



Monday, February 10, 2020; 2:00-4:30pm
Phelps Dunbar
Canal Place, 365 Canal Street, Suite 2000
New Orleans, Louisiana

Board Meeting Minutes

All Commissioners Present:

Christian Pendleton
Jane Cooper
Mamie Gasperecz
Frank Zumbo

Sue Klein
Jeremy DeBlieux
Matthew Emory (Arv. 2:05)
Heidi Raines
David Bilbe

Juliet Laughlin
Gail Cavett (Arv. 2:15)
Steve Caputo
Robert Watters (Arv. 2:10)

Executive Director: Karley Frankic

Guests:

Beverly Fulk, FQMD SEC
Glade Bilbe, FQC
Eric Smith, CNO, CAO for the FQIF
Robyn Burchfield, CNO, LEAD

Brittany Mulla-McGovern, FQBA
Byrne Sherwood, CNO, Health Department
David Speights, FQ Resident
BB St. Roman, NOPD Homeless Unit

- I CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL
- 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 PRESENTATION - Sobering Center and the New Orleans Police Department's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program by Byrne Sherwood, New Orleans Department of Health.
- The Sobering Center operates 24/7 and has 25 beds with accompanying lockers for client's personal belongings.
 - Public safety is enhanced by streamlining EMS and NOPD actions (reduced 30 -120 minute turnaround time down to 3 - 13 minutes). Additionally, the Program Manager is a registered nurse.
 - The annual budget is \$600,000.00 with \$400,000.00 coming from the City and \$200,000.00 from the French Quarter Improvement Fund (FQMD). There is no sustainable funding past these sources.
 - To be admitted the client must be eighteen year of age or older, not combative, conscious or ambulatory, and alcohol and chemical toxicity within manageable limits.
 - Referrals may be made by anyone using 911, the police or EMS.
 - The average stay is 4 – 8 hours and Odyssey House is working with the State to certify the Sobering Center services as billable for reimbursement.
 - Over 143 clients have been served, with 20% of clients having been transferred to a detox or

rehabilitation facility. The majority are male.

- h. The busiest hours of operation are 8 pm Saturdays to 2 am Sundays with 75% coming from French Quarter and downtown and predominantly male.
- i. Enhancements for the Sobering Center Program shall be a “Dawn Patrol” which shall be the backbone of the program and a dedicated transport van. Odyssey House provides a van now, but they have no trained EMT.

IV APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES – Ms. Klein noted spelling errors in the January 15,2020 Regular Board Meeting were corrected with no other changes being requested. Mr. DeBlieux motioned (M1) to ”approve the January 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as corrected...”, seconded by Mr. Pendleton and unanimously approved. A Special Board Meeting was held in January and those minutes were circulated without receipt of any correction. Mr. Caputo motioned (M2) to ”approve the January 29, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes...”, seconded by Mr. Zumbo and unanimously approved.

V TREASURER’S REPORT - Mr. DeBlieux distributed the financials for the Operating and the Task Force accounts. All expenditures are acceptable with no odd or irregular entries. The Supplement Police Patrol Program (SPPP) account balance is \$299,448.85 and the General Operating balance is \$278,027.81. In total, the SPPP net income is \$21,220.17.

Starting next month, the financial reports shall list the months actual figures along with the budgeted figures.

Ms. Cooper motioned (M3) to “approve the January financial reports as distributed and explained by Mr. Deblieux...”, seconded by Ms. Raines and unanimously approved.

VI CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

- a. Licensing with SDT Productions, LLC – Given her expertise in negotiating technology applications, it was determined that Ms. Raines shall assist Chairman Pendleton in the SDT negotiations.
- b. French Quarter Improvement Fund - Executive Director Frankic accompanied Mr. Pendleton to several meeting with the City to allocation negotiation. Mr. Pendleton noted that Ms. Frankic protected FQMD’s interests well.
- c. Security Study – The process is moving forward; Commissioner input shall be forwarded to Interfor. Following Interfor updating, the Security Study shall be returned for the Commissioners for final review.

