

Torri understood the Committee's concerns about visual clutter. The Department of Sanitation cannot remove private property, but the Mayor wants to see marked improvement in this are. Committee members discussed sanitation problems and how best to provide feedback to the City about them. Pendleton discussed accountability. By state law, the sole sanitation ranger for the French Quarter also has the CBD and the Westbank, and s/he can only write citations for tire shops. The ranger has no

enforceability action for dumping; only NOPD has citation power. Pendleton asked if the Committee would be interested in using FQTF officers for QOL/sanitation enforcement. Members agreed that a bicycle or scooter patrol would be favorable given the effectiveness of the vehicle enforcement patrol.

Members discussed the sorts of quality of life issues that a potential FQTF officer could enforce, including mule bags being properly affixed, t-shirt shops obeying VC guidelines about not having merchandise hanging from their doors or on mannequins in the street, and bars being within six feet of the street. Thomas discussed the positive effectiveness of previous patrols. Rosenberg moved that the Committee ask the Board to add a quality of life officer to the FQTF on bicycle or scooter. Pendleton seconded. All Committee members were in favor.

Pendleton has sent Ramsey Green a meeting request, at Torri's request. Pendleton state that he and Remington would meet with new Department of Public Works Chief LaGrange the following week. Pendleton said he would provide a one-sheeter of City Departments' contact information at the Board meeting. Fulk said 311 is being consolidated into 911 and will report back as to how best to communicate issues to the City.

Fulk distributed a draft email to Councilmembers Palmer and Moreno regarding potholes and asked for feedback from the Committee. Susan Guillot commented on garbage trucks driving too fast and causing damage. Attendees discussed potential solutions for garbage truck damage.

Under new business, Fulk asked who owns the ATM alcove in the 600 block of Chartres next to the Chart House. Fulk observed that there are always vagrants sleeping in the alcove. Rosenberg suggested a letter be circulated to business and residence owners to be given to the NOPD that they have permission to remove trespassers. Attendees observed that Empire cannot clean private property.

Albin Guillot asked to stop amplified music on the street. Rosenberg stated her uncertainty that this would pass constitutional muster. Members discussed difficulty of the issue and whether amplification was a protected part of free speech. The Guillots agreed to contact CM Palmer about the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04pm.