



## Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Monday, 12 April 2021

2:10 pm – 2:56 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  
Christian Pendleton

Jane Cooper  
Gail Cavett  
Mamie Gasperecz  
Jeremy DeBlieux

Steve Caputo  
Robert Watters  
Frank Zumbo  
Matthew Emory

**Commissioners Absent:** All present

**Executive Director:** Karley Frankic

### Guests:

Eric Smith, CNO  
Erin Holmes, VCPORA  
Paul Rioux, BGR Research Analyst  
Damian Clark, Dist. C Legislative Aide

Brittany McGovern, FQBA  
Beverly Faulk  
Chad Pellerin, FQC  
Larry Lane  
Michael Ince, Dir. Intergovernmental Affairs, Lt. Gov. Office

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES** – Mr. Pendleton called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m., Ms. Frankic read the Agenda as noticed and Ms. Klein called the roll.
  
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Written public comments and live comment requests should be submitted electronically via email to [publiccomments@fqmd.org](mailto:publiccomments@fqmd.org). Emailed public comments will be accepted from the time the agenda is released until conclusion of its reading. Emailed public comment received after the reading of the agenda will not be considered. Each submission must contain: 1) the commenter's first and last name, 2) the commenter's address, 3) whether the commenter is being paid in connection with his or her comments, and 4) the agenda item to which the comment pertains. Any public comment submission or live comment request missing this information will not be read aloud or recognized for live comment. Live comment during a teleconference meeting via the following formats shall be accepted

- Electronically raise their hand to request to comment. Upon being recognized to speak by the chair their microphone should be turned on. After speaking the microphone shall be returned to mute.
- Post comments relevant to the action item in the ‘Chat Box’.
- Live comment speakers will be given two minutes to comment. The speaker may be muted by the moderator at the conclusion of the two-minute limit.

No public comments were received.

### III. FEBRUARY REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL: Ms. Klein

Ms. Gasperecz motioned (**M1**) to “approve the March 8, 2021 Board Minutes as corrected...”, seconded by Ms. Raines and approved by all excluding Mr. DeBlieux who abstained since he was not in attendance in March.

### IV. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2021 TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. DeBlieux

- Financials - The Balance Sheet shows the SPPP account at \$4,297.26 the General Operating account at \$170,070.61 and the FQMA account at \$4,331.68 for a total of \$178,699.55. There is a zero balance in Account Receivables, and Total Liabilities and Equity at \$189,525.82. He noted Ms. Frankic’s efforts have kept our losses below projections. Ms. Raines motioned (**M2**) to “approve the March 2021 Treasurer Reports as submitted...”, seconded by Ms. Gasperecz and unanimously approved.

### V. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS – Mr. Pendleton

- FQ EDDD: He, Ms. Raines and Ms. Frankic attended two meetings with City on the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA). Mr. DeBlieux attended the second meeting with Ms. Cavett not being in attendance due to short notice. He was encouraged and believes FQMD is very close to agreement with the City regarding the patrols. The City does not agree with ballot language; the challenge remains with the philosophical overview and administration of the program. He is hopeful if the vote passes FQMD can continue its work with the City to resolved with the City. The Commissioners were sent today our attorney’s legal opinion. She is a former City attorney and states FQMD cannot sign the City’s CEA version as it violates the ballot language.
- New Orleans Legislative Delegation: Mr. Pendleton stated because of the work of this and past Boards, the legislators hold FQMD in high regard. They know as a quasi-State agency, FQMD has been in full compliance of open meeting laws and other State requirements. Therefore, there exists a high level of confidence in FQMD’s performance abilities. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

### VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – Ms. Frankic

Ms. Frankic noted the Committee Chairs and the Parity Team shall report on work product from the past month and this report details progress that is separate and apart from those reports.

- Administrative
  - Audit: The audit questionnaire approved at the March Board Meeting as well as the engagement letter with Ericksen Krentel were delivered following the meeting. They have since been routed through the state legislative auditor. She is working with the

FQMD accountant to complete the deliverable requests and review with Ericksen Krentel to complete the 2020 annual audit well before the deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

- b. Preservation
  - i. FQMA CEA: The French Quarter Museum Association met last month and would like to renew the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with FQMD to act as the fiscal agent for the group as they are still utilizing our services and have received another donation. This will be routed to the Government Affairs Committee as it was among their 2021 goals.
- c. Public Safety
  - i. SPPP Surplus Items: The Supplemental Police Patrol Program (SPPP) automotive parts and materials have been inventoried for donation consideration by the Board. She thanked Commissioner Simms for his help in identifying items that remained at the NOPD 8th District office including items purchased by entities other than FQMD. This morning, we heard back from the City that they would accept donation of these items valued at \$4,500.00. Following FQMD's accountant's advice the new items were valued at full price and the old items were valued at 50%.
- d. Quality of Life
  - i. Sanitation: Ms. Frankic met with several independent French Quarter residents this month to discuss their quality-of-life concerns and they were put in touch with FQMD's Livability Committee chair to begin participating in that committee's work. She also gave them the procedure for reporting organic waste for clean up by the City's contractor, Empire. Empire is required to remove organic waste, including feces and vomit, within one hour of it being reported. The best procedure for reporting organic waste is via the City's 311 website which will automatically create a case number for the complainant to reference for follow-up. She thanked Mr. Lowenthal for offering to share this information with his neighbors and social media resources. She asked everyone to share FQMD's Sanitation Laws and Services flyer with your appointing entities to more details on the services provided by Empire and constituents' responsibilities in regard to garbage carts, hauling, sidewalks, and animal waste.
  - ii. Oversize and Heavy Vehicles: She encouraged these residents work with the City Council to possibly revise the oversized vehicle ordinance to include weight of vehicles. These residents reported an ongoing issue with a multitude of heavy garbage trucks vibrating the historic buildings causing damages to their foundations. This will be routed to the Livability Committee as it ties into the new Sanitation Contract that was included in the Committee's 2021 goals.
  - iii. KQC Sponsorship: She asked the Commissioners to consider donations to fund the Keep the Quarter Clean (KQC) campaign from their appointing entity. Sponsorship can be specific to individual initiatives and there are very affordable options for window decals and car magnets or bumper stickers. The Keep the Quarter Clean campaign is modeled on the Young Leadership Council's highly successful Proud to Call it Home campaign. As we look to the recovery and reopening of the French Quarter, it is important that visitors go home and have only positive things to say about the condition of the French Quarter.
- e. Meetings Attended:
  - 3/8 "Reimagining the French Quarter" Slow Quarter Concept Charette
  - 3/9 NOPD 8<sup>th</sup> District MAX Meeting
  - 3/10 NOLA Complete Streets Benefits to Business - Breakfast Briefing

3/10 City Council District C Check-in meeting  
 3/10 Livability Committee mid-month progress meeting  
 3/11 Security & Enforcement Committee mid-month progress meeting  
 3/12 French Quarter Executive Directors Working Group meeting regarding the “Slow Quarter” concept  
 3/15 Security & Enforcement Committee Meeting  
 3/16 FQBA Quality-of-Life Committee meeting  
 3/16 NOPD 8<sup>th</sup> District MAX Meeting  
 3/16 FQEDD Meeting with Chair, Vice-Chair, Administration and District C staff  
 3/17 Government Affairs Committee meeting  
 3/18 Meeting with Administration staff regarding Smart Car titles  
 3/18 FQBA State of Tourism Marketing webinar  
 3/23 FQEDD Meeting with Chair, Vice-Chair, Administration and District C staff  
 3/23 NOPD 8<sup>th</sup> District MAX Meeting  
 3/24 Meeting with Micah Lowenthal and neighbors  
 3/30 Livability Committee mid-month progress meeting  
 4/1 Call with NORTA staff regarding the CDBG-DR appropriation  
 4/1-9 Out of office on annual leave

VII. REPORT BY CHAIR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Mr. DeBlieux

- a. The Committee reviewed the FQ EDD CEA at that point in time and a motion was passed to continue City negotiations with an April 12, 2021 execution goal since it was not an acceptable finished product. Given our legal counsel, FQMD cannot sign the current CEA. If the FQ EDD ballot issue passes, the City cannot appropriate the funds and they will be locked in a trust fund account. Also, by ordinance the City must turn those funds over to the FQ EDD until there is an executed CEA between FQMD and the City, or an executed CEA between the EDD and the City. It was noted that both French Quarter Citizens (FQC) and Vieux Carré Property Owners, Residents and Associates (VCPORA) will support the ballot measure even without an executed CEA. Mr. Watters noted the