

# French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## Notes Livability Committee Meeting

Wednesday 2 September 2020  
2:10 to 3:10pm

Via Teleconference:

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

Video:

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

Audio:

+1 (469) 445 0100

Meeting ID: 204 758 9217

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:12 pm. The agenda was read into the record.

### ROLL CALL:

| First Name | Last Name | Present | Absent | Notes Approval |
|------------|-----------|---------|--------|----------------|
| Adrienne   | Thomas    |         | x      |                |
| Brittany   | McGovern  | x       |        | Yes            |
| Christian  | Pendleton | x       |        | Yes            |
| Dave       | Jorgensen | x       |        | Yes            |
| Kim        | Rosenberg | x       |        | Yes            |
| Lee        | Tucker    | x       |        | Yes            |

### INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES:

| First Name | Last Name   | Role               |
|------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Karley     | Frankic     | Executive Director |
| Erin       | Holmes      | VCPOA              |
| Eric       | Smith       | City CAO Analyst   |
| Frances    | Hegenberger | Resident           |
| Bob        | Simms       | Resident           |
| Juliet     | Laughlin    | Commissioner       |
| Sue        | Klein       | Commissioner       |
| Chris      | Young       | Business           |
| Jessica    | Dietz       | Resident           |
| Mamie      | Gasperezc   | Commissioner       |

- 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.

# French Quarter

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

III. Adoption of previous meeting notes (action item)

Ms. Rosenberg moved to adopt the previous meeting notes as amended, Ms. Mulla McGovern seconded the motion, and it was approved.

IV. Update on French Quarter Improvement Fund projects

- a. Streetlight installation by Eric Smith  
See attachment

- b. Sidewalk repairs by Karley D. Frankic

Sarah McLaughlin Porteous from the City informed us on Monday that there will be a need to completely reconstruct some sidewalks to address underlying issues, as well as to bring the entire French Quarter's sidewalks into ADA compliance. That figure will exceed the \$2million on bond funding they have identified for sidewalk repairs.

The City has created the work orders for the repairs of Gov Nicholls Street from N. Rampart to French Market Place and Barracks Street from N. Rampart Street to N. Peters Street. The cost came back higher than they had anticipated, and they have asked the contractor, Hard Rock Construction, to go back and reevaluate for repairs only. Once this budget is finalized work orders for additional repair work will be issued for other areas of concentrated need for sidewalk repair.

V. Discussion of the Mayor's Concepts for "Reimagining the French Quarter"

- a. Update on stakeholder engagement by Erin Holmes

The Mayor's Tiger Team charged with "Reimagining the French Quarter" is moving forward in their outreach to various stakeholders. They will be developing discussions with hospitality workers, hoteliers, carriage drivers, neighborhood groups, and culture bearers in the coming weeks.

No new plans or concepts have been presented at this time. Since our last update, the City Council is moving forward with a recommendation to reduce the speed limit on interior French Quarter streets to 15 miles per hour. That discussion will be taken up at the Joint Transportation-Public Works, Sanitation, & Environment Committee meeting on September 9.

Additionally, a pilot demonstration of the French Market concept is coming later this month. For two to four weeks, the block of French Market Place between Gov. Nicholls and Ursulines will be closed from Thursday to Sunday with the assistance of the Department of Public Works. This is intended to test and solicit feedback for a potential parklet program by setting up street furniture and a family-friendly and interactive public art demonstration. The City will be gathering your input during this testing period to determine any future implementation. We will share more details with you as this develops.

- b. Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners (action item)

# French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The committee will work on a recommendation for the board of commissioners to be approved at the next committee meeting that is specific to each concept and clearly addresses expansion of pedestrian malls.

VI. Update on Sidewalk Assessment by Dave Jorgensen and Kim Rosenberg

Mr. Jorgensen and Ms. Rosenberg provided an update on their progress on survey of the existing sidewalk conditions.

VII. Update on 4G and 5G small cell tower installations by Brittany Mulla McGovern

Since October 2019, the FQBA has been working with other French Quarter groups to minimize the impacts of 5G tower installation in the French Quarter. 5G, or Fifth Generation, cellular service is the newest advancement in cellular technology. It requires new transmission towers that differ from the large-scale macro towers and the 74 existing fifteen-foot 4G towers that currently exist in the French Quarter.

The four major mobile carriers currently roll in additional cell towers into the French Quarter during heavy attendance events like French Quarter Fest, Mardi Gras, etc. to keep up with wireless demand. Notably, 5G waves do not penetrate walls, and will not service residents or businesses that operate indoors. This technology is for open air wireless usage only.

The carriers originally proposed installing new 35' - 40' 5G cell towers within the French Quarter Management District boundaries. The Mayor's Office of Utilities and Toro Blanco Group, LLC consulted with the FQBA to design a more appropriate 5G tower that resembles the current streetlights installed in the French Quarter today. We are pleased to show you the Toro Blanco Group, LLC 5G design that will replace the current streetlights.

On August 12, 2020, a decision was made in the City of Portland v. United States case that was heard in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on February 10, 2020. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has defeated dozens of cities in court (including Portland, Oregon; San Francisco; New York City; Los Angeles; Boston; Chicago; Washington, DC; Las Vegas; Philadelphia; Austin, Texas; and others), with judges ruling that the FCC can preempt local fees and regulations imposed on wireless carriers deploying 5G networks.

Rather than give the FCC a complete victory, the judges' panel overturned the commission's preemption of certain aesthetic requirements that cities and towns impose on cellular installations. The FCC ruled that "aesthetics requirements are not preempted if they are (1) reasonable, (2) no more burdensome than those applied to other types of infrastructure deployments, and (3) objective and published in advance." This action reassures that the efforts of the FQBA were appropriate and ahead of our city's peers.

VIII. New business

Ms. Frankic reported that Gail Cavett and Beverly Fulk have resigned from the committee since the last meeting. Ms. Fulk was the key volunteer for completing the annual streetlight assessment.

IX. Next meeting date

The next scheduled meeting is October 7<sup>th</sup>

# French Quarter

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

X. Adjournment

Ms. Rosenberg made the motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Ms. Mulla McGovern, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:51 pm.

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