VII EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

- a. New Orleans & Company – Mr. DeBlieux and Ms. Frankic met first with Stephen Perry & Walt Leger on January 22nd, and on January 27th with Mr. Leger to discuss the sunseting General Operating Memorandum of Understanding MOU). They resolved to proceed with a Letter Agreement/MOU that will codify New Orleans & Company’s commitment to continue to fund FQMD’s administrative expenses, including the contribution that previously came from New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation for a total of \$150,000 annually. This MOU will be revisited as the Hotel Assessment CEA expires at the end of this year.
- b. French Quarter Improvement Fund –
 - 1. Ms. Frankic has been attending ongoing meetings with the City and District C Council office regarding the 2020 budget for the French Quarter Improvement Fund (FQIF). All of the line items FQMD struck from the budget as being outside the intent of the CEA or covered by existing City contracts were agreed upon by the City.
 - 2. The FQMD \$85,000 drain scoping request has been reviewed by the Department of Public

Works (DPW) and they estimate CCTV scoping and clean of all French Quarter catch basins and storm drains would cost \$1,300,000.00. Therefore, they have adjusted the FQIF allocation to \$500,000. DPW will have suggestions regarding high needs locations, but has requested FQMD to recommend where these efforts should be focused.

3. There was consensus on dedicating a sanitation ranger to the French Quarter. The salary amount was increased from \$40,000.00 to \$55,000.00 and the purchase of a \$20,000.00 vehicle was added to the FQIF budget for this.
 4. The FQMD request for two dedicated NOPD code enforcement officers assigned to the Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP) was reduced to one part-time NOPD overtime officer to accompany the Sanitation Ranger two days a week. The Director of the Department of Safety & Permits (S&P) confirmed their inspectors can issue citations for Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) violations. Mr. Eric Smith is confirming the existing laws and working to ensure that code enforcement be prioritized in the FQIF budget to facilitate the proper level of service to the French Quarter.
 5. There will also be one DPW inspector and one second shift S&P inspector dedicated to the French Quarter. They shall work in tandem with the NOPD detail. Additional hours have been built into the FQIF budget, if required for this detail.
 6. The City's original \$500,000.00 budget request for a Homeland Security Grounds Patrol was reduced to approximately \$222,391.00. This patrol shall always be staffed with two City employees for the Armstrong Park grounds patrol and the deployment of the Bourbon Street bollards. The grounds patrol will move the bollards at 7:00 am and 4:00 pm and, in the case of a fire emergency. They will primarily patrol in golf carts and on bicycle, using cars in inclement weather. City administration, District C, and the Department of Homeland Security continue to have conversations regarding patrol reconfiguration. This is an effort to streamline their public space security teams, create a surplus for the City, and possibly provide additional funding for the SPPP.
 7. A website with the ability to track all line item allocations for the FQIF is being constructed now with the intent of maximizing public transparency and providing daily updates on FQIF funded projects and programs.
 8. Based the February 5, 2020 meeting with the City, they are finalizing the numbers, then will meet with New Orleans & Company for their approval of the 2020 budget allocation. At that point it must go before the City Council for a vote.
- c. Supplemental Police Patrol Program -
1. Ms. Frankic stated she spent as much time as possible the past month with Mr. Simms learning the nuances of the program and is more informed on his daily responsibilities. She she could now manage a full-time hire to take on this responsibility and give Mr. Simms the much-needed reprieve he requested at last month's board meeting.
 2. She has been reviewing the G4S contract to determine a proper competitive bid Request for Proposals for a revised scope of work required for the contract services.
- d. Hard Rock Hotel - On Friday, January 31, 2020, a meeting was held with constituents to discuss the impending Hard Rock Hotel collapse demolition.
1. The City hired Manafort Brothers Inc., a third-party firm, to review all proposals submitted by contractors and the developer's insurance company, and is managed by Viteri.
 2. Gary Panariello, of Thornton Tomasetti, will design the implosion. Panariello coordinated the World Trade Center Disaster Site Recovery, as well as the Hard Rock Hotel collapse crane demolition. Panariello's plan is to first demolish 1019 and 1027 Canal Streets and 1022 Iberville Street; set a series of implosions to systemically collapse 1031 Canal Street; and then manage victim and evidence recovery during the rubble removal. The systematic

collapse will bring the steel structure down atop the concrete parking garage and the parking garage down to grade. Vibrations are controlled by the number of explosives used and the sequence of detonation. Fire Superintendent McConnell stated that the vibrations felt in the immediate area will be “less than a pile driver.” The surrounding underground infrastructure on Rampart and Iberville Streets will be protected by matting and sand, like they were for the crane demolition; the underground infrastructure on Canal Street is deeper and newer. There is a contingency plan if infrastructure is affected. A double container and blast curtains will be placed in front of Saenger Theater. The implosion will create fifty feet of steel rubble atop up to twenty feet of crushed concrete, which can be safely removed at ground level. D.H. Griffin Wrecking will handle the demolition once 1031 Canal Street is felled.

3. Like the crane collapse, there will be an evacuation zone and an exclusion zone (shelter in place). It will take roughly ten specialists 4-5 days to run the explosives. Underground utilities will be prepped one month prior to the implosion. The zones should be completely collapsed approximately two months post implosion. The entire plan should take 3 months maximum (victim and evidence recovery protocol adds a month to a timeline).
 4. Panariello explained that 1019 and 1027 Canal Street and 1022 Iberville Street must be removed to stop a “domino effect” from the imploded rubble. Usually, a building is collapsed into its own basement.
 5. To date, this is the fourth plan submitted by various contractors and the developer’s insurance company. Cranes cannot be utilized for a dismantling demolition for two reasons: a crane operator must visually see what they are connecting to for safety and the length and width of the crane required for 1031 Canal Street cannot be stabilized by New Orleans’ soil.
 6. The likely implosion date is the week of March 15, 2020 or soon afterwards.
- e. Downtown Development District (DDD) - On January 29th Christian Pendleton and Ms. Frankic met with Kurt Weigle, Richard McCall, and Barbara Waiters to discuss areas of mutual concern to FQMD and DDD and how coordination might be feasible.
1. Increase coordination and alignment of public safety resources to monitor and patrol hot-spot areas; NOPD 8th District, State Police, OPSO, DDD’s NOPD detail, armed private patrol and public safety rangers, FQMD security patrol, as well as data collection and utilization was discussed.
 - i. Better coordination of officers to maximize coverage and capacity including existing DDD detail and private security patrols in the 700 Canal/100 Bourbon, Royal Street patrols, and FQ Task force patrols.
 - ii. Centralize communications of all patrols.
 - iii. Dedicated QOL officer for hot-spot areas.
 - iv. Utilizing data to identify strategies to maximize coverage.
 2. Increased and consistent enforcement of code violations.
 - i. The Mayor’s administration is working to deputize NOPD officers for expanded authority to enforce Quality of Life (QOL) issues.
 - ii. DDD has budgeted funding for a dedicated sanitation ranger. They are working with the City Administration to deputize rangers with enforcement authority.
 3. Infrastructure improvements
 - i. The 100 block of Bourbon has improved as a result of increased lighting and sidewalk repairs by property owners.
 - ii. City/CVB/(NO & Co) FQIF funding to FQMD could be \$1,000,000.00 for streetlights and \$725,000.00 for sidewalk repairs on Iberville. Ms. Frankic shall confirm this with Mr. Smith.
 - iii. DDD grants can fund façade improvements, sidewalk repairs and graffiti abatement.

- iv. They are working with property owners and artist groups to provide façade grants for ambient lighting and murals in blocks with vacant or dead space.
 - v. DDD is committed to working with property owners for Exchange Alley improvements.
4. Policy changes
- i. Work with Canal Now and various Downtown and FQ stakeholders in identifying opportunities to review and amend code and the CZO to support DDD economic development and quality of life strategies.
- f. Regional Planning Commission – Ms. Frankic met with Mr. Jeffrey Roussel on French Quarter traffic data. He shared a 2017 study including auto, bicycle, and pedestrian collision data. This is a tool that we can use for advocating the removal of the dedicated truck route on North Rampart Street and for increased city investment in complete streets planning for the French Quarter.
 - g. 5G Small Cell Towers – Ms. Frankic met with a manufacturer and engineering consultant on possible design solutions for the French Quarter.
 - h. Interns – Ms. Frankic thanked Commissioner Gasperecz for sponsoring her attendance at the Chamber’s Total Internship Workshop. It reiterated the importance of internships to be experiential learning experiences for the students and not just free labor. New interns will need to be rotated in every four months with the academic calendar with is very time consuming. Ms. Raines company utilizes interns for a longer time commitment which reduces training and turn-over time. She shall share her companies intern format with Ms. Frankic.
 - i. 2019 Draft Annual Report – Once finalized, the report shall be posted to the FQMD website. Commissioner requested inclusions:
 - Before and after pictures
 - Public Safety – Include Sobering Center support & and other projects that FQMD collaborated on with the French Quarter Improvement Fund
 - Quality of Life - FQMD developed and delivered the bi-annual Street Repair Survey and Street Lighting Repair Survey which served as a road map for improvement throughout the year
 - Preservation - Initiatives/projects that FQMD worked on with the VCC, VCC Foundation or any other groups in the district

With all the meetings Ms. Frankic is attending, it was requested that she share ahead of time her set and tentative meetings, so that the representative organizations are not redundant or working at cross-purposes. She offered that she could share her calendar with the Board.

VIII Report by Chair, Finance and Development Committee: Meeting Report & 2020 Action Plan

- a. The Finance and Development Committee has not achieved a quorum at the last three meetings. Ms. Raines called for Commissioners to serve on the Committee and attend meetings.
- b. Committee Members worked with the Executive Director on the 2019 Annual Report reviewed today, and the 2020 Strategic Plan that is being developed.
- c. Collaboration with the Financial Manager to determine accounting system classes and set up reporting standards for presenting financials to the Board each month.
- d. Ms. Raines motioned (**M4**) to “approve Treasurer Jeremy DeBlieux as a member of the Finance and Development Committee...” seconded by Mr. Emory and unanimously approved.

IX Report by Chair, Government Affairs Committee: Meeting Report & 2020 Action Plan

- a. As reported earlier (VII. a.) Mr. Deblieux met regarding the Administrative MOU funding. He

shared that New Orleans & Company is 100% committed to FQMD.

- b. Walt Leger shall assist with permanent State funding, but it will be for next year’s legislative cycle.
- c. The Hotel and Lodging assessment should generate \$1,200,000.00.
- d. Mr. Deblieux motioned (**M5**) to “ approve Ms. Jane Cooper as a member of the Government Affairs Committee...”, seconded by Mr. Bilbe and unanimously approved.
- e. Ms. Laughlin motioned (**M6**) to “ approve Ms. Sherry Cannon as a member of the Government Affairs Committee...”, seconded by Ms. Cavett and unanimously approved.

X Report by Chair, Livability Committee: Meeting Report & 2020 Action Plan

- a. Sidewalk Assessment - Ms. Cavett shared a PowerPoint presentation of the 2015 assessment format which she shall utilize for the 2020 Sidewalk Assessment. Sidewalks identified as requiring repair shall be sent to DPW who shall sent the final recommendations back once the contractor cost assessment is determined. Ms. Cavett shall co-ordinate this with Mr. Smith. The information then can be distributed to property owners. Mr. DeBlieux noted that if the damage is greater than 50% of the sidewalk for a particular property, the sidewalk surface must be finished with the appropriate slate or brick.
- b. Environmental Protection Pilot Program for French Quarter Catch Basin Screens - Ms. Cavett presented photo’s explaining the various types of drain screen and which design is the most efficient for water management and trash exclusion. Additionally, this would expand the program to all French Quarter catch basins and to seek funding Mr. Deblieux motioned (**M7**) to “approve Ms. Cavett to conduct an Environmental Protection Pilot Program regarding French Quarter storm drain screens...”, seconded by Mr. Caputo and unanimously approved.

XI Report by Chair, Security and Enforcement Committee: Meeting Report & 2020 Action Plan

- a. Annual Report by Robert Simms, volunteer coordinator of the French Quarter Task Force. Mr. Simms complete presentation is included along with this document as a supplemental file.

	2019	2018	2017
App Calls	5239	5298	4939
Dispatch Calls	1032	1270	2028
Self-Initiated Calls	23947	22527	18897
Total Calls	30219	29096	25804
Arrests	71	104	146
Apprehensions	151	166	182
Summons’	129	160	253
Traffic Citations	931	553	179
# of O/size Vehicles	44	101	86
Subjects Moved	8229	9197	8102
Miles Driven	62462	67447	62501
Shift Filled	93%	93%	95%

- c. Mr. Simms shall research a vehicle for purchase which is overdue.

XII Committee Member Nomination – See IX. d.- e. above.

XIII 2019 Audit – Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire – Mr. DeBlieux motioned (M8**) to “approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the 2019 Audit as presented by Executive Director Frankic...”**

seconded by Mr. Cooper and unanimously approved.

XIV New Business

- a. Ms. Klein reported that the Historic New Orleans Collection and the Louisiana State Museum are willing to host some FQMD Commission Meetings.
- b. Mr. Smith responding to FQIF questions noted that funding could be available as early as three weeks. He shall be attending all our Board Meetings for updates and there would be a three week training period for code enforcement. Mr. Bilbe noted that we must make sure our funding is in keeping with the FQMD mission.
- c. Mr. DeBlieux noted FQMD is functioning at a higher level and both he and Mr. Pendleton recognized Ms. Frankic for all her efforts with everyone concurring.
- d. It was noted that State Board of Ethics Financial Disclosure form and Ethics Training must be done for 2020.
- e. Ms. Laughlin noted that at the January 15, 2020 Board Meeting a guest exhibited loud and uncivil behavior that should be noted as being inappropriate. This occurred during a break from proceedings by a guest to Commissioners in the hall. It was suggested that any Commissioners acquainted with this person should share that civility and decorum would be appreciated in the future.

XV Next meeting: March 9, 2020

XVI ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Caputo motioned at 4:20 pm (**M9**) that “the meeting be adjourned...”, seconded by Mr. Bilbe and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary