



Monday, September 9, 2019; 3:00 to 5:00pm

Phelps Dunbar

One Canal Place, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor

365 Canal Street, New Orleans 70130

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Commissioners Present:

Christian Pendleton  
Daniel Taylor  
Heidi Raines  
Frank Zumbo

Susan Klein  
Jeremy DeBlieux  
David Speights  
David Bilbe

Kim Rosenberg  
Gail Cavett  
Robert Watters  
Matthew Emory

### Commissioners Absent: Steve Caputo

### Guests:

Beverly Faulks, FQMD SEC

Corinna Yazbek VERA

Brittany McGovern, FQBA

Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, CNO, Sanitation

Keith LaGrange, CNO, DPW

Joshua Cox, CNO, Mayors Office

Bob Simms, FQMD FQTF

Sargent Lester, NOPD

Sarah Porteous, CNO, Special Projects

Matt Torri, CNO Sanitation

Josh Hartley, CNO, DPW

Ramsey Green, CNO, Infrastructure

Joshua Harley, CNO, DPW

- I CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES.
- 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.

AMENDED ORDER OF AGENDA - Mr. DeBlieux motioned (M1) to “ change the order of the Agenda to accommodate the special guests from the City, NOPD and Vera...” seconded by Mr. Watters and unanimously approved.

- III UPDATE on the LEAD Program (guest presentation by Corinna Yazbek and NOPD Sargent Lester and) Vera is working with NOPD & the City of New Orleans Health Department. Perpetrators are cycling through the Criminal Justice system and LEAD is trying to determine why. Their pilot program is an alternative to arrest, with a recidivism rate down 53%. The soft launch was in 2017 with sixty 8<sup>th</sup> District NOPD being trained. One subject was in jail every three days for the past three years. The program started with seventeen subjects and to-date there are forty-seven homeless people in the program, with LEAD currently working with thirty-nine, eleven being housed, and housing being sought for another eighteen. To-date eighty NOPD officers have been trained for this program with

seven being certified trainers. \$1,000,000.00 in private funding has been raised so far. The program works closely with social services and the courts. Mr. Emory asked how this program can be perpetuated and how it can be shared with the public. Sargent Lester shared that LEAD training will be part of the NOPD core curriculum next year. Also, weekly reporting updates the involved officers. Ms. Klein noted that the New Orleans Mission accepts individuals remanded from the court system to Mission programming and housing, in lieu of jail. Ms. Yazbek said she was pleased to learn this, and those individuals are in addition to their statistics. She stated that sharing LEAD's success with decreased recidivism with elected officials would be of great help to furthering the cause. She also noted that the annual social services component costs \$300,000.00, and they will be approaching the City for funding. Currently, the City does donate offices in the old VA building. Analyzation of their statistics is in production to formulate a deeper funding request to the City, foundations and the Federal Government. Mr. DeBlieux asked about psychiatry beds available. Sargent Lester said he does not know the exact figure, but NOPD works with all the area hospitals. Ms. Yazbek also clarified that the individual need also will vary the type of clinical facility needed. Mr. Pendleton noted that FQMD can assist with messaging this positive information. Sargent Lester offered to share arrest statistics that differentiate between LEAD individuals versus other arrests from January 1, 2019 to-date, indicating those who are committing petty crimes for cash versus other crimes. Statistics being gathered are pre-and-post LEAD program exposure. The public can further assist by using the LEAD website to make social concern referrals online and the individual in question does not have to be homeless. In the coming years, LEAD can expand into other NOPSD Districts. Chairman Pendleton thanked Ms. Yazbek for her presentation, for the work of LEAD, and asked that she keep FQMD informed as the program moves forward.

## X NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Joshua Cox (Mayors Office) - Stated that he and the various City departments were here today to be more engaged with FQMD, following meetings with Ms. Raines and Mr. Emory sharing the importance of a partnership. The power-point presentation shall be distributed to the Commissioners.
- b. Mr. Ramsey Green (CNO, Infrastructure) – He shared the City has three different systems that currently that is being merged into one, so there is a bit of slow-down in letting contracts. He noted Parks and Parkways has allocated \$68,438.32 for Jackson Square improvements by mid-2020 following FQ Fest.
- c. Mr. Keith LaGrange (CNO, DPW) – He noted \$600,00.00 shall be spent on Conti Street (between Bourbon and Chartres) improvements and \$670,000 on streetlight installation in fifty-six locations beginning this December or January. In production to make sure sites are secure before placement and the currently 16 missing poles shall be replaced. Mr. Watters said regarding Bourbon Street, some of the new bricks and curb pads are showing defects and people are stealing the street name tiles. Mr. LaGrange said there is a new city-wide approach to keep up with maintenance funded by “FairShare”. This includes twelve flush trucks. et cetera. Mr. DeBlieux asked why City funding is paying for re-turfing of Jackson Square when that should be paid by FQ Fest. He also asked if the surfacing technique for Bourbon was different than the unsatisfactory technique used earlier on Iberville and Julia. He stated Bourbon Street was done with a different and superior technique.

Mr. Pendleton thanked the City representatives for their presentation and encouraged them to attend any of our meetings. He also discussed the issue of unfinished sidewalk repairs, it's unsightliness and safety

issues. Mr. LaGrange stated co-ordination between DPW and SWB is now completely different than in the past. A new crew was created with FairShare to deal with sidewalks and 2020 will be the build-up year Sidewalks and curb-cuts will be done as training is completed and the FairShare money comes in. When this team is ready, the City will not contract out these jobs which costs two-three times what it will cost in-house. Mr. DeBlieux noted City ordinances that call for every property owner to maintain their own sidewalk. There is to be a City fund to make that repair, if the property owner doesn't, and the cost is added to the property tax bill. He further stated that perhaps the City should reestablish the fund (\$200,00.00) and enforce the legislation. Mr. LaGrange agreed, and he said with or without the fund, enforcement and adjudication is something the City is moving forward on. Mr. Rosenberg noted that North Rampart now floods with each rain event since the streetcar line was put in. The corridor on the French Quarter side now seems to be bermmed and water does not drain as in the past to Basin Street. Mr. LaGrange said that was the first he heard of it and will investigate this. He said they are looking into the areas that are holding the water the longest. He stated he will circle back with FQMD to share what he discovers. Ms. Cavett noted there are some unresolved FQMD Infrastructure Committee issues she will not take up time in this meeting for, but will follow up with Mr. LaGrange and others at another time. Ms. Klein noted that the engineers on the North Rampart Streetcar project were specifically asked if the storm water vaults were going to be enlarged and/or if additional catch basins would be installed, since part of the permeable surface area was being removed. She was told that wasn't in the specs. In addition, the elevation was changed causing the French Quarter side of the corridor to trap water. Ms. Cavett stated that perhaps the entire French Quarter drainage should be researched and would be happy to follow-up with them on this. They shared that Mother's Day and July 5 were 100-year storm rain events. The City is uncovering management and operational issues that should have been resolved 15-20 years ago. The St. Louis Canal that the car came from, still has 20,000 tons of debris to be removed. They removed 60,000 tons the day before Hurricane Barry. They are doing a better job with the money they have, and the Mayor believes in putting all the information out to the public. Everyone agreed it is good to share this information. Ms. Cavett also noted that the damaged FQ infrastructure is damaging the fragile buildings themselves; in some cases, there are caverns under buildings where the soil has been washed away. Ms. Rosenberg's neighbor has significant damage to her home because of a City leak. It was shared that the Mayor knows how important the FQ and historic preservation is. Ms. Cavett said she and FQMD look forward to partnering with the City to resolve FQ issues.

d. Ms. Cynthia Sylvain-Lear (Sanitation) – She noted that 84 new public litter cans have been installed. She shared there are constant challenges with vandalism and theft of iron litter can. The BigBelly cans are absolutely necessary and have improved sanitation. Empire is helping with graffiti removal on the units. Sidewalk cleaning will increase from monthly to weekly on Bourbon, Royal, Chartres, Decatur and N. Peters. Enforcement is being ramped up. When necessary, the Sanitation Department is utilizing the ABO Board to enforce the law; some businesses do not comply and will be brought back to the ABO Board. She asked if sandbags are used, for them to be picked up after use. Also, if containers are broken and not sealable, they should be exchanged by their collections company for rodent control. They are discovering an increasing number of businesses without a collection contract that place garbage in front of other businesses.

Christian asked if some City representative would attend every FQMD meeting to keep the dialogue moving. Mr. Emory asked for accurate tax collection information to make our projects and surveys meaningful. Mr. Cox said he is happy to work with FQMD to gather that information. Christian

welcomed the City to attend FQMD meetings and to know that FQMD wants to partner with them to get results; to keep up the dialogue to communicate better and for us all to better serve our stakeholders. Ms. Raines concurred that we want to participate for mutual successful collaboration. Mr. DeBlieux told Ms. Sylvain-Lear that FQMD encourages violators to be cited and laws to be enforced. She noted the City Law Department is working on issues for progressive sanitation enforcement. Mr. Pendleton shared that FQMD has funded a NOPD officer while working on the FQ Task Force to address Quality of Life issues. Further, with City departmental input, FQMD can work with their NOPD partner to address these issues. She said she would love to have that meeting, so they can train & work closely with the Sanitation Ranger.

#### IV CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- a. Welcome new Board members – Mr. Albin Guillot resigned as the French Quarter Citizens (FQC) representative and Ms. Gail Cavett is their new representative. Mr. Frank Zumbo of the Marriott has replaced Mr. Jim Oliver as the Hotel and Lodging Association representative.
- b. Update on French Quarter Museum Association Contract.- Mr. Hammer has agreed to amend the CEA which should be finalized for the October meeting.
- c. Licensing agreement with SDT Productions LLC – Positive conversations continue with Mr. Torres regarding a long-term licensing agreement with SDT. Mr. Pendleton will have more to report in October.
- d. Updates on Executive Director search- The Talent Acquisition Team should finish out today.
- e. Nominations for and elections of FQMD Executive Officers: 2019 – Ms. Rosenberg motioned (**M2**) to “nominate Mr. DeBlieux for Treasurer and Ms. Raines for Vice-Chairman for the remainder of 2019...”, seconded by Mr. Speights and unanimously approved by those present.
- f. Call for nominations for FQMD 2020 Executive Officers – Mr. Pendleton and Mr. Speights shall meet regarding nominations for a vote in the November meeting. Mr. Speights asked for calls on nominations to himself or Mr. Pendleton.

#### V FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- a. Update on Finance Manager contract – Ms. Raines noted they were close. Ms. Rosenberg stated a couple of issues; when we voted to let a finance manager contract our banking practices would change from paper to electronic. This was recommended by our State auditor. Ms. Rosenberg shared that [www.bill.com](http://www.bill.com) was not one of the sites they were familiar with. Following discussion, the consensus was one of agreement with a shift to electronic, if the safeguards are in place. These safeguards would remain with dual signatures and a traceable audit trail. Mr. Watters noted there is a weakness in QuickBooks regarding an audit trail. Any electronic system FQMD uses should have an edit trail that cannot be edited after the event. Ms. Klein (**M3**) motioned that “FQMD banking practices shall change with accountability of a non-changeable audit trail from paper to electronic...” seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved. Mr. Simms noted processing of last minute bills should be considered in the new system.
- b. Update on Program Administrator search- Ms. Raines reported the position was posted and is now closed with 100 applications submitted. Once the Executive Director position is filled, the Talent Acquisition Team shall meet on this position.

#### VI EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mr. DeBlieux motioned (**M4**) to ”enter Executive Session to discuss personnel

and security matters...”, seconded by Mr. Emory and unanimously approved at 3:37 p.m. The Regular Meeting was reconvened by acclamation at 4:10 p.m.

POST EXECUTIVE SESSION CONSIDERATIONS – Ms. Rosenberg motioned (M5) for “Chairman Pendleton to finalize the hiring of the Executive Director...”, seconded by Ms. Cavett and unanimously approved.

VII APPROVAL of AUGUST 2019 MINUTES - Ms. Rosenberg moved (M6) to “approve the August minutes ...”, seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously approved.

VIII TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. DeBlieux distributed the financials for the Operating and the Task Force accounts. All expenditures are acceptable. There is an extra column for the French Quarter Museum Association (FQMA). On the Balance Sheet, the Task Force has \$238,000.00, the FQMA has \$7,900 and General Operating has \$269,000. For August Profit and Loss, there is \$123,000 in OPSE, but July is much lower, and it is the cycle, not extra expenses. Hopefully, an accrual method will better reflect this expense. Mr. Emory motioned (M7) that “the July and August financial reports be approved as submitted...”, seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously approved. Mr. Pendleton noted that Ms. Remington is continuing to pay the bills and maintain the website and postings to stay in compliance of open meeting laws. She will also assist with training the new Executive Director.

IX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- a. Homeland Security has recently hired six personnel who will be responsible for securing Armstrong Park and putting out the bollards on Bourbon Street.
- b. Bollards: Guards have been created for the tracks and should have been installed recently in the 100-400 blocks. The manufacturer has also created pins for the tops of the bollards. New bollards will be placed in the 500-750 blocks of Bourbon in October. No bollards will be placed in the 800 block, per residents’ requests.
- c. 600-700 blocks of Conti: DPW will be breaking ground before year-end, likely on December 1. Exploratory work will occur in September. They expect to repair the 600 block before working on the 700 block.
- d. Update on the ED transition: I have agreed to work in a very limited capacity for the short-term until the new ED and Finance Manager can be onboarded. I will check emails on Monday and Thursday nights: on Mondays, I will submit the SPPP timesheets to OPSE; on Thursdays, I will cut checks. Christian and I will continue to meet weekly, as possible, so that I can give him the prepared checks to co-sign and mail.

XI NEXT MEETING: October 14, 2019

XII ADJOURNMENT – Mr. DeBlieux motioned (M8) that “the meeting be adjourned...”, seconded by Ms. Raines and unanimously approved by acclamation at 4:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary

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