



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Monday, 12, October 2020

2:14 pm – 4:44 pm

Via Teleconference:

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

Meeting ID: 204 758 9217

Video:

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

Audio:

+1 (469) 445 0100

Commissioners Present:

Susan Klein
Heidi Raines
David Bilbe (Arv. 2:20)
Robert Watters (Depart 3:46)

Juliet Laughlin
Jeremy DeBlieux
Christian Pendleton
Frank Zumbo
Steve Caputo

Jane Cooper
Gail Cavett
Mamie Gasperecz
Matthew Emory

Commissioners Absent:

Executive Director: Karley Frankic

Guests:

Chris Young, FQBL
Peter Bowen, CNO, Deputy CAO of Land Use
Erin Holmes, VCPORA
David Speights, NRMSI
Walt Leger, NO & Co.
Paul Rioux, BGR Research analyst
Michael Ince, Lt. Gov Office

Bob Simms, FQTF
Brittany McGovern, FQBA
Andrew Sullivan, CM Palmer, Chief of Staff
Danielle Leger, LRA
Michael Issac Stein, The Lens Reporter
Bridget Neal, Lt. Gov. Office, FQ Special Projects
Allen Johnson, French Market Corp.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES at 2:14 pm. Mr. Frankic read the Agenda as noticed.

- II. PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Pendleton noted 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. Everyone was asked to mute their phone when not speaking, and do not speak over anyone. Also, to the best of our knowledge, FQMD is in full compliance of the Governor's COVID-19 directive regarding teleconferencing as it

applies to Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

The Agenda was read into the meeting by Executive Director Frankic.

CHANGE OF AGENDA: Treasurer DeBlieux requested a change of the agenda due to family obligations. Mr. DeBlieux motioned (**M1**) that “the Government Affairs Committee Report be moved up to item VI to follow the Treasurer’s Report...”, seconded by Ms. Klein and unanimously approved.

III. PRESENTATION BY PETER G. BOWEN, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, City of New Orleans Office of Business and External Services (OBES):

This City Department was formed to transform the City of NO into the City of YES. This will require a massive cultural shift for departments to become more collaborative including a technological upgrade for the workflow and customer interface, and a physical move from City Hall of the former OneStop offices to Orleans Tower across the street. In the past twelve weeks various departments that have been consolidated are the five traditional land use departments, the Vieux Carre’ Commission (VCC), the Historic Districts Landmarks Commission (HDLC), the City Planning Commission (CPC), Safety and Permits (S&P) and Code Enforcement (CE) with the Offices of Economic Development (OED) and Workforce Development (OWD). Over the next eighteen months OBES will be absorbing all customer interfacing and revenue generating City services departments. The vision is to put residents first regarding housing, jobs, and City services through the lens of equity. He noted the land use departments are the engine driving this restructuring. For example, department outcomes will no longer be measured by the number of permits issued, but the revenue produced, resiliency and equity.

Discussion:

- Responding to Mr. Pendleton, the challenges are French Quarter (FQ) businesses that have been disproportionately disadvantaged by COVID, a long-term challenge of protecting the fabric of the French Quarter, and effective communication methods to vet ideas and have successful collaboration for business growth and residential quality. The success is that the various FQ organizations continue to exist and be pro-active to improve the community. Enforcement of the existing laws and codes versus starting new projects is a concern. He noted boosting enforcement is a priority. Breaking down the silos between the seven stated departments is a tremendous opportunity to streamline ease of workflows and speed outcome with enforcement being fair and stern.
- Responding to Ms. Cooper, the Short-term Rental (STR) enforcement is ramping up due to collaboration with STR platforms to delist illegal rentals. On Friday, the team spoke to a software firm that interfaces with Granicus regarding a compliance tool currently being used in other cities. This could result in automatic illegal delisting, if utilized by the City. This is in the new budget. Also, there are more weekend inspectors when STR booking is highest. The enforcement focus will be on the biggest negative impact versus the order of reporting.
- Responding to Ms. Klein, the plan is to have all revenue producing departments report to OBES for licensing and enforcement purposes.
- Responding to Mr. Watters, as the City looks to its future resiliency, business sectors other than hospitality must be developed to diversity its revenue streams. Mr. Bowen’s education and background are in the hospitality industry.
- Responding to Mr. DeBlieux, he agreed the City needs to act on the illegal vending of alcoholic beverages on the French Quarter streets and near sporting venues which are 100% unchecked &

- puts at risk the purchasing public. He would like to work with FQMD to address this.
- Responding to Ms. Cavett, he would welcome a list of business and residential data-based or anecdotal recommendations to forward his mission for the FQMD footprint. Especially, to improve effective and efficient enforcement and resiliency. For example, there are some STR locations that are not listed on any platforms and information must be sent by neighbors of those illegal locations. Any information is appreciated.
- Ms. Frankic shall send Mr. Bowen's email to all the Commissioners.

Mr. Pendleton thanked Mr. Bowen for his time and presentation, and it was noted these discussions shall continue for the betterment of our community.

IV. APPROVAL OF JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2020 BOARD MINUTES – Ms. Klein

- a. Mr. Klein noted that she received no corrections to the minutes submitted to the Commissioners a week prior and in the Board Packet and would like to approve all four sets “in globo” to conserve meeting time. There was a brief discussion and the recommendation prevailed.
- b. Mr. DeBlieux motioned (**M2**) to “approve as submitted the July (with correction on page 9, VII., a., iv., Motion #4; dissenting and abstaining Commissioners listed by name), August, September 14, and September 21, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes in globo...”, seconded by Ms. Cooper and unanimously approved.

V. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2020 TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. DeBlieux

- a. The Balance Sheet shows the SPPP account at \$ 238,131.24, the General Operating account at \$267,814.27 and the FQMA account at \$8,985.64 for a total of \$514,931.15. There is a zero balance in Account Receivables, and Total Liabilities and Equity at \$529,683.15. All expenditures are acceptable with no odd or irregular entries apart from a Conference and Meeting Expense of \$218.00 for a dinner meeting attended by Chairperson Pendleton, Executive Director Frankic, Councilmember Palmer and Lt. Governor Nungesser. This was substantially discounted by Brennan’s Restaurant. Everything else is in line given the COVID reality and the reduced SPPP expense. The FQMD is saving money wherever possible.
- b. Ms. Klein motioned (**M3**) to “approve the September 2020 Treasurer’s Report...”, seconded by Ms. Gasperecz and unanimously approved. The Treasurer’s Report shall be posted on the FQMD website.

IX. GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Mr. DeBlieux reported the Committee discussed the French Quarter Economic Development District Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (FQ EDD CEA) as well as funding opportunities that are still in production.

- a. FQ EDD CEA: Mr. DeBlieux, Ms. Cooper and Ms. Frankic met with attorney Ms. Sharonda Williams to review the existing FQ CEA and the current Mid-City CEA. The draft was sent to all Commissioners for review and comment to Ms. Williams for any changes. She is committed to finalizing this on Wednesday; then he, Ms. Frankic and Ms. Cooper shall review it before final Board presentation and submission to the City.

The Board packet also included the City’s CEA version.

- Pages 3-4: Some, but not all of the Interfor Study recommendations were added.

- Page 8: The FQ core will be funded by the FQ EDD sales tax (\$1,300,000.00 annually) with a \$575,750.00 start-up budget for the remainder of 2020, covered by other City funds. These other City funds are currently the FQ Improvement Fund monies in dispute with New Orleans and Company. The FQ EDD tax would cover the FQ core and the security in Armstrong Park which currently has a City budget of \$330,000.00.
- Page 10: There shall be monthly reporting on all spending and patrol activities to the City Council and the FQMD. It also adds in FQMD involvement versus the previously proposed Advisory Committee. The FQMD will make final recommendations on how to allocate the remaining funds, be the liaison between the FQMD constituents and the FQ EDD taxing agency (City Council), and the City would remit a monthly fee of 5% of the collected tax to the FQMD (\$120,000.00 annually).

Mr. DeBlieux pointed out while this City CEA proposal contains some good changes, it gives the FQMD zero authority.

Discussion:

- The FQMD CEA was developed by Ms. Williams with input from the Commissioners and Councilperson Palmer and has not been received by the City yet. It is the responsibility of Councilmember Palmer as the City Council designate to present the FQMD CEA to the City.
- Councilmember Palmer is attempting to align the FQMD CEA with the current Mid-City CEA.
- This CEA is required before the December vote.
- The City Council passed three resolutions, one was to renew the FQ EDD tax, and one was for Councilmember Palmer to be the negotiating representative with the City and the FQMD.
- FQMD has not seen a City CEA to date, just the aforementioned proposal which was distributed in today's Board packet.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS – Mr. Pendleton

- a. FQ EDD Tax: Mr. Pendleton had a good conversation with Mr. Simms last week about the uncertainty of the final FQ EDD CEA. Mr. Pendleton reviewed the CEA development and negotiation process. He promotes FQMD transparency with its constituents and to accurately represent the City's position. This shall promote and provide community understanding for District voters to be informed.
- b. Parity: Mr. Pendleton explained his tasking of five Commissioners to gather as a team and make recommendations to ensure a balanced thorough voice for the FQMD. This is an on-going issue, to promote a balanced community perspective. He stated as long as he is a Chairman and Commissioner, he shall push for that to happen.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Ms. Frankic

She noted one year ago she joined the FQMD as its Executive Director. She expressed her views in that capacity and appreciation of working with the Commissioners and other constituent leaders and staff. She noted the current opportunities to rethink how we approach our legislative mandate, embrace best practices as a government agency, and consider paradigm shifts presented by our current environment. She looks forward to continuing the important work we do together to protect, preserve and maintain the

world-famous French Quarter as a safe, clean, vibrant, and friendly neighborhood for residents, businesses, and visitors.

This month has been fraught with repeated hurricane preparations, but we have been keeping a breakneck pace with our initiatives. Several issues and projects she has been working on will be addressed in the committee chairs' reports.

- a. **Public Safety:** There were two articles in *The Lens* this past month regarding FQ supplemental security in the French Quarter. She was interviewed once, and tried to convey the content of the Board's conversation in public meetings around the FQ EDD tax and the French Quarter Improvement Fund (FQIF). The entirety of her quotes related to the transparency, accountability and appreciation about the Louisiana State Police (LSP) were not included in the article and that is disappointing as supplemental security patrols in the French Quarter is of paramount importance and is incredibly nuanced. The context of the quotes used do not reflect the breadth of the interview or this Board's position. The goals were published of maximizing the available dollars for post-certified officers, to unify and streamline the supplemental patrols be under the command of the NOPD, and put forth a public safety program supported by the District voters that will have the ultimate decision if the sales tax is renewed. She will continue to work towards public safety programming that provides for the much-needed supplemental police patrols in the French Quarter with our partners and appointing entities. She is confident that we will find workable solutions with the limited resources that are available to the neighborhood.

G4S ceased services this month based on the Board decision to terminate the month to month engagement. The Board packet includes an updated chart with the new financial scenario. This will help to inform Agenda item XI. b.

- b. **Quality of Life - 5G Small Cell Towers:** The French Quarter Executive Director Working Group (VCCF, FQBA, VCPORA and FQMD) established a connection with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) representative who is overseeing the 5G pole installation in the French Quarter. A planned prototype viewing of the Toro Blanco light pole style small cell tower planned for last week at a couple of French Quarter locations was postponed due to Hurricane Delta. New dates and times are forthcoming. And a public records request was submitted to the Vieux Carré Commission for AT&T's package. A map of Verizon's first round of proposed locations was included in the Board packet.
- c. **Commercial & Residential Vitality - Mayor's Proposal for "Reimagining the French Quarter":** The City canceled the external working team calls in early September. There is a call scheduled for next week to revisit the Mayor's Internal Tiger Team progress in relation to the Outdoor Dining pilot, the French Market Place pedestrian mall pilot program, and future design charettes. She continues to stress the importance of establishing Key Performance Indices upon which the success of the pilot programs shall be evaluated. There are two open work orders for sidewalk repairs:
 1. Barracks Street (North Rampart to Mississippi River)
 2. Gov. Nicholls (North Rampart to Mississippi River)

The City anticipates doing Ursulines, St. Philip and Dumaine next (North Rampart to river for all). Depending on the funds left at this point, Burgundy, Dauphine, Bourbon, Royal, Chartres,

and Decatur (Esplanade to Dumaine) will be done. This scope is prone to change depending on the amount of work needed on a block-by-block basis and if additional funds become available. There are some things that are related to sidewalk repairs such as drainage point repairs that are only done when the drainage issue is determined to be impacting the sidewalk quality. The work on Barracks is around \$300,000.00. Assuming similar levels of work on the other streets, the remaining budget will allow the City to address repairs all the way to Dumaine and then address some issues on upriver-downriver streets, if funding is still available. If the City encounters more needs on other streets, this will impact repair costs and how far the existing budget will carry us. It is a standard specification that historic street name tiles be retained or reinstalled when sidewalks are repaired in all of City contracts, including Hard Rock's contract.

- d. Administration - Appropriation: The Louisiana Legislature called a second extraordinary session on September 28th that will focus on Hurricane Laura recovery, COVID-19 funding, and the State's unemployment fund, lasting through October 27th. Our friends in the hospitality industry have been working in Baton Rouge, lobbying to secure gap funding to be able to provide continued operations of FQMD's supplemental police patrols. We are preparing to adapt quickly if the State can provide an appropriation to address the COVID impact on public safety and quality of life in the French Quarter. The \$1,000,000.00 Katrina Relief CDBG-DR appropriation from the spring special session of the state legislature could be used for replacement of the French Quarter RTA Circulator Shuttle. She spoke with staff in both District C and the RTA Planning Department; they are working up a budget for this operation. Once a budget is done, identifying a source for the startup operations would be the next step before going back to the Office of Community Development.
- e. Meetings attended:
- 9/13 Cm. Palmer Neighborhood Hurricane Sally Call
 - 9/15 FQBA Quality of Life Committee Meeting
 - 9/15 NOPD MAX Meeting
 - 9/16 VCC Meeting re: 5G cell phone tower
 - 9/21 FQMD Special Board Meeting
 - 9/22 French Quarter ED Working Group meeting
 - 9/22 NOPD MAX meeting
 - 9/23 Interview with Michael Stein
 - 9/23 RTA & District C meeting re: French Quarter Circulator Shuttle
 - 9/24 New Orleans & Company State of Industry webinar
 - 9/23 FQMD Government Affairs Committee meeting
 - 9/24 FQMD Security & Enforcement Committee meeting
 - 9/25 RTA meeting re: New Links initiative
 - 9/25 French Quarter ED Working Group meeting
 - 9/28 Meeting with City Park President re: CDBG-DR appropriation
 - 9/28 FQ EDD CEA meeting with legal counsel
 - 9/30 BGR Breakfast Briefing re: New Orleans public safety
 - 9/30 FQ EDD CEA meeting with legal counsel
 - 10/2 Meeting with a consultant for the Lt. Governor
 - 10/5 FQMD Finance & Development Committee
 - 10/6 FQ EDD CEA meeting with legal counsel
 - 10/6 FQ ECC CEA meeting with District C

- 10/6 Meeting with new City Deputy CAO of OBES
- 10/6 NOPD MAX meeting
- 10/6 Meeting w/ GNO Inc & hospitality leaders re: Reimagining the French Quarter
- 10/7 FQMD Livability Committee meeting
- 10/8 Smart City Futures webinar

DISCUSSION: Ms. Laughlin noted that The Lens reporter was attending if she wanted to request a retraction to the published article. Ms. Frankic noted in her report that the article did not represent the depth and breadth of her comments. Ms. Laughlin suggested caution when mentioning the LSP or any other State entity since we are seeking State financial support. Mr. Pendleton clarified the issue as it referred to documentation of the requested LSP funding. Ms. Laughlin read the quote in question and Mr. Pendleton suggested that if she wanted to further the discussion, we could do so in executive session. Mr. Stein, the reporter asked what context was not included in the article? Mr. Pendleton noted the context was that the LSP was spending money on things other than security, like vehicle maintenance.

VIII. FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Raines reported the Committee met On Monday, October 5, 2020. They are preparing for the 2021 fiscal year. The Committee is tasked with providing guidance, direction, oversight, and execution of FQMDs finance and operational strategic plan of the budgets, and activity reporting. In matters requiring a Board resolution, it is tasked with bringing these items to the Board for approval. Today there are two topics for Board consideration. and one for approval at our next meeting.

- a. Committee Recommendation to the Board to approve the job description for an Interim Deputy Director of Projects: This recommendation considered a past FQMD approved job description with Ms. Frankic comparing it to Civil Service guidelines, including approved job titles. Compensation for this position is under review and will be included in the 2021 budget for Board approval.

DISCUSSION:

- Mr. Simms reviewed the description and returned the draft with comments. He does not know if those comments were included. The main comment noted the proposed title and description is accurate for what we do today but not if the Mid-City model is followed. In that case, many of these duties will fall to the NOPD supervisor.
- Mr. Watters replied to Mr. Simms comments. He stated the Committee felt it was better to have an expanded description until the FQ EDD CEA was finalized. At that point, the job description would be adjusted to align with the CEA. Also, the language was designed to be flexible enough for both situations. The Committee did not want to breach client/attorney privilege before all the CEA amendments were finished. The development process began last year and was checked for Civil Service compliance. Legally this can be distributed following the final document review with Ms. Williams and Mr. Simms can review it then.
- Responding to Ms. Cooper, the timeline following approval shall place it into the FQMD 2021 budget for Committee review and recommendation to the Board for approval. Next the job would be posted, and applications vetted when the Board is ready to move on this hiring. Today only approving the job title and description is being sought and not the compensation or spending of those funds.
- Ms. Laughlin noted unclassified hiring does not require Civil Service competitive hiring.
- Ms. Cavett is somewhat uncomfortable to approve anything Mr. Simms, as the current expert

has not reviewed. Additionally, FQMD does not know what the final job descriptions will be prior to CEA adoption. Ms. Raines noted no job would be posted without Board approval. Ms. Frankic verified all of Mr. Simms suggestions were included in the FQMD CEA draft. Therefore, FQMD should move forward on the Committee recommendation.

- Responding to Ms. Laughlin, Mr. Pendleton noted the program language allows for duties to extend beyond security and extend to all public safety issues including quality of life and code enforcement issues.
- Responding to Ms. Cavett, any actions taken today can be amended as circumstances change.
- Ms. Cooper verified some items go beyond security.

Mr. Caputo moved **(M4)** to “accept the job description of Interim Deputy Director of Projects as recommended by the Finance & Development Committee...”, seconded by Mr. Watters and unanimously approved.

- b. Committee Recommendation to the Board to create a Committee Leadership Policy: Ms. Raines noted the FQMD bylaws were reviewed and read Article 14 A. 1. a.; (Committee) “Nominations made by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners should be guided by the need to achieve balance and even representation/contributions during Committee deliberations and by the nominee’s nexus to the French Quarter”. Therefore, the Committee found adopting a policy for Committee leadership parity is in line with the bylaws and recommends the following:

1. There shall be a chair and vice-chair for each Committee to be split between a business and residential representative.
2. The Vice-chair shall fill the role of the Chair when not available to perform their duties.
3. Both the Committee Chair and Vice-chair shall be invited to external meeting related to the work of the Committee.
4. Each Commissioner shall be able to hold one Committee seat whether Chair or Vice-chair.

Discussion:

- Mr. Watters noted that the only possible problem would be not having sufficient Commissioners to lead, but that would not stop him from supporting this resolution.
- Ms. Raines noted this is a first step to Board parity and other action would require a bylaw change.
- For clarity, the Parity Team did not request that both the Chair and the Vice-Chair be Commissioners, just that a Commissioner could not hold two positions. Therefore, a non-Commissioner may hold one of these positions. This was verified by Ms. Cavett, Mr. Bilbe and Mr. Caputo.

Ms. Copper moved **(M5)** to “approve the Finance and Development Committee recommendations on Committee parity. Namely, there shall be a chair and vice-chair for each Committee to be split between a business and residential representative, the Vice-chair shall fill the role of the Chair when not available to perform their duties, both the Committee Chair and Vice-chair shall be invited to external meeting related to the work of the Committee, and each Commissioner shall be able to hold one Committee seat whether Chair or Vice-chair...” seconded by Ms. Laughlin and unanimously approved.

- c. Commissioner and community input will be discussed at the November 2, 2020 Committee

Meeting. This will involve taking up a policy for public comment at our meetings to ensure there is a workable avenue for participation. Ms. Raines invited everyone to weigh in at the November Committee Meeting.

X. LIVABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Pendleton

- a. Infrastructure: A one year maintenance warranty on street and sidewalk repairs starts when the final engineering inspection passes. However, Mr. Smith noted the City may not have the manpower verify the quality of the product or request any call-back repairs during the warranty period. Mr. Pendleton asked how to help, and Mr. Smith said FQMD and its constituents should report issues relating to this via 311 online or by phone. The Committee will work on this.
- b. 5G Towers: Everyone was asked to familiarize themselves with the 5G tower map that was presented, since these poles will have a profound effect on the French Quarter streetscape. The FQMD is hoping for a net-zero pole placement. The Board packet included Verizon's plan only. Receipt of the other three carrier plans is still pending. To minimize the pole height, the carriers will not co-mingle their equipment. This also means holes for each carrier will have to be dug. The VCC is familiar with this project and a VCC's sub-committee is working on this. Unfortunately, since the VCC does not have governance over 5G placement, it can only make a non-binding recommendation. However, since it does require a Federal Section 106 Review, new poles are not allowed to be placed until SHPO finalizes this. Ms. Gasperecz noted that if anyone sees a 5G tower being installed they should notify the VCC, FQMD, VCPORA or FQBA. Mr. Jonathan Rhodes, CNO, Director of the Office of Utilities is overseeing this project. Ms. Holmes noted that the next times & dates for prototype inspections shall be from 5-7pm on this Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 816 North Rampart Street and from 3-7pm on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at Chartres and Ursuline Streets. Ms. Frankic shall send out a note on this.
- c. Committee Mission and Recommendation: The French Quarter Management District Livability Committee's mission is to address and improve the quality of life for the residents and businesses in the French Quarter. This Committee shall address issues such as sanitation, repair and maintenance, sound levels, residency, and any other issues that may arise affecting our quality of life.

The FQMD Livability Committee has reviewed the City's "Reimagining the French Quarter" pedestrianization of the French Quarter presentation dated June 15th of this year as well as the "French Quarter Pedestrianization Survey" results.

- Concept 1: Slow Quarter "Slow Car" French Quarter Concept, without the mid-Quarter reversal of travel direction or alternating parking
 - o Reduced speeds for interior and perimeter roads
 - o Gateway pavement treatments at entrance points that will include reduced speed signage, high visibility pedestrian crossings, bollards, or planters to narrow entrance points
 - o Do not alternate curbside parking block by block
 - o Do not reverse travel direction mid-Quarter for 1 block of Dauphine and Burgundy with bike contraflow with reference to local traffic only
- Concept 2: Safer Rampart Street Concept
 - o Reduced speed, improved left turning vehicle crossings including signalization
 - o Incorporate high visibility pedestrian crosswalks, a protected bike lane, and

- safety bollards at various intersections
- Pedestrian and cyclist generators including safe connections to Carondelet Street streetcar stop, Basin Street RTA hub (planned) and Armstrong Park

THE FOLLOWING CONCEPTS REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STUDY FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND SUCCESS

- Concept 4: French Market Pedestrian Concept
 - Closure of French Market Place to vehicles to allow vendors to spread out at six feet distancing
 - Provide more café seating and public seating
 - Barracks St. to be prioritized as loading zone
- Concept 7: Decatur/N. Peters Concept
 - Temporary and permanent expansion of sidewalks for outdoor cafes and shaded seating areas, parklets
 - High visibility crosswalk and pedestrian islands
 - Do Not Support Decatur upriver lane, from Dumaine to Wilkinson, closed to personal vehicles but open for bikes, buses, mules, and emergency vehicles

THE FOLLOWING CONCEPTS DO NOT ADDRESS OR IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN THE FRENCH QUARTER

- Concept 3: Civic Spine with Pedestrian Mall Expansion
 - Creating a pedestrian “Spine” connecting Jackson Square to Armstrong Park
 - Allowing limited local car traffic on Orleans, Royal, Dauphine, and Burgundy, but no upriver/downriver crossing
 - Removal of off-street parking along spine and along each crossing half block
 - Integration of pedestrian features
- Concept 6: Upriver/River “Safe and Social” Concept
 - Vehicular traffic closed in upriver quadrant at 5:00pm
 - Inclusion of pedestrian streetscapes in entire area including parklets, street furniture, etc.

To remove all doubt, the French Quarter Management District does not support the expansion of pedestrian malls in the French Quarter except for the concepts around the French Market.

- Concept 5: Frenchman Street Mall Concept is located outside of FQMD Jurisdiction.

SYNOPSIS: It is recommended that the City provide a clear plan for community engagement including design charrettes, a timeline for revisions based on stakeholder feedback, and a matrix of Key Performance Indices by which pilot programs shall be evaluated that prioritize residential and business stakeholder response.

Based on the City’s Pedestrianization Survey’s 2,024 responses, the overwhelming input from the public was that public safety and quality of life are their biggest concerns, with improved sidewalks and

sanitation being the most desired improvements to be made by the City. These results of the City's survey emphasize the need to focus efforts and available dollars on the following priorities:

- Public Safety
- Improved Sidewalks
- Improved Sanitation

Discussion:

- Mr. Zumbo questioned if the Hotel Association was familiar with the final document and what was the objection to the parking alterations by block.
- Mr. Bilbe and Mr. Caputo saw no major differences with the hotel position, with the exception of the block by block alternating parking pattern during certain hours.
- Ms. Frankic noted the Committee objection was to the specific streets cited for this parking alternating pattern.
- Mr. Caputo felt this was a good start to tackle traffic issues as items are negotiated with the City.
- Ms. Klein noted that any changes to alternating traffic routes or parking patterns affect businesses and residents that may have driveways that rely on the current layout. Changing what exists now would eliminate additional parking for those properties.
- Ms. Cavett noted when the bike recommendations were submitted that included alternating routes and parking lanes, it was denied due to public safety concerns.

Mr. Pendleton will bring this back to Committee to fine-tune the document for passage at the November Board Meeting.

- XI. SECURITY & ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Emory recognized Mr. Bob Simms for his commitment, efforts, and passion over the years in his contributions to a safer French Quarter. Various Commissioners including Ms. Gasperecz and Mr. Caputo extended their thanks for his selfless work and the organization's betterment. Mr. Simms thanked everyone for their kind words.
- a. Report on Supplemental Police Patrol Program by Robert Simms – There is an NOPD 10% police pay cut, and staffing has stable so far at 93%. There has been three smart car repairs this month. He developed an electronic "white Board" for shift tracking on any the SPPP iPads. There was a drop in the number of subjects moved this quarter, but he anticipates a rise here. Disturbances and fights had the highest app calls, followed by suspicious people, and blocked rights of way and aggressive solicitation. Mr. Pendleton commented on his good work. Governor Nicholls and French Quarter Place are beginning to have a larger homeless encampment and he sees it on the rise. Mr. Caputo recommended the encampment pictures should be shared with the Mayor, Councilmember Palmer, and all councilmembers in addition to the NOPD, since the situation is getting worse. Ms. Klein requested that Mr. Peter Bowen be notified also. Mr. Pendleton noted that Mr. Simms has been a trusted and reliable resource for French Quarter security at his and his family's inconvenience, far more than others would have for the benefit of our entire community and sincerely appreciates everything he has done.
 - b. Review of Supplemental Police Patrol Program deployment plan as per the June Board Motion Mr. Simms believes with the current revenue, the SPPP could be operational through February 2021 pending unforeseen expenses. Therefore, the SPPP current staffing level shall remain.
 - c. Committee report by Ms. Cavett: Lt. Sam Colombo spoke at the last meeting and noted that the

8th District officers can enforce all laws and can issue summons for all form of misdemeanors. In the past two weeks enforcement on Bourbon Street has increased with the Promenade being staffed from 8:25pm to 5am. They have 15 patrol officers and two rank officers with 66% working per day. Vehicles are being used more due to COVID and are working with the quality of life officers during the day. There are 110 total officers with 78 officers on active patrol, not including rank and detectives. Vagrant sweeps can be reactivated. They have been told not to enforce truancy, but to enforce curfews. The 8th District desk sergeant phone number is 658-6080.

XII. OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR YEAR 2021: *(To be voted on at November Board Meeting)*

Chairman Pendleton noted the following nominations thus far:

- a. Board Officers
 1. Chair: Mr. Pendleton
 2. Vice-Chair: Ms. Raines
 3. Secretary: Ms. Klein
 4. Treasurer: Mr. DeBlieux
- b. Committee Leadership:
 1. Finance and Development: Ms. Gasperecz as Chair and Mr. Zumbo as Vice-chair
 2. Government Affairs: Mr. DeBlieux as Chair
 3. Livability: Ms. Gasperecz as Vice-chair with Ms. Erin Holmes as a new member. Ms. Klein motioned (M6) that “Ms. Erin Holmes be a member of the Livability Committee...”, seconded by Ms. Cavett and unanimously approved.
 4. Security and Enforcement: Ms. Cooper and Mr. Emory, both as Chair

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: *None*

XIV. NEXT MEETING: 9 November 2020

XV. ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Klein motioned at 4:42 pm (M7) that “the meeting be adjourned...”, seconded by Mr. Zumbo and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary