



Thursday, March 7, 2019
3-4pm

Livability Committee Meeting Notes

Committee members present: Fulk, Guillot, Pendleton
Committee members absent: Cavett, McGovern, Rosenberg, Thomas
FQMD staff present: Emily Remington
Guest present: Hannah Kreiger-Benson

The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm.

As a quorum was not present, the January 2019 meeting notes were deferred to the next meeting.

Pendleton read the mission statement aloud to attendees.

Fulk discussed street lights. Fulk stated that the process for reporting missing or broken street lights

- via telephone: call 311, who forwards the information to 911, who enters the service request with the appropriate City department.
- in writing: email ehayes@911nola.org, which is the Orleans Parish Communications District.

Fulk reported that she and Bob Simms intend to conduct a lighting survey. She said the street lights are staying on pretty well, but a lot of posts have been missing for quite a while. She opined that 7 or 8 are still out in the entire French Quarter. Pendleton agreed to follow up with a list of City contacts.

Fulk discussed the situation with the ATM alcove in the 600 block of Chartres, where one homeless man leaves his blankets during the day. Fulk stated that Officer BB St. Roman said it takes three men to take him down, as he is large and has mental problems. St. Roman determined the owner of the building, Fulk went to speak with the property manager, and he agreed to monitor the alcove more closely. Fulk stated her understanding was the alcove had been cleared, but she was unsure if that was because of property management or due to the fact that the man has been in the hospital.

Pendleton reported that the City is moving forward with pedals for the Big Belly trashcans, although a timeline is not known. Pendleton informed members that he and Remington will meet with the City Department of Sanitation, DDD, and Empire next week.

Pendleton reported that 700 block of Conti was resurfaced and patched. Pendleton stated that when the road is rebuilt, concrete will be poured.

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Pendleton expressed hope that the FQMD Board will approve the additional quality of life officer at their March 11 meeting. Guillot asked for Gernon to be invited to the Board meeting to discuss the need for such.

Pendleton reported that Rosenberg had contacted him about bars being too close to the sidewalk. Pendleton's understanding was that bars were legal if the threshold was broken.

Guillot reported that in the past 18 months, his home has been shaking every morning at 4:30 due to the heavy trucks, perhaps trash trucks, going by. Members discussed that there is only one speed limit sign in the entire French Quarter. Guillot opined that Dauphine is a speedway because it only has one stop sign on it.

Pendleton suggested that Guillot reach out to the companies that provide trash collection services. The next step will be to reach out to the NOPD to put an officer out to write speeding tickets. Pendleton said he would reach out to Matt Torri to obtain the list of trash collection providers, and he and Remington would reach out to the companies.

Guillot reported that his wife has started researching the sound ordinances, not as it would pertain to amplified music at bars but amplified music on sidewalks and streets. Fulk reported a mobile disc jockey playing amplified music outside of her residence.

Guillot read from section 66-203 of the City code and suggested anyone with amplifiers and speakers would need a permit to use it. Kreiger-Benson opined that the opposition would be that amplifiers are considered musical instruments. Attendees discussed the difficulty of conducting business if the outside sound gets too loud. Kreiger-Benson discussed the importance of social contracts and admitted that certain street performers were bad actors, but she expressed concern about criminalizing certain acts based on these bad actors. Kreiger-Benson reported that the City of New Orleans Health Department has offered education training to MACCNO members. Kreiger-Benson expressed legal concern about expanding criminalization of sound producing entities. Pendleton said "criminalization" was too strong and said that compromise was what he was hoping to achieve, where performers did not jeopardize the businesses and residents around them. Kreiger-Benson said that's what decibel limits are for and suggested that the Committee not try to make more things illegal. Pendleton suggested training FQTF officers to have decibel readers. Discussion continued around the role of the police vs. the role of the Health Department.

Guillot suggested that Remington reach out to FQBA to request that they poll their membership on whether amplified music with speakers is a problem for their members to conduct their business.

Pendleton asked Kreiger-Benson about what MACCNO is doing with the bucket kids. Kreiger-Benson said that the organization had looked into programming but concluded that resources are lacking. The program would have aimed at nurturing the children as musicians rather than as nuisances but ran into difficulty around how to appeal to kids who are making money on the street. Kreiger-Benson said it is not a program that MACCNO has the capacity to undertake. Fulk described what she believes as borderline abuse of the children. Pendleton asked what kids make. Kreiger-Benson did not know.

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More discussion continued about MACCNO's proposed program; Kreiger-Benson stated that about 30% into the planning process, the organization realized it was futile. Members discussed the design of MACCNO's educational program. Pendleton suggested a pilot.

Pendleton asked for the residential organizations to poll their memberships, too, about the effects of amplified music.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.

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