



Monday, July 15, 2019; 3:00 to 5:00pm
Canal Place, 20th Floor
Phelps Dunbar
365 Canal Street, New Orleans
Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Christian Pendleton
David Bilbe
Heidi Raines

Susan Klein
Jeremy DeBlieux
David Speights
Daniel Taylor

Kim Rosenberg
Albin Guillot
Robert Watters

Commissioners Absent: Steve Caputo, Matthew Emory

Guests:

Beverly Faulks, FQMD SEC
Erin Holmes, VCPORA
Bob Simms, FQMD FQTF
James McGuane, LSP – HQ
Ann Kesler, FQ Business League

Brittany McGovern, FQBA
Octavio Baldassaro, 8th Comm. NOPD
Dean Behrens, LSP – N
Susan Guillot, FQC
Chris Young, FQ Business League

- I 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.

- II AMENDED ORDER OF AGENDA – Mr. DeBlieux motioned (**M1**) to “amend the agenda to accommodate the NOPD and State Police for updates...” seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved.

- (IX.) SECURITY and ENFORCEMENT – Vice-Chair Guillot introduced New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) 8th District Commander Octavio Baldassaro. Louisiana State Police (LSP) Region I Command Inspector, Major Jim McGuane and Troop N Commander, Captain Dean Behrens. Commander Baldassaro noted how the NOPD works in coordination with the State Troopers every 1-2 hours to make sure the areas most in need are covered. The State Police had been patrolling the entire 8th District and a boundary perimeter. Since March, that sifted and patrols are now primarily inside the boundary lines. Every week since the patrol strategy changed, starting March 11, 85-90% of enforcement activity (arrest, summons or traffic tickets) are within the French Quarter and the Downtown Development District (DDD). Major McGuane does have a concern that crime is moving closer to the French Quarter without the routine perimeter patrols, since no other entity now has committed patrols outside the boundary. Mr. DeBlieux thanked the State Police and Commander Baldassaro for attending today and their efforts to keep the French Quarter safe. He commented that the LSP started routine New Orleans

patrols due to a Bourbon Street shooting. He also noted the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the City, NOPD and LSP, specifically states that the daily patrol plan shall be made by the LSP in conjunction with NOPD, based on what the 8th District identifies as the greatest need for each patrol day/evening and questioned if this was the being done. Major McGuane replied this is done daily with the NOPD. Mr. DeBlieux feels more “boots on the ground” are needed on Bourbon Street. Commander Baldassaro stated that NOPD relieves the LSP patrol when their shift is over at 9 p.m. Mr. Watters believes that most of the problems occur between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. The horse patrol is generally 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. NOPD had sixty gun arrests this year. However, violent crime is flat and all crime is down, except for a 28% rise in rape. Property crime is up with 179 reported incidents. Aggressive panhandlers are a growing problem with over 200 arrests since January; last year there were about 140. These people are released and return to the street, because this is classified as a non-violent crime. Mr. Watter requested that municipal judges be present at our meetings to understand the social cost this has on the community. The Commission was informed when these individuals are brought in they claim to have a cardiac condition or to be pregnant which delays processing and consumes many officer hours. Mr. Watters also requested that a “booking van” be on site. Mr. DeBlieux stated Sheriff Gusman and not gotten back on that request. Mr. DeBlieux noted that pursuant to the CEA, if Commander Baldassaro communicates that he would like the LSP patrols to be between 10 pm & 5 am, the LSP are legally bound to patrol at that time. He also stated that Bourbon Street is the at the core of French Quarter crimes and believes that if crime would be curtailed there, there would not be crimes in other parts of the District, because the draw is Bourbon Street.

Mr. Watters questioned the rational of using part-time, over-time officers versus local and full-time. Major McGuane replied that the LSP can provide more coverage for less cost by rotating staff versus full-time due to full-time associated costs.

Insurance, brake tag, etc. stops lead to arrest of more serious crimes. Ms. Raines asked how the STF works in conjunction with NOPD & LSP. Lt. Rose monitors STF and is Commander of the Bourbon Street Promenade. Mr. Watters asked for visible bodies from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Mr. Bilbe noted that the LSP were intended to be supplemental and not to in lieu of the regular NOPD patrols.

Mr. Guillot noted the French Quarter is more than Bourbon Street and when French Quarter Citizens lobbied residents to vote for LSP coverage, the residents were told that the LSP would patrol the entire French Quarter and not just Bourbon Street. Residents promoting this secured passage by 76% of the vote. He stated he realizes Bourbon Street should be protected, but also the residents should not see a reduction in patrols. He also noted that police enforcement stops off Bourbon Street yield arrests of illegal guns, drugs and MIA parolees; this reduces this population on Bourbon Street. Major McGuane and Commander Baldassaro agreed that these stops yield very good results in a more controlled environment.

Ms. Raines asked how the LSP, NOPD and French Quarter Task Force (FQTF) works together to accomplish the safety goals. The police asked Mr. Simms to comment on co-ordination. He noted the LSP monitors the FQTF app. Lt. Rose who monitors the FQTF is also the Commander of the Bourbon Street Promenade, and so hes is very knowledgeable. Mr. Pendleton asked NOPD and LSP if they felt the FQTF was effective and what could FQMD do to make the NOPD more effective. Commander Baldassaro replied that more officers on duty at any one given time is always helpful. He also stated that the FQTF is a tremendous help and an important deployment tool in the NOPD arsenal. Mr. Pendleton asked if there were certain shifts or times needed. The Commander said that extra officers could be used 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Thursday to Sunday and 10 p.m.- 4 a.m. the Bourbon Street Promenade.

Mr. Watters noted that the City budget shows financing for 124.7 officers in the 8th District, but there is

only 102 assigned, including all the leadership. The City budget also shows a 36% increase in funding for the 8th District with no extra officers. Mr. Pendleton thanked the law officers for their service and told them they were always welcomed to these meetings. With advance notice, they said they would attend.

- III. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL MATTERS – Ms. Rosenberg moved **(M2)** “to adjourn to Executive Session”, seconded by Mr. Watters and unanimously approved at 3:38 p.m.
- a. Post –Executive Session Considerations - The Regular Meeting reconvened by acclamation of the Board at 4:15 p.m. There was no discussion required nor actions to be ratified.
- IV. APPROVAL of MARCH and MAY 2019 MINUTES
- a. May - Ms. Rosenberg submitted the following corrections: 1) Change the item heading from “Ratify ... Executive Session“ to “Post-Executive Session Considerations“ and 2) In Section VII, Governmental Affairs, change “approved favorably“ to “reported favorably”. Following these draft minutes correction requests, Ms. Klein moved **(M3)** to “approve the May minutes, with the inclusion of Ms. Rosenberg’s corrections...” seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved.
 - b. March – Ms. Rosenberg moved **(M4)** to “approve the May minutes...” seconded by Mr. DeBlieux and unanimously approved.
- V. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS
- a. Welcome new Commissioner Daniel Taylor representing the View Carre’ Commission (VCC). Mayor Cantrell is restructuring the VCC. Mr. Musso is no longer the VCC Chairman, therefore Mr. Taylor is the new VCC representative to FQMD. Mr. Pendleton is now FQMD Chairman. He has meet with Mr. Musso to affect a smooth transition.
 - b. Licensing agreement with SDT Productions, LLC. – Mr. Pendleton shall meet with Mr. Torres to confirm his discussion with Mr. Musso regarding this matter. Mr. Simms noted the new proposed licensing agreement is ready. Mr. Torres would like the FQMD to review the proposal to determine what scope is desired, since that will vary the cost. FQMD should determine which of the three modules is desired. Mr. Pendleton requested the proposal be sent to him. The Finance Committee and the Security and Enforcement Committees shall review this and present their recommendations to the Board. Mr. Simms stated that he had no financial interests in SDT and that all his work with the Security Task Force (STF) has been strictly voluntary. Mr. Simms said he in on the SEC, but has no problem stepping out of the room as necessary during that meeting. Ms. Rosenberg reminded everyone that there can be no discussion of this outside of properly noticed public meetings.
 - c. Board nominations for 2019 Executive Officers – Deferred until the next meeting when nominations and election to fill the 2019 vacant Vice-Chairman and the Treasurer positions. Will be held. Mr. DeBlieux graciously agreed to temporarily fill the Treasurer position.
 - d. Board Meeting Schedule for 2019 fiscal year – Deferred until next meeting. There will be monthly Board Meetings starting in September and possibly August.
- VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
- a. Update on Executive Director Search – There were seventy applications, but only twenty with the required cover letter and of those, two were from applicants Ms. Remington recognized.

