



Notes Government Affairs Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 21 April 2020
3:10 to 4:10pm

Via Teleconference:

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1484814770>

Video:

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/personallink.html>

Audio:

Meeting ID: 148 481 4770

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

First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent
Jeremy	DeBlieux	X	
David	Bilbe	X	
Brian	Furness		X
Brittany	McGovern	X	
Christian	Pendleton		X
Kim	Rosenberg		X
Jane	Cooper		X
Sherry	Cannon	X	
Juliet	Laughlin	X	
Frank	Zumbo	X	

Guests	
Karley	Frankic
Leslie	Alley
Robert	Watters

II. Public Comment: Anyone who wishes to comment on actionable items must announce their name for the recording and indicate the item(s) on which s/he wishes to comment.

III. Approval of February 2020 meeting notes

Ms. McGovern moved to approve the meeting notes, Ms. Laughlin seconded the motion and the meeting notes were approved unanimously.

IV. Discussion of revision of state funding needs reflective of reduction of hotel self-assessment funding

Mr. DeBlieux reported that he, Mr. Pendleton, and Ms. Frankic had a telephone meeting with Mr. Stephen Perry, and Mr. Walt Leger of New Orleans & Company (NO&Co). NO&Co. indicated that they planned to cancel the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) that funds the FQMD-SPPP due to lack of hotel self-assessment revenues. This also impacts NO&Co's contributions to the general operating funds.

Mr. DeBlieux reported that the only funds currently available for the FQMD-SPPP is the French Quarter Improvement Fund (FQIF). Ms. Frankic reported that the City Council ordinance to approve budget

The French Quarter Management District is a state entity created by the Louisiana Legislature as a means for the residential and business communities to work together to protect, preserve, and maintain the world famous French Quarter as a safe, clean, vibrant and friendly neighborhood for residents, businesses, and visitors.



previously reviewed by the FQMD Board of Commissioners has been withdrawn by City Council and a new ordinance will have to be introduced with a new budget reflective of the new priorities for the fund. The City requested what it would cost to fund the SPPP at full deployment for the remainder of the year and Ms. Frankic provided the 2020 budget for the SPPP to Eric Smith the FQIF Analyst in the City's CAOs Office. He is working on getting the necessary figures for propping up the Louisiana State Police Troop N. It is Ms. Frankic's understanding from Mr. Smith that the new FQIF budget will prioritize security by funding the LA State Police and the SPPP. There are certain allocations from last year's budget that have been ordered and need to be paid for. Mr. Watters stated that he understood that there was \$2.3M in the City FQIF account and Mr. DeBlieux confirmed that the CEA would allow for the SPPP to be paid for out of the FQIF. Ms. Frankic clarified that the \$1.2M cap on payments for the SPPP would not be exceeded if the payee changed from NO&Co to the FQIF and was permissible under the terms of the CEA. Mr. DeBlieux read the section of the CEA related to the approved uses of the FQIF, which included public safety. Mr. DeBlieux asked that Ms. Frankic work up a new recommended budget for the City and get feedback from the Commissioners ahead of the next Board meeting.

V. Discussion of future funding resources

Mr. DeBlieux discussed the budget shortfall at the City and State level and they are both looking at major financial gaps. He had reached out to a contact at the State Legislature that informed him that all funds from the CARES Act are for coronavirus related expenses only. Congress is negotiating another bill that will have funds for states, and this might have funds for FQMD. Ms. Laughlin asked what isn't a coronavirus related expense when everything is shut down. Mr. DeBlieux reported that PPP was for supporting payroll and business expenses and CARES Act is for medical and emergency response funds. Mr. Watters said that it could be argued that the SPPP was primarily addressing homeless populations at this time and that was a coronavirus related expense. There is \$5B in community development funds to go to states and units of general local government and FQMD is a political subdivision of the State. In that case we could apply to the administrator directly, not having to go through the state. May need someone who is an expert in these funding routes to see where we fit in a credible fashion. Ms. Laughlin said that between city, state, and federal monies, and thinks that the mayor will want the ask to be as large as possible, so might want to include FQMD in her ask of the feds. She also spoke with Cameron Henry who is chair of the appropriations committee at the state and also on the committee is Senator Jimmy Harris who represents our district. FQMD would need to work with Sen. Harris and Rep. Royce Duplessis to introduce a bill this summer for it to be in time for next spring. Ms. Laughlin also thinks that the governor will want his ask of the federal government to be as big as possible and FQMD should be included in that. Mr. DeBlieux asked what the steps would be to do this. Ms. Laughlin said that the mayoral appointees to work with her to include FQMD in her request. She recommended that FQMD work with Walt Leger on the state ask. Mr. Watters noted that he can work with Cedric Richmond on federal request.



Mr. Watters asked if the City is going to rework the FQIF budget should SPPP be cut back to reserve funds for the administrative expenses of the FQMD? Mr. DeBlieux Ms. Laughlin said FQMD could use PPP funds. Ms. Frankic reported that PPP was for small businesses and non-profit organizations and therefore FQMD was not eligible. Mr. DeBlieux reported the balances in the two accounts and there is funds for about two years of operating expenses if there are no changes, but the SPPP will be depleted in December. Mr. Watters asked if Iberia could help with a PPP. Ms. Frankic will confirm with John Wyatte Foard, the accountant if FQMD would qualify for PPP. Ms. Frankic said that the SPPP fund burn rate will be faster if the fulltime SPPP coordinator is hired. The vehicle replacement budget needs to be considered as well due to the great expense of maintaining the Smart Cars. Ms. Frankic said that the classified vs unclassified position will depend on the job description details and will be worked out with State Civil Service (SCS). FQMD can have two unclassified positions but does need to register with SCS pronto. Ms. Cooper said that we need to prioritize the classified vs. unclassified issue so that FQMD can fill the position if/when the volunteer coordinator resigns. Ms. Frankic reported that first FQMD needs to register and then get the position reviewed by SCS. Need focus on the FQIF revised budget so we don't burn through the fund balance even faster with a new hire. Ms. Cooper noted that no one would take the job if we were projected to run out of money by the summer. Ms. Cannon asked what the timeline is for the City's federal ask? Mr. DeBlieux asked Ms. Laughlin if she could tap into her contacts at the state to see what FQMD needs to do to be included in governor's federal ask. Ms. Laughlin said she would do that. Mr. DeBlieux said he would be available to meet with Ms. Laughlin her contacts at the state when she set up a call. Mr. DeBlieux asked if Ms. Raines might be up help with the City as the mayoral appointee. Ms. Frankic will inquire.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm