



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Monday, 10, August 2020

2:10 pm – 3:05 pm

Via Teleconference:

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/2047589217>

Video:

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

Audio:

Meeting ID: 204 758 9217

+1 (469) 445 0100

Commissioners Present:

Susan Klein
Heidi Raines
Steve Caputo
Robert Watters (Lv. 3:00)

Juliet Laughlin
Jeremy DeBlieux
Christian Pendleton
Frank Zumbo (Lv. 2:50)
David Bilbe

Jane Cooper
Gail Cavett
Mamie Gasperez
Matthew Emory (Arv. 2:23)

Commissioners Absent: None

Executive Director: Karley Frankic

Guests:

Andrew Sullivan, District C, Chief of Staff
Chris Young, FQ Business League
Stan Harris, LRA
Eric Smith, CNO, CAO, FQIF
David Speights, NRMSI
Erin Holmes, VCPOA
Jodi Poretto, FQC

David Speights, NRMSI
Ross Bourgeois, CNO, Homeland Security?
Bob Simms, FQTF
Brittany McGovern, FQBA
Beverly Faulk
Nikki Szalwinski

- I. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES at 2:12 pm.
- 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. It was announced all 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, and do not speak over anyone.
- III. FRENCH QUARTER ECONONMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT Sales Tax Referendum Ballot Language - Ms. Frankic updated the latest version from the Mayor prior to the last few calls. All the

supporting letters for EDD renewal requested all revenues must come to FQMD for the FQ EDD. The letters also stated the security patrol officers must be post-certified and the scope must include quality of life enforcement. Therefore, these three measures are requirements for these organizations support. These support letters came from the French Quarter Business Association (FQBA), the Vieux Carre' Property Owners and Residents & Associates (VCPORA), North Rampart Main Street, Incorporated (NRMSI), the Greater New Orleans Hotel & Lodging Association (GNOHLA) and the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA). August 17, 2020 is the City Council deadline to make the FQ EDD an agenda item at their August 20,2020 meeting. If an organization, business owner or resident has not submitted their support letters, they should do it now.

Mr. Simms asked if the actual ballot language can be reviewed August 17th. Ms. Frankic felt we would hear from Councilmember Palmer's staff regarding this. Mr. Simms noted that as he speaks to residents in the community, their priority is to continue with post-certified officers.

Ms. Laughlin asked if there was a concern regarding the Mayor's suggestion of forming a Citizen Advisory Committee as it relates to the EDD CEA. Ms. Frankic noted that, FQMD would be the Advisory Committee versus a separate body. The CEA details shall be negotiated for best practices and transparency. At this point there is no Advisory Committee. Ms. Frankic reiterated that accountability and other details in the ballot language and the CEA need to be worked out.

Mr. Emory asked about the updated proposal from Mr. Eric Smith. As Mr. Emory understands it, the intent is for FQ patrols to be under a unified plan, so Mr. Simms can retire from his volunteer Security Police Patrol Program (SPPP) role at the end of the year. The SPPP will be financed under the unified command up to \$1,200,000.00; anything over that shall be directed to quality of life issues in the Vieux Carre'. Additionally, the City wants to receive the generated revenue, which shall be directed into a trust account with FQMD oversight to determine how the money is allocated.

Ms. Frankic noted FQMD is working with the Mayor's office in moving toward a symbiotic outcome. Additionally, the details shall be worked out prior to the election, so the voters shall know exactly what they are voting on. The transfer of Mr. Simms current responsibilities shall be detailed in the CEA prior to the election. Generally, ballot language is one compound sentence and does not contain all the details. Ms. Frankic shall consult the attorneys to see what may be included in the ballot language as it related to Louisiana Secretary of State requirements.

- IV. SECURITY & ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE (SEC) REGARDING G4S CONTRACT: Mr. Emory reported the SEC recommended cancellation of the month to month G4S contract. Even though the "Unified Command" is not established yet, it was noted that there has been a substandard performance level of required services with G4S, Mr. Simms has been doing their work anyway, and suspension of G4S shall be a cost-saving measure. The SEC was asked at the July FQMD Board Meeting to evaluate this issue. It was determined it was better to keep an officer on the street versus paying for G4S which is more of an administrative role. Ms. Klein motioned (**M1**) to "suspend the relationship with G4S as soon as any required notice is performed ...", seconded by Ms. Laughlin and unanimously approved. It was

noted that Bob Simms has been doing this work anyway as a volunteer, including correcting errors made by G4S. Mr. Pendleton requested Ms. Frankic to act on the motion upon her return from vacation.

- V. BOARD PARITY RESEARCH TEAM: Ms. Cooper presented the Team's recommendations as tasked By Chairman Pendleton in July. The Parity Research Team consisted of Commissioners Cooper, Bilbe, Caputo, Gasperecz and Klein. Ms. Frankic facilitated the teleconference with Ms. Gasperecz being unable to attend. Ms. Cooper noted that Commissioners are required not only to meet their representative requirements, but also to annually complete the LA State Board of Ethics Financial Disclosure and the Ethics Training Course. There has never been a vetting process to determine that a Commission Board nominee meets the requirements of the naming official or agency. Parity Team notes were distributed with the Board Packet in advance of this Board Meeting. Commissioners should review these and discuss with their stakeholders if necessary. Mr. Pendleton noted these recommendations shall be action items at the September Board Meeting. Once moved on, the Commissioners and non-Commissioner Committee Members shall have two weeks to verify their compliance.

Mr. Simms asked if documents presented for these public meetings should be available to the public? Mr. Pendleton noted that Ms. Frankic shall post them on the FQMD website.

Mr. Watters challenged the process pursuant to LA Open Meeting Law. Mr. Pendleton said his expectations have been met thus far on this process; five people were tasked, two businesses, two residents and the neutral VCC representative to discuss the issue and if there are concerns, to make recommendations. The full Board and the public shall have the availability to ask questions and comment on these recommendations. FQMD has not and will not do anything under the guise of secrecy on this issue. Ms. Klein also disagreed with Mr. Watters viewpoint. This Parity Team was tasked at the public FQMD July Board Meeting by Chairman Pendleton and nothing was done in secret. This team was to review the current legislation to determine current compliance, and if any changes should be recommended to ensure the letter and spirit of FQMDs empowering legislation. No action was taken, and recommendations shall be posted to the website. Therefore, she felt this process was not in violation.

Mr. Pendleton asked that any Commissioners who have questions on this process to contact him for discussion or clarification. He noted FQMD prides itself on its transparency. This Team was to gather information leading to workable solutions.

Ms. Cooper summarized that the Team unanimously agreed there should be Board parity between residents and businesses. To accomplish this, there shall be two additional Commissioner positions, one additional to each existing VCPORA and FQC representation. Committee parity between resident and businesses was also addressed. Mr. Pendleton tasked the Commissioners to review the Parity Team documents before the September Board Meeting. He said to feel free to speak to any of the Commissions on the Parity Team regarding this issue.

- V. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE: Mr. Pendleton shared several Commissioners & non-commissioner members have missed many months of meetings; quorums were not met and therefore,

committee work and action were delayed. It is Mr. Pendleton's goal to have most work done at the committee level, to facilitate a more concise and fluid Board Meeting. Ms. Klein noted that she and Ms. Copper is assisting Executive Director Frankic in crafting language to ensure committees have working quorums as Chairman Pendleton has discussed with no action to be taken at this point. She did request that all members complete the LA Board of Ethics training by the September Board Meeting. It is important that any committee member knows what the LA Ethics Board requirements are before a member takes part in, or votes on an issue that may be a conflict of interest. Ms. Klein motioned (M2) that "the LA State Board of Ethics training be completed within 30 days of a Commissioner's Board appointment or a non-commissioner committee members appointment...", seconded by Ms. Cooper and unanimously approved.

VI. LOUISIANA OFFICE of GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM – Mr. Pendleton noted as a quasi-sate entity, FQMD should possibly be registered with the State of Louisiana Office of Group Benefits. He recommends that FQMD apply to determine this and he has signed a letter to the State for this purpose pending Board approval. There is no fee to enroll in this system. Among other things, this allows our enrolled employee access to health benefits and does not change the total value of the employee compensation package. Mr. Emory motioned (M3) that "upon State eligibility approval, the French Quarter Management District Board of Commissioners authorizes the Executive Director to execute the necessary administrative tasks to allow offering health benefits to all FQMD employees through the LA Office of Group Benefits Insurance Program...", seconded by Ms. Cooper and unanimously approved.

VII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: 14 September 2020

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Raines motioned at 3:05 pm (M9) that "the meeting be adjourned...", seconded by Ms. Laughlin and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary