



Monday, May 13, 2019; 2:00 to 4:00pm
Canal Place, 20th Floor
Phelps Dunbar
365 Canal Street, New Orleans

Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Jeremy DeBlieux
Heidi Raines
David Speights
Albin Guillot

Susan Klein
Steve Caputo (dep. 4:10)
Christian Pendleton
Kim Rosenberg (arv. 2:10)

David Bilbe
Nicholas Musso
Matthew Emory

Absent: Jim Oliver, Robert Watters

Executive Director: Emily Remington

Guests:

NOPD Commander Nick Gernon
Aldine Valentino, NOPD
Beverly Faulk, FQMD, SEC & Lighting
Bob Simms, SEC

Erin Holmes, VCPORA
Susan Guillot, FQC
Brian Furness, Gov. Affairs Committee

- 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. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** It was announced all guests must sign in, and anyone wishing to comment on actionable items must indicate the item(s) on which s/he wishes to comment.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MARCH 2019 MINUTES** – Following some involved clarifications from Ms. Rosenberg, the March minutes were deferred for correction. Ms. Klein will resubmit a draft of the March minutes for Board review and approval.
- IV. **CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS**
 - a. **Licensing agreement with SDT Productions LLC** – Negotiations are ongoing between Mr. Musso and Mr. Torres on the two-year security app agreement. A delay was due to app updates that are in production. The working number is \$36,000 versus the current \$24,000. Mr. Musso said he would ask for a discount for the advertising aspect of the app and the car logo’s. He also noted that other applications are being investigated. Also, the calls reported by the app are 20%. Finally, he requested that Mr. Torres list in writing his contractual considerations and then FQMD would review. Therefore, this discussion is premature and will be continued when there is something to review.

Ms. Rosenberg pointed out that the Louisiana Constitution prohibits gratuitous donations of any State assets. Ms. Klein pointed out that the vehicles are owned by the City, so they are not assets of the State. Also, it was doubted the general public knew SDT was a Torres moniker. Mr. Musso said that he was promised a proposal two weeks ago to review. Mr. Simms said Mr. Musso would have a document by Thursday or Friday of this week at the latest to review which shall be the beginning of the negotiations.

Ms. Cavet noted that the current “brand”, logos and program are known & successful and FQMD should be careful about any considerations to change that. Mr. Musso said these concerns are not part of the current negotiations.

Mr. Simms stated that he had no requirements to develop a proposal. However, Mr. Musso noted that he reviewed the requirements five weeks ago with Mr. Torres. The new proposal is to be based on the existing proposal with a two-year extension.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

a. Reminders of state requirements for Commissioners:

i. [Financial Disclosure Form](#) (Form 417) - for BOARD ONLY is due in two days and the State of Louisiana fines organizations for non-compliance.

ii. [Annual Ethics Course](#) - for ALL COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS is due is due by the end of the calendar year.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS: Mr. Caputo moved (M1) “to adjourn to Executive Session”, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved at 2:25 p.m.

VII. RATIFY MOTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION - The Regular Meeting reconvened by acclamation of the Board at 3:45 p.m. There was no Board discussion required, nor actions to be ratified.

VIII. REPORT BY CHAIR, FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

a. Proposed Program: Quality of Experience Enforcement – There is already a QOL officer for six hours per day for large vehicle enforcement. Therefore, the committee reallocated that budget item to expand the initiative to include four hours for (Quality of Experience) QOE coverage for a total of ten hours per day of coverage at an annual cost of \$63,000.00. This ten-hour shift would include enforcement of over-sized vehicle violations, in addition to QOE enforcement pursuant to the QOL Policy and Procedures Manual. Ms. Raines and Mr. Pendleton met with Commander Gernon to update the patrol command & to discuss the best utilization of police assets to successfully implement this program. The Commander noted the six-hour oversized vehicle patrol is underutilized, so including other enforcement was appropriate. A discussion ensued regarding the submitted report (included as a separate document), which was reviewed & approved by Commissioners Pendleton and Guillot for Board action. Mr. DeBlieux noted the City is proposing \$150,000.00 just to address sanitation and for FQMD lobby the City to spend \$63,000.00 on two QOE officers by transferring the money to FQMD, or to have that amount designated solely for the French Quarter QOE. Ms. Raines noted that the Finance Committee is

producing these documents to justify programs to funding sources and to monitor. This is a vital tool for future expansion of FQMD programs. Additionally, this provides better oversight. Mr. DeBlieux also noted that the City can provide two officers at \$150,000.00, which FQMD cannot accomplish at that price. Mr. Musso stated the most destructive factor to the fragile Vieux Carre' architecture is the oversized, overweight vehicles; termites also. Even undersized vehicles are very destructive when they damage canopies and other building detail by traveling and parking past the curb. Mr. Pendleton motioned (M3) to "fund the Quality of Experience Officer position(s) utilizing the \$150,000.00 the City is offering from the French Quarter Improvement Fund. Further, the Executive Director on behalf of the Chairman and the Board shall submit the Finance Committee's document, Proposed 2019 Allocations from French Quarter Improvement Fund and Request for Inclusion of the FQMD "Quality of Experience (QOE) Enforcement Program" with minor revisions as required to the City Council within the next two weeks for their consideration", seconded by Mr. Emory and unanimously approved.

- b. Proposed Program: French Quarter Management Association (FQMA) – Ms. Raines reported the Finance Committee recommends a three percent (3%) administrative fee, plus any external expenses to cover all costs accrued by FQMD. Mr. Hammer of FQMA reviewed this document as presented by the Committee. A hard copy Finance Committee Report was distributed. It was noted, this agreement with FQMA is in line with the FQMD Mission Statement. Ms. Raines stated it may also provide a means of grant revenue. Ms. Rosenberg motioned (M4) "to approve the FQMA Program Finance Committee Review Statement", seconded by Mr. Pendleton and approved by a majority of the Commissioners present with Commissioners Caputo and DeBlieux voting nay. Mr. Musso requested that Mr. Hammer be given the final document for his review and acceptance.

VIII. REPORT BY CHAIR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- a. Update on sunset extension – Mr. DeBlieux deferred to Ms. Rosenberg who reported that Ms. Remington made a presentation at the State of Louisiana House Committee on Municipal and Parochial Affairs along with Representative Royce Duplessis. Our request was approved favorably and the legislators viewed the FQMD very positively. Ms. Rosenberg explained the legislative sequence now is as follows: House floor vote, Senate, Senate committee, legislative committee, Senate floor vote. No pushback is anticipated.

IX. REPORT BY CHAIR, LIVABILITY COMMITTEE - Mr. Pendleton noted three items of concern or clarification regarding the French Quarter Improvement Fund:

- a. The \$12,000.00 allocation to Park and Parkways for Jackson Square turf refurbishing following French Quarter Festival (FQF). This is an expense of the Festival and seems like a double allocation. Additionally, Ms. Rosenberg noted post-event Park & Parkways refurbishing is outside of the scope of what the fund may be used for.
- b. Mr. Guillot requested that Dauphine street-cleaning be increased from bi-monthly to weekly. Mr. Pendleton noted funding availability would be required.
- c. Mr. Pendleton requested clarification on the specific hours of operation for the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Intoxication Van eight-hour shifts.

Mr. DeBlieux motioned (M5) to "authorize the Executive Director on behalf of the Chairman and

the Board to prepare for submission in writing to Councilmember Palmer the following feedback on the Chief Administrative Officers memorandum on the French Quarter Improvement Fund: to delete the Park and Parkways \$12,000.00 allocation for turf refurbishing as this is a FQF post-event cost, to add Dauphine Street to the scope of work for weekly cleaning, to clarify the specific hours of operation of the ENT and NOPD Intoxication Van staffing, and to incorporate the Finance Committees recommendation regarding the \$150,000.00 funding for two QOE officers”, seconded by Mr. Speights and unanimously approved.

Ms. Rosenberg clarified the funding document lists the following uses eligible for funding: public safety and law enforcement, quality of life enforcement, code enforcement, violation identification, ticketing, and court measures relative to compliance, sanitation, infrastructure repair or improvements. Therefore, Park and Parkways funding was not contemplated, nor covered by this fund. Infrastructure repair refers to sidewalks, lights, streets, et cetera.

Mr. Emory noted the corner street name tiles are missing in many locations and should be replaced.

Ms. Klein requested that businesses that do not remove their garbage carts from the sidewalk be reported to the Livability Committee for enforcement until the QOE officer is in place. She also requested that the elimination of carts be revisited and return to bag usage. Even though vendors may charge \$10 a bag for removal, keeping carts on the sidewalk by an Alcohol Beverage Outlet (ABO) could result in the loss of their license.

Ms. Remington will send the FQMD reply to Chairman Musso for final approval prior to submission. Chairman Musso will notify Mr. DeBlieux, Mr. Pendleton and Mr. Emory whenever a meeting has been scheduled with either the Mayor, her staff or Councilmember Palmer or her staff. He noted anyone interested in a particular FQMD item should contact him. However, any meetings outside of the Board meeting cannot have a quorum of Commissioners present.

X. REPORT BY CHAIR, SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. Security Assessment Update – There has been active intake from stakeholders with Interfore beginning May 19, 2019. There will be stakeholder meetings May 20, 21 and 22 in two hour blocks. There will be 12 resident stakeholders on the residential focus group. Focus Groups include, residents, bars, restaurants, et cetera to have a fair representation. Focus group sessions are by invitation only. The contract with Interfore is a public record, the work product is not. There was a lengthy discussion of how stakeholders were selected and there were concerns that a skewed conclusion would result depending on who were designated stakeholders. Mr. Musso is the only Commissioner involved. The format was to eliminate any perceived bias.
- b. Mr. DeBlieux questioned why FQMD STF officers were added without Board authorization for sweeps. Mr. DeBlieux told Mr. Simms that he is not to schedule any additional staff without authorization because FQMD cannot participate in any NOPD sweeps without a Board vote.

XII. NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Speights asked Chairman Musso how FQMD could offset the \$75,000.00 funding loss from the New Orleans & Company merger. Mr. Musso noted FQMD may have a solution to this from the City. Mr. DeBlieux volunteered to speak to the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA) to see if the LRA would step in.

XIII. NEXT MEETING: July 8, 2019

XIV. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Rosenberg motioned (**M7**) that “the meeting be adjourned...” seconded by Mr. Emory, and unanimously approved by acclamation at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Klein (signed original available)
Susan Klein, Secretary