



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Monday, 9 November 2020

2:10 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 Gasperez
Matthew Emory (Ar. 2:25)

Executive Director: Karley Frankic

Guests:

Bob Simms, FQTF
Erin Holmes, VCPORA
David Speights, NRMSI
Paul Rioux, BGR Research analyst
Kristin Gisleson Palmer, Dist. C Councilmember

Brittany McGovern, FQBA
Andrew Sullivan, CM Palmer, Chief of Staff
Stan Harris, LRA
Eric Smith, CNO
Beverly Fulk

- 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. Mr. Pendleton introduced Councilmember Palmer.
- III. PRESENTATION BY COUNCIOMEMBER KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER (FQEDD tax): She thanked everyone for their work and diligence on this and the ability to come to consensus. She knows the Commissioners are volunteers and their motivation is a desire to make the French Quarter a

better place to live, work and visit. She and her staff worked on the FQMD charge to craft a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Administration on this tax reflective of the FQMD constituency desires. On Friday she and Mr. Sullivan met with the Administration and was pleased with the discussion and the CEA is being reviewed by the City Legal Department. She asked for changes in the FQMD CEA that she submitted based upon their meeting and so everyone would be working from the same document.

What is on the table is a revenue split of 75% direct to FQMD with 25% to the City for grounds patrol with the City controlling the fund. She asked what the mechanism for revenue allocation will be as the fund increases and how to word craft this into the CEA with FQMD making the budget decision on these funds in collaboration with the City. Additionally, in the event of a dispute, this should be put into writing and brought to the City Council as the governing body and this will be added. The CEA should also enshrine regular meetings between the City department heads so that the criteria is met and they and FQMD are working collaboratively. When she receives the document, she will bring it to FQMD for review to process in a timely manner.

DISCUSSION:

- Mr. DeBlieux thanked Councilmember Palmer for carrying the banner on this on behalf of FQMD and the entire French Quarter.
- Mr. Pendleton thanked Councilmember Palmer and her staff especially since the process has been long. Also, he hopes the City recognizes that the FQMD wants to be part of the solution to reclaim economic sustainability in the French Quarter. Councilmember Palmer believes Mayor Cantrell welcomes this collaboration and that of the French Market Corporation (FMC) of which she is a Board Member and Chair of the Security Committee. FMC is also working towards a unified command and approves of the FQMD letter sent to the Downtown Development District (DDD) regarding shared income prospects for the downriver side of Canal Street to the upriver side of Iberville which she will follow-up on. This would replace the non-POST certified DDD Rangers with the FQMD French Quarter Task Force (FQTF) patrols with the necessary funding being transferred from the DDD to the FQMD. These plans and the collaboration were enhanced by the third-party FQMD Security Study and motivates her to work on this project.
- Regarding the Mayor's November 11 public meeting, Ms. Cooper asked if it is to present the City Plan or the FQMD collaborative plan for French Quarter public safety? She assumes it will be the collaborative plan, but Councilmember Palmer will get us more information on this.
- Ms. Gasperecz thanked Councilmember Palmer for her leadership when working with the FQMD, the FMC and the Vieux Carré Commission in a collaborative way.
- Ms. Klein thanked Councilmember Palmer and Mr. Sullivan and noted it was rewarding to work with them and collaboratively with so many groups on consensus, and the FQMD looks forward to seeing the final document.
- Ms. Cavett thanked her for her leadership and both she and Mr. Sullivan for their hard work and that her report was incredibly good news. Councilmember Palmer thanked her for all her work, especially what she has contributed to the FQTF, and that it is well run and accountable.

Mr. Pendleton thanked Councilmember Palmer and Mr. Sullivan for their time and the presentation.

- IV. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Mr. Pendleton shared at end of the week, Ms. Frankic and he shall meet with the DDD Board Chairman and leadership to discuss program collaboration and its funding. The goal is the successful and efficient use of patrolling the area of the upriver side of Canal Street to North

Rampart to the downriver side of Iberville Street and to the Mississippi River. He will keep District C and the Commissioners apprised of any developments and shall seek Committee input as required for outcomes and Board action.

- V. OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR YEAR 2021: Mr. Pendleton reviewed the nomination requests received. The previous nominees Mr. Caputo, Mr. Zumbo, Mr. Bilbe and Mr. Emory confirmed that they declined or moved to Vice-chairman positions due to work obligations. The nominees presented for confirmation were:
- a. Board Leadership
 - 1. Chairman: Mr. Pendleton
 - 2. Vice-Chairman: Ms. Raines
 - 3.. Secretary: Ms. Klein
 - 4. Treasurer: Mr. DeBlieux
 - b. Committee Leadership
 - 1. Finance and Development: Ms. Raines, Chairman; Mr. Zumbo, Vice-chairman
 - 2. Government Affairs: Mr. DeBlieux, Chairman, Ms. Cavett, Vice-chairman
 - 3. Livability: Ms. Gasperez, Chairman; Mr. Jorgenson, Vice-chairman
 - 4. Security and Enforcement: Ms. Cooper, Chairman; Mr. Emory, Vice-chairman

Ms. Raines motioned (**M1**) to “approve the FQMD 2021 Board and Committee officer ballot as presented...”, seconded by Mr. Zumbo and unanimously approved.

Mr. Pendleton congratulated those elected and thanked them for their willingness to serve. He shared he is beyond proud of what FQMD has and will accomplish and looks forward to serving with everyone next year.

- VI. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 12 and OCTOBER 21, 2020 MEETINGS MINUTES – Ms. Klein
- a. Mr. Klein noted that she received a typographical correction from Mr. DeBlieux for the October 12, 2020 minutes with no corrections on the October 21 minutes and requested an in globo motion to approve both the October 12th and October 21st minutes.
 - b. Ms. Cooper motioned (**M2**) to “approve the final submission of the October 12, 2020 and the October 21, 2020 minutes...” seconded by Mr. DeBlieux and unanimously approved.
- VII. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2020 TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. DeBlieux
- a. The Balance Sheet shows the SPPP account at \$197,958.72, the General Operating account at \$251,158.90 and the FQMA account at \$8,985.64 for a total of \$458,103.26. There is a zero balance in Account Receivables, and Total Liabilities and Equity at \$477,061.77. All expenditures are acceptable with no odd or irregular entries, but did note the insurance cost of \$13, 927.00. Everything else is in line given the COVID reality and the reduced SPPP expense. He noted the Profit and Loss Statement is a rolling spreadsheet that is reviewed monthly. The Budget versus Actual Statement understandably negated the pre-pandemic projections.
 - b. Mr. Watters motioned (**M3**) to “approve the October 2020 Treasurer’s Report as submitted...”, seconded by Ms. Gasperez and unanimously approved. The Treasurer’s Report shall be posted on the FQMD website.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Frankic noted several issues and projects that she has been working on will be addressed in the Committee reports.

- a. Administrative – She worked with the FQMD accountant to reassess the 2020 budget and prepare the 2021 budget for a December Board review after required public advertising has been completed. Unfortunately, the FQMD did not receive an appropriation in the fall special session of the state legislature. The FQMD is currently working with the Lt. Governor to secure gap funding to assure that we can keep our Supplemental Police Patrol Program patrolling.
- b. Public Safety - Current projections show that FQMD can keep the Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP) running for seven weeks into 2021. With Councilmember Palmer's leadership, a compromise for the expenditures on the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) sales tax revenues is close to fruition. Trusting that the FQMD Board agrees to the terms, voter education and public outreach ahead of the December 5th election will be the focus.
- c. Quality of Life
 1. 5G Small Cell Towers - Toro Blanco (TB) and the City hosted prototype pole demonstrations on October 21st and 22nd. Each day attracted around thirty people and reactions were mixed. After listening to a couple responses, Toro Blanco has a redesign the working group will review. It is still unclear who will own each pole (the carriers or TB) and who the point person at the City will be for issues with the installation.



The French Quarter Working Group of Executive Directors met with Councilmember Jason Williams' staff last week. He has been a proponent of new technologies being deployed in an equitable fashion. The working group provided a background of the work that has gone into improving the designs and asked for assistance in assuring that these design standards be codified by the City Council to protect the tout ensemble of the French Quarter.

- d. Commercial & Residential Vitality
 1. Mayor's Proposal for "Reimagining the French Quarter" - The City announced the commencement of the French Market Place pilot Friday, October 30th to kick off the following day. It includes metal tables and chairs, umbrellas, and temporary barricades. The pilot program will continue on the weekends. There will be a public design charette on November 16th at 6:00 pm advertised on the City website. See the flyer below.



French Market Place Concept Charrette

Monday, November 16th at 6PM

Dial-in number: (415) 655-0001
Access code: 146 003 0612

To access via WebEx, please RSVP at:
nola.gov/neoevents

Questions:
allison.cormier@nola.gov

For more information please visit:
nola.gov/mayor/french-quarter-pedestrianization/

 CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
NEIGHBORHOOD
ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

The parklet program has been expanded outside of the DDD. The working team is trying to get details on the criteria for which parking spaces are eligible to clarify potential impacts to residential parking spaces and loading zones that effect residential and business access. The City also announced an Outdoor Dining Grant Program for up to \$2,000 to assist with the costs. Temporary NOPD or construction style barricades will be made available on a first come, first served basis.

2. Sidewalk repairs - Hard Rock Construction has started work along the upriver side of Barracks Street and is estimated to begin work on Governor Nicholls in approximately four weeks, though a hard Notice to Proceed (NTP) date is not yet set. Ms. Jennifer Ruly of the City’s Department of Public Works (DPW) said she will send updates as NTPs are released.
3. Slow Zone – The City Council passed the slow zone ordinance, and it is been signed so the speed limit in the interior quarter is now 15 mph. Mr. Andrew Sullivan, District C Chief of Staff is researching the plan for signage and other treatments. There is no update on the possibility of reducing speed limits on the perimeter streets that FQMD has historically supported. Ms. Frankic shall update the Board as new information and time-lines become available. Ms. Cooper was curious about enforcement and Ms. Klein suggested the City use cameras as they do in school zones.

e. Meetings attended:

Date	Meeting
10/14	External Tiger Team Meeting - “Reimagining the French Quarter”
10/14	RTA - French Quarter Circulator Bus
10/14	FQMD Government Affairs Committee Meeting
10/15	Lt. Governor Nungesser
10/15	Unity - homelessness in the French Quarter
10/16	FQ EDD Call with legal counsel
10/19	FQ Working Group with consultant to Lt. Governor Nungesser
10/19	Accountant - 2020 revised and 2021 budgets
10/19	FQMD Security & Enforcement Committee

- 10/20 FQBA Quality of Life Committee
- 10/21 FQMD Special Board Meeting
- 10/22 FQ Working Group -Toro Blanco 5G design
- 10/23 Julio Guichard, Lt. Governor’s office - gap funding
- 10/23 Hand out masks w/ Lt. Governor Nungesser
- 10/26 District C Neighborhood Leaders Briefing
- 10/30 District C Neighborhood Call - Hurricane Zeta Recovery
- 11/2 FQ Working Group - Pedestrianization & 5G
- 11/4 FQM Livability Committee
- 11/4 Councilmember Williams’ staff - 5G design standards and legislative approach

IX. FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Raines noted the Committee meet on Monday, November 2, 2020.

- a. Revised budget – The Committee reviewed the budget with regards to funding shortfalls and what adjustments should be recommended to the Board. Posting compliance for Budget changes or for the 2021 Budget was discussed. The 2020 changes were sent to Treasurer DeBlieux for review.
- b. 2021 Budget – This was reviewed and sent on to Mr. DeBlieux. The 2021 Budget shall be voted on at the December 14, 2020 Board Meeting following public notice.
- b. Public Comment Policy – the following are suggestions:
 1. Submit directly to publiccomments@FQMD.org. These will be taken until the agenda is read and they can be read into the meeting at the “Public Comment” time.
 2. For in person meetings, comment cards will be available, given to Ms. Frankic and read out loud with a two minute time cap. This was based on other public meeting standards.
 3. For virtual meetings, the public shall be able to raise their hand for verbal comment or Mr. Frankic shall read their “chat box” comment. Again, speaking shall be limited to two minutes.

Ms. Cooper moved to **(M4)** “approve the Finance and Development Committee Public Comment Policy recommendations as cited in Section IX. a.1.-3. of the November 9, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes and they shall be listed on the FQMD website...”, seconded by Ms. Gasperecz and unanimously approved.

Mr. Caputo stated this was well done and similar to the Convention Center Board procedure with their Chairman reviewing the submitted comments.

- c. Presentation of Commissioner Qualifications Verification Policy – Ms. Raines reviewed the document sent with the Board Packet.

DISCUSSION:

- Replying to Mr. DeBlieux questioning the Mayoral appointment that a business headquartered in the District, is specified by RS 25:799 of the FQMD empowering legislation and repeated in the FQMD Bylaws.
- Ms. Laughlin questioned one District C appointment criteria requiring a business to have a current business license. It was noted that was inserted in keeping with the intent of the legislation that a business be in operation during the entire appointment.
- Mr. DeBlieux noted this documentation would not be redefining the empowering legislation, but

rather to prove the appointments as stated in the legislation.

- Mr. Raines also noted as a policy, this does not require a bylaw change.

Ms. Cavett moved to approve Commissioner appointment verification policy as presented to the FQMD Board...”, seconded Ms. Gasperecz.

- Mr. Watters raised the question of domicile (and its meaning) and resident voter for District C. Ms. Cooper noted the Parity Team strongly believed a residential appointee should be an elector in District C, as is required for all the other residential appointments. There was more discussion regarding the spirit of the legislative text versus whether a policy would add requirements above the legislative minimum. The rationale was to have an appointee that is vested in and cares about the neighborhood and not just someone who may meet a minimal requirement being less than the other twelve appointees.
- Following the discussion, Ms. Cavett withdrew her motion.
- The two topics at hand are how appointees are qualified for their respective positions, and how this is validated in keeping with the text and spirit of the FQMD empowering legislation.

Ms. Frankic shall schedule a Parity Team Meeting to be held within the next two weeks as an open meeting for further vetting and recommendations for action at the FQMD December Board Meeting.

- d. The next Committee Meeting shall be on Monday, January 14, 2021 where Committee overviews shall be discussed.

VIII. GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Mr. DeBlieux reported the Committee met on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 2:10 p.m.

- a. The FQEDD tax’s ongoing negotiations were discussed. Seeking additional funding, Ms. Frankic developed a package for presentation to Lt. Governor Nungesser who has a 5,000,000.00 budget allocated for tourism.
- b. The next Committee Meeting shall be Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 2:10 p.m.

IX. LIVABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Ms. Frankic reporting for Mr. Pendleton noted some of the topics were discussed in the Executive Director’s Report.

- a. Ms. Frankic is awaiting a response from on the streetlight survey from Mr. Smith from the City. Mr. Smith states he shall send updates to Ms. Frankic within the next 24-48 hours.
- b. Mr. Jorgenson has completed the sidewalk assessments ground survey and he shall be completing the data sheets shortly. Ms. Frankic thanked Mr. Jorgenson and Ms. Rosenberg for their work on this.

XII. SECURITY & ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Mr. Emory said he would like to know where we are as a Board regarding the renewal of the FQTF app license.

- a. Report on Supplemental Police Patrol Program by Mr. Robert Simms – Stated there is no licensing agreement between Mr. Sidney Torres and FQMD and has been operating for over five years as a good will agreement. He noted Mr. Torres developed the app at his own cost and has about \$400,000.00 in this program, as well as Mr. Simms. Additionally, almost everything in FQTF office at the NOPD 8th District office belongs to Mr. Torres. Mr. Emory asked whether

some pricing consideration could be given to FQMD going forward, since the FQTF application was the pilot for this interactive app that has since been marketed to other law enforcement. The City furloughs have resulted in NOPD resignations and this will be a future challenge. Hurricanes also present staffing problems. Ms. Simms thanked Mr. Bilbe for housing the vehicles at the Royal Orleans for twelve hours during the hurricane. Vehicle repairs cost \$2,000.00 this month. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) is down to twelve hour shifts per day for one to six officers. The patrol is from about 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. According to LSP Troop N 2019 statistics, the NOPD 8th District would require forty-five additional officers for the French Quarter zones and the FQTF would require nine. Year-to-date there is overall a 34% reduction in crime due to COVID restrictions. October had big increase in app calls with increasing crowds due to lessening restrictions. Currently, the predominance of violent crime is on Canal Street.

Mr. DeBlieux asked if the City is holding the LSP accountable for the CEA requirements on staffing, but Mr. Simms could not address this. Mr. Smith said the CEA was revised a few months ago to deal with the loss of revenue for public safety. The City has been working with the LSP to wind down the services going from a cost of \$500,000.00 per month to \$250,000.00 per month. The LSP patrols will end on December 31, 2020.

- b. The next Committee Meeting shall be Monday November 16, 2020 at 2:10pm

XIII NEW BUSINESS: *None*

XIV. NEXT MEETING: 14 December 2020

XV. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. DeBlieux motioned at 4:44 p.m. (**M5**) that “the meeting be adjourned...”, seconded by Mr. Emory and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Klein (signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary