



Thursday, March 26, 2020; 8:44 – 9:46 am
Via Teleconference
New Orleans, Louisiana

Special Board Meeting Minutes

All Commissioners Present:

Sue Klein	Juliet Laughlin	Jane Cooper (Arv 8:55)
Heidi Raines	Jeremy DeBlieux (Arv 8:55)	Gail Cavett
Steve Caputo	Christian Pendleton	Mamie Gasperecz
Robert Watters (Arv 8:55)	Matthew Emory (Arv 8:45)	Frank Zumbo
	David Bilbe (Arv 8:55)	

Commissioners Absent: All present

Executive Director: Karley Frankic

Guests:

Beverly Fulk, FQMD SEC	Lt. Anthony Caprera, NOPD
Captain Dean Behrens, LSP	Lt. Bradley Rhodes, NOPD
David Jorgensen, Livability Committee	Deputy Chief Paul Noel, NOPD
David Speights, former Commissioner	Walt Leger, New Orleans & Co.
Brittaney Mulla McGovern, FQBA	Bob Simms, FQTF
Elizabeth Hover, LRA (LA Restaurant Assoc.)	

- I CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL taken at 8:44 am.
- II PUBLIC COMMENT: It was announced all guests were signed in via the RingCentral teleconferencing application and anyone wishing to comment on actionable items must announce themselves prior to commenting. Everyone was asked to mute their phone when not speaking, do not speak over someone and announce themselves prior to comment.
- III CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
 - a. Louisiana Attorney General Opinion - FQMD is making all efforts to comply with the Louisiana Attorney General’s latest opinion regarding open meeting law teleconferencing. FQMD may conduct all business via teleconference.
 - b. Personnel Staffing & Priorities – Mr. Pendleton noted that Ms. Frankic has been doing a great job conducting FQMD business within COVID-19 parameters. Tasks she has been assigned by himself and other Commissioners has been done, including the following:
 - i. Security – As approved by the Executive Committee, Ms. Frankic shall run a series of

proposals regarding the SPPP budget. New Orleans & Company announced two months ago the FQMD not getting traditional funding. They shall be formulating details for the new Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) which shall be different from the existing CEA. FQMD should not expect any more money for the rest of the year. Ms. Frankic is working with NOPD 8th District Lt. Anthony Caprera and Louisiana State Police (LSP) Troop N Captain Dean Behrens to come up with staffing scenarios. Mr. Pendleton had a lengthy late night conversation with Mr. Sidney Torres confirming he would not pull the app if we are doing what is in the best interest of the French Quarter (FQ), even at one officer per shift. The Executive Committee teleconferenced last Friday regarding the SPPP. Mr. Pendleton stressed the adjusted SPPP staffing can be revisited as events change and the funding will run out at some point without recurring funding and everyone must be cognizant of the time-line financial restraints.

- ii. Sanitation – Ms. Frankic shall maintain strong contact with Ms. Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, City of New Orleans (CNO) Sanitation Director and Mayor Cantrell’s office and any leadership entity with FQ input. He noted this is perfect time to “deep clean” the FQ and should be done by all those providing services. He has seen no improvement in cleanliness. Ms. Frankic’s input improved rodent control. He has seen no new efforts on sanitation in quality or quantity.
- iii. Hard Rock Hotel Demolition – Mr. Pendleton tasked Ms. Frankic with requesting the CNO and the City Council to begin demolition as soon as possible while there are no public gatherings, reduced traffic and businesses are closed.
- iv. In Executive Committee it was decided to keep Ms. Frankic on full-time to continue advocacy and project development and maintenance.

IV. TREASURERS REPORT – Balances of March 23, 2020 - ANNEX I

- SPPP Account = \$448,607.93
- General Account = \$261,003.46

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

a. Update on Priorities

i. Security

aa. New Orleans Police Department 8th District

- Lt. Anthony Caprera is the acting captain of the 8th District and has kept Ms. Frankic up on staffing. Deputy Chief Superintendent Noel said that they have not selected a permanent captain and are not going to rush to make major personnel issues during this crisis.
- The 8th District has one officer that has tested positive for COVID-19 and a few that are in quarantine at this time. The district is still running a minimum of 3 officer patrols in the Quarter, supported by the 15 Bourbon Promenade officers that are also patrolling the parallel streets, and detectives are now being deployed to patrols.

bb. Louisiana State Police Troop N

- Captain Dean Behrens has said that they have reduced their overtime officers. They are currently deploying 17-18 officers per day, exceeding the required CEA minimum of 15.

ii. Sanitation

- Cynthia Sylvain-Leer, Director of the Department of Sanitation, has informed us that the City has not indicated that there is a plan to reduce the downtown sanitation contract with Empire. There is no reduction in residential pickups, at this time. Ms. Sylvain-Leer is in strong agreement that while the Stay Home Order is in place the

Empire should be deep cleaning the Quarter so that when we reopen for business, the Quarter sparkles like the diamond it is.

- Some businesses have informed their private garbage contractors that are reducing their pickups.
- The Department of Sanitation is working to get businesses that have shuttered to remove their garbage cans/carts from the sidewalks. They need to be cleaned, not into the storm drains, and placed inside the property. The Sanitation Ranger is working to notify these businesses and educate them on the rules before considering formal action. Ms. Frankic requested everyone's assistance to notify business owners of this violation and to clean and store their carts as soon as possible, as this contributes to the rat problem.

iii. Hard Rock Hotel Demolition

- The structure is continuing to deteriorate, and hurricane season will be here soon. The last thing New Orleans needs is another negative international media story if the building further collapses.
- In numerous conversations with District C Councilmember Kristin Palmer, the expedition of the demolition has been discussed. She is in complete agreement that this is the time to proceed, while the streets are clear. The contract remains between the owners/developers, the demolition contractor, and the insurance company. I have asked if the City will set a deadline for the demolition before taking action to force the demolition. The administration has not responded to my or Councilmember Palmers requests for an update. The City is not a party to the demolition contract.

b. Update on funding revenue

i. General Operating

- We have received an update from New Orleans and Company that while their revenue has ceased, they are still going to provide 50% (\$150,000.00 original) of the operating funds they had committed for 2020 FQMD General Operating Funding. They are processing the \$75,000 check.
- Because the Board has been frugal in the past FQMD is good shape and with the New Orleans & Company payment, the Executive Director can remain working full-time and cover overhead expenses. This assumes no increase in compensation, no additional personnel, and no benefits provided.

ii. Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP)

- FQMD received \$200,000 from New Orleans and Company for the December 2019 and January 2020 assessments. With the hotels now closed, there will be no assessment to collect.
- This puts our current SPPP Account balance at approximately \$450,000 once the current bills are paid.
- If we continue with existing SPPP patrol deployment of 2 officers during the day, and three on nights and weekends, paying Tier 3 rates to the nights and weekends, we will run out of funding July 27, 2020.
- Ms. Frankic laid out three scenarios for staffing the SPPP assuming no additional funding from New Orleans and Company and that the previous years' average expenditures carry forward without increases, no vehicles are purchased, Mr. Simms continues as the coordinator free of charge, and FQMD receives no additional administrative fees. **ANNEX II**
- The intent of reducing the detail patrols would be to conserve our monies until the Quarter reopens for business. At that time, we can reassess the need versus the expense.

iii. French Quarter Improvement Fund (FQIF)

- There is \$4,000,000.00 of dedicated funds in the New Orleans & Company bank account. In speaking with Mr. Stephen Perry and Mr. Walt Leger, Ms. Frankic learned New Orleans & Company expects the City and FQMD to work together to create a new budget for the FQIF prioritizing security, that being the LSP and the FQMD-SPPP.
- She is working on a budget that shall return the SPPP back to full capacity following the reopening of French Quarter businesses. This budget must include replacement vehicles and personnel to coordinate. FQMD has been very fortunate to have a volunteer that for five years has been dedicated to keeping the program running. However, this is not sustainable on a volunteer basis and FQMD must build in redundancies to assure that staffing is not interrupted due to illness, or any other cause.
- Once Ms. Frankic current bills are paid the balance will be \$450,000.00. Purchase of no new vehicles. With existing patrols, we run out of money July 27, 2020.

Ms. Frankic thanked everyone for the support she's received as FQMD is adjusting daily to the new circumstances presented. She is determined to keep moving the ball forward and is working on plans for alternative programming that can consider sustainability past the current funding. New approaches are needed to identify opportunities for systemic problem solutions while things are shut down. She noted that our residents should see the most unified policing possible. And, when FQ businesses re-open, for visitors returning home to talk about how awesome the French Quarter is and tell all their friends to come visit increasing the revenue flow.

c. Discussion

- Chairmen Pendleton noted that as a volunteer Mr. Simms has been running the FQTF 24/7 and the FQMD would not be where it is without his knowledge, his relationships, and his wherewithal. He recognized that Mr. Simms has requested relief from this task. To that end, FQMD must staff that position with a SPPP manager and purchase new vehicles.
- Mr. Emory asked if there was a timeline regarding the French Market Corporation (FMC) security consolidation, as well as that of the Royal Street private patrols and those of the Downtown Development District (DDD). On Hard Rock, has the insurance company said there is negligence? Will there be bankruptcy, and at what cost to the City? Finally, where is FQMD on the current EDD CEA sunset and fund allocation? Mr. Pendleton has "heard" regarding Hard Rock the insurance company is trying to put some of the liability and demolition on the City due to the CNO Safety & Permits Department job site activities and the City doesn't have the money to do it. It is deadlocked at present because of expense and liability issues. Ms. Frankic noted the City doesn't have a timeline, but she is pressing hard for a resolution. Ms. Frankic noted that working on a unified security command, but the various entities are currently in crisis mode. The Royal Street patrol (Levee District Police) is not operating, but the DDD patrol is but with reduced staff. As of now, the Convention Center and the DDD is committed, as well as the LSP (funded from EDD & no money now). Ms. Frankic will work on this week. \$2,500,000.00 of the LSP funding comes from the EDD which is sales tax generated. She stated Captain Behrens does not plan on reducing their forces even if the funds are in jeopardy with possible Federal funding reimbursement. Mr. Eric Smith, CNO CAO for the FQIF requested a new budget to get through the end of the calendar year.
- Ms. Klein noted that with respect to security it should be noted while many businesses are closed with few visitors to the FQ, the majority of the FQ footprint is residential. Those residents, remaining employees and even boarded up properties need to be protected.

- Mr. Caputo said he will have to leave the meeting but wanted to note he is pleased with the retention of Ms. Frankic, Mr. Pendleton’s Commission leadership and his support and vote of Scenario 3 of SPPP staffing as presented.
- Mr. DeBlieux motion (**M1**) to “immediately reduce the SPPP to one officer per 24 hour period...”, seconded by Mr. Watters. **NOTE: Amended motion (M1) following discussion and restatement below.** A discussion was initiated by Mr. Caputo stating his concern with only one officer planned per shift due to illness and other failure to report absences. Mr. Zumbo agreed with Mr. Caputo and shared incidents reported and publicized would inhibit businesses moving forward toward reopening. Mr. DeBlieux noted all foot patrols are put into vehicles and he would be in favor of total suspension of the SPPP. Ms. Cavett said she supports Scenario 3 (1 officer during the day and 2 officers at night). Mr. Pendleton asked Mr. Simms if there is a reduction of SPP officers showing up. Mr. Simms stated there was not an increase, but there still are officers that do not report for duty for various reasons. Ms. Gasperecz stated we shouldn’t put a permanent fix on a temporary problem and supports Scenario 3. Mr. Simms is willing to continue as the volunteer manager if Scenario 3 is adopted, because that will not increase the amount of time and work by him. Mr. Bilbe stated business may be back in August so, Scenario 3 makes the most sense to him; when the temporary shelter in place order is lifted, both good and bad people will return to the FQ. Mr. DeBlieux further stated that with the uncertainty of future funding, he felt the original motion would allow more funding for future use once business are up. Ms. Cavett noted she stated the difference in the two proposed positions is a matter of 3 months. She agrees with FQMD making this decision today and reevaluate as needed. There was some disagreement on evaluation of the graph. Mr. Pendleton said the Board needed to move past this topic and asked if Mr. DeBlieux would entertain the following as an amendment to the original motion and agreed (**M1**) that “as soon as scheduling allows, the FQMD shall reduce SPPP staffing to one day shift officer and two evening shift officers (Scenario 3 – note ANNEX II) per 24 hour period, to be reevaluated and adjusted as necessary, at the June Board meeting at the latest...”, seconded by Robert Watters and unanimously approved. Mr. Simms noted that Scenario 3 could be implemented at 3am on this coming Sunday morning.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: 13 April 2020

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Emory motioned (**M2**) to “ adjourn the meeting...”, seconded by Mr. Zumbo and unanimously approved at 9:44 a.m.

Note: ANNEXES I AND II on pages 6 and 7.

French Quarter Management District

BALANCE SHEET

As of March 23, 2020

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Bill.com Money Out Clearing	32,090.60
FQ SPPP account	448,607.93
FQMA	9,717.31
FQMD general operating account	261,003.46
Total Bank Accounts	\$751,419.30
Accounts Receivable	
Contract Receivable	206,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$206,000.00
Other Current Assets Due to / Due From Interfund	0.00
Prepaid Expenses	14,752.00
Uncategorized Asset	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$14,752.00
Total Current Assets	\$972,171.30
TOTAL ASSETS	\$972,171.30
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	41,535.20
Total Accounts Payable	\$41,535.20
Total Current Liabilities	\$41,535.20
Total Liabilities	\$41,535.20
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	728,758.01
Retained Earnings	114,481.00
Net Income	87,397.09
Total Equity	\$930,636.10
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$972,171.30

ANNEX II – SPPP Deployment Scenarios

20200323_SPPP_Deployment Scenarios

Balance Time Chart