She asked the Board to continue circulating the job opening.

- b. Update on FQMA (French Quarter Museum Association) – The CEA was signed in May by past-Chairman Musso and the first check has been received. in accordance to the bylaws and previous meeting determinations. The Board approved the Finance Committee Report and opted to go forward. There was one change based on the negotiations; that being a cap of \$1,000.00 for reimbursement of our expenses. There are provisions to terminate within the CEA, if FQMD finds it is onerous on us, or this maximum expense is insufficient. A discussion ensued to have an amendment to the CEA that would be more detailed regarding expense reimbursement. It was also noted that our insurance agent should be contacted to see if this new task will alter our coverage and/or cost. Ms. Klein motioned (**M5**) that "the signed CEA between FQMD and FQMA be distributed to all Commissioners for amendment or ratification at the next Board Meeting...", seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved.

Ms. Rosenberg explained she received a document following Mr. Musso's negotiation on the resulting in the \$1,000.00 cap. She noted that this CEA calls for a dual signature checking account with disbursement based on submitted invoices. Ms. Raines stated agreements made in Committee and by the Board should not be altered when contracts are involved. Ms. Rosenberg further explained as Chairman, Mr. Musso had the duty and the power to negotiate the final contract and that is what he did. Prior to the next Board Meeting, Ms. Remington shall distribute to the Commissioners the Finance Committee's recommendations for this CEA for comparison to the signed document. The initial check request shall be honored in accordance with the signed CEA.

- c. Louisiana Ethics Administration - Mr. Taylor is required to complete Financial Disclosure Form 417 and the Annual Ethics Course for 2019.

VII. COMMISSIONERS TASKED with PERSONNEL SELECTION – Chairman Pendleton requested that the top three candidates be selected for recommendation to the Board for the positions of Executive Director and Program Administrator. Commissioners DeBlieux, Raines, Guillot and Watters shall vet the applications and candidates for these positions.

VIII. FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, REPORT by CHAIR RAINES

- a. Proposed vendor: Finance Manager – Four of the five vendors reviewed by the Committee did not meet the criteria. Following talks with the candidate, Ms. Raines believes this task will take 10-12 hours per month, in addition to 10-12 hours for start-up and 10-12 hours for year-end closure. This would realize a 2019 expenditure of \$7,000.00 and \$12,000.00 for 2020, to be funded out of the General Operating Fund. It was further noted that this cost would be expensed by program in QuickBooks. Ms. Raines motioned (**M 6**) "to contract with John Wyatt Foard LLC to be the Finance Manager at the rate of \$80.00 per hour on a month-to-month basis, via a hire-at-will State contract form...", seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved. Ms. Rosenberg requested that Ms. Remington contact the State Auditor to determine what form is required and /or what is the minimum annual cost that requires such a form. It was noted that both the Finance Manager and the Program Administrator should report to the Executive Director, but also be accountable to the Board as a check and balance.
- b. Proposed job description: Program Administrator – Ms. Raines noted that there is currently

\$203,000.00 in the supplemental police program and will be the funding source for this position at an annual salary of \$72,000.00 to \$85,000.00 plus benefits and taxes. Ms. Remington distributed the proposed job description and Ms. Raines said the Committee would welcome Board feedback from the compilation of previous recommendations with input from Mr. Simms. It is undetermined until candidates apply whether this will be an employee or consultant company position. Initially this cost would be in addition to G4S until that service can be staged out. Mr. Simms states that he currently puts in 60 hours per week as a volunteer. Mr. Watters motioned (M7) to “post the Program Administrator position for the Supplemental Police Patrol Program...”, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. Mr. Simms shall be able to review the job description.

IX. GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, REPORT by CHAIR DeBLIEUX

- a. Update on sunset extension – The FQMD sunset has been extended by the Louisiana State Legislature and signed into law until 2028. Mr. DeBlieux commended Mr. Furness, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Remington and Representative Royce Duplessis for this successful effort.

X. LIVABILITY COMMITTEE, REPORT by CHAIR PENDLETON

- a. Update on Committee Goals - As requested by FQMD, the French Quarter Improvement Fund will not fund re-turfing Jackson Square post-French Quarter Festival, since this does not meet the funding requirements.
- b. Update on plan to address sidewalk repairs – Ms. Faulk reported she met with the Sewerage and Water Board (SWB) to research the process and was told that contractors hired by the City are not finishing repairs they were hired to do, leaving the gravel in-fills. Also, they do not always have vendors who will bid on these jobs. These unfinished sidewalks are a public safety hazard and people have been injured. She proposes initiating a survey to include photos of all the problem areas and present this to the City as the public safety hazard that it is. Ms. Cavet and Mr. Simms know whom to contact at SWB and the Department of Public Works (DPW). Mr. Pendleton contacted the DPW Director and he is willing to attend the next Livability Committee meeting.

Mr. DeBlieux noted there is an ordinance that every property owner is responsible to maintain (cleaning and repair) of the sidewalks in front of their property. He stated there used to be a \$200,00.00 City fund that was used to repair sidewalks unattended by the property owner. Then, the City would recoup their cost by sending an invoice to the Department of Revenue to add to that owner’s property tax. He thinks FQMD should lobby the City to enforce that ordinance. It also states the repairs must be made “in kind”, and if it’s more than 50% of the property frontage, the entire frontage must be repaired with serpentine brick or slate.

Ms. Klein requested, and Mr. Pendleton agreed that the subject of North Rampart flooding shall be addressed with DPW at the next Committee Meeting. North Rampart and adjacent side streets have flooded at all the past rain events, but they were dry for Katrina. She noted sidewalk-grade businesses are flooding with each heavy rain and the drainage system should be checked at the storm drain location and beyond. The Committee will report back for Board action following the next Livability Committee meeting.

- XI. SECURITY and ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE, REPORT by VICE-CHAIR GUILLOT
- a. Update on French Quarter Security Assessment Study – The Study is being compiled but has not been delivered yet.
 - b. Quality of Life (QOL) Officer – The Committee shall review the job description and what tasks should be performed by the officer. The Board previously approved \$62,531.44 for this position. The City was asked for an additional \$160,000.00 and FQMD is awaiting a reply. Ms. Rosenberg asked, and it was confirmed that there are sufficient funds in the Supplemental Police budget to fund this, in addition to the Program Administrator.
- XII. NEW BUSINESS – Mr. DeBlieux asked for clarification of the vacant officer positions, being Vice-Chairman and Treasurer. The next Board Meeting Agenda will include nominations and election of officer positions through the end of 2019. In October, a slate of officers will be presented for 2020 with the election occurring in November. Chairman Pendleton noted there should be a residential/business balance of officers and the 2020 Vice-Chairman should be a resident, with the Treasurer representing business.
- XIII. NEXT MEETING: September 9, 2019, unless Chairman Pendleton calls a meeting for August and proper notice shall be made.
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT – Ms. Klein motioned (**M8**) that “the meeting be adjourned...”, seconded by Ms. Raines and unanimously approved by acclimation at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary