

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Notes Livability Committee Meeting

Wednesday 3 March 2021
4:10 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

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:11 pm and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS				VOTES
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve Notes
David	Bilbe	X		Yes
Mamie	Gasperecz	X		Yes
Erin	Holmes	X		Yes
Dave	Jorgensen	X		Yes
Brittany	Mulla McGovern	X		Yes
Christian	Pendleton	X		Yes
Frank	Perez	X		Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	Executive Director
Gail	Cavett	Commissioner
Jane	Cooper	Commissioner
Lee	Tucker	Former Member
Beverly	Fulk	Former Member
Eric	Smith	City CAO Analyst

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2. Public Comment
No public comment was received.
3. Approval of previous meeting notes
Ms. Mulla McGovern motioned to approve the previous meeting note. Mr. Bilbe seconded the motion, and it was approved.
4. Committee Chair Comments
 - a. Report on Tulane Internships
Chair Gasperecz reported that she had spoken with the Interim Dean of the Tulane School of Historic Preservation and they are very interested in participating in FQMD's Livability Committee Internship program. She has drafted job descriptions for three committee goals, a survey of the 100 blocks, growing the sidewalk assessment, and gathering data for a street light assessment. The job descriptions will be refined with the input of the Vice-Chair and Executive Director.
 - b. Update on Sidewalk Survey presentation to City Council Public Works Committee
Chair Gasperecz reported that she had corresponded with Councilman Giarusso, Chair of the City Council's Public Works Committee, and he was welcoming of FQMD to present the 2020 Sidewalk assessment. Vice-Chair Jorgensen noted that we need to work with the City to report necessary repairs and new damage. Chair Gasperecz noted that Brian Block, Director of the Vieux Carre Commission is beginning to look into the damage caused by the ongoing sidewalk repairs to historic buildings. Mr. Smith said that he would have the Department of Public Works fix subpar work and the best way to report issues is via 311. He will report back to FQMD's Executive Director the ownership/responsible party for the sidewalks around Jackson Square and around the Cabildo.
5. Update on the Mayor's Concepts for "Reimagining the French Quarter" by Erin Holmes
See attached slide deck.
6. Discussion of cooperative programming with Downtown Development District



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Ms. Frankic reported that she and Chair Gasperecz had a productive meeting with several DDD Commissioners and their Interim President and there was positive movement on the three goals that this Committee had discussed working with them on in 2021. They share concerns about garbage truck vehicle weights having a negative effect on historic buildings and would like at appropriate performance standards and service for the new City contract coming up at the end of this year. Their budget for 2021 is set but are open to talking about the RTA Vieux Carre line operational costs for possible future contribution. The DDD's economic Development team already has much of the data for the 100-block survey of property type, ownership, vacancy, and contact history and will be helping to guide the interns with developing a plan for activating those blocks.

7. Update on CDBG-DR Katrina Recovery Appropriation

Staff is close to completing the pre-application for the Office of Community Development with assistance from the NORTA. The pre-application will allow OCD to release the Notice to Proceed to Pan American Engineers to complete the application to the federal government. This is done at no cost to the FQMD. The draft pre-application outlines the purchase of 4 sprinter buses with FQMD's \$1M appropriation and about \$6.4M for start up and operational costs for NORTA. We hope to have the pre-application done shortly with the hopes for having service up at the new year.

8. New Business


Vice-Chair Jorgensen noted that he would like to begin crafting the streetlight assessment criteria for the interns and will perform a sample of data collection to decide what is accessible data for the interns to gather.

9. Next meeting date

The next scheduled meeting of the committee is Wednesday, 7 April 2021, at 2:10pm

10. Adjournment

Mr. Jorgensen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mulla McGovern seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:54



Slow Quarter Concept Charrette

Monday, March 8th at 6PM

Dial-in number: (415) 655-0001

Access code: 146 003 0612

To access via Zoom, please register at:
nola.gov/neoevents

Questions:
allison.cormier@nola.gov

For more information please visit:
[nola.gov/mayor/
french-quarter-pedestrianization/](https://nola.gov/mayor/french-quarter-pedestrianization/)



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
NEIGHBORHOOD
ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

FQMD Livability Committee Meeting, March 3, 2021

“Reimagining the French Quarter”

Prepared by Erin Holmes

Slow Quarter “Slow Car” French Quarter Concept



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SLOW QUARTER “SLOW CAR” ELEMENTS



- ✓ **Reduced Posted Speeds**
 - Interior Roads: 15mph
 - Perimeter Roads: 20mph
- ✓ **Gateway Treatments**
- ✓ **Local Traffic Only**
 - Upriver/Downriver Streets – 2 block max travel
 - Reverse travel direction for 1 block on Dauphine and Burgundy with bike contraflow
- ✓ **Traffic Calming**
 - Alternating side parking
 - Interior intersection narrowing
- ✓ **Layered with other Proposals**
 - Decatur Street, French Market Place, Frenchmen St

SLOW QUARTER “SLOW CAR” ELEMENTS



Gateway Treatments



Traffic Calming – Alternating Parking



Concept: Slow Quarter “Slow Car”

- Reduced speeds of 15 mph for interior roads & 20 mph for perimeter roads
- Gateway pavement treatments at entrance points to include reduced speed signage, pavement markings or elevated pedestrian crossings, bollards or planters to narrow entrance points
- Alternating curbside parking block by block to calm traffic
- Reversing travel direction mid-Quarter for 1 block of Dauphine and Burgundy with bike contraflow with reference to local traffic only

Analysis: The Tiger team indicated that the reversal of travel direction on Burgundy and Dauphine is intended to reduce the amount of traffic using these streets as cut-through streets. We noted that these are the typically the least congested streets and are used by residents to traverse the French Quarter as the surrounding ones are often obstructed by pedestrian malls, frequent construction, and a collapsed hotel. How would “local traffic only” be regulated? Further, the introduction of a bike contraflow may introduce confusion over cyclists being legally allowed to ride against traffic (under normal circumstances, cyclists are required to ride with traffic). Reduced speeds could be effective, particularly on N. Rampart St., if they are enforced. Gateway treatments may be appropriate, particularly to eliminate oversized vehicles from entering, and special consideration must be given to the design, durability, maintenance, and replacement costs of any bollards and planters.

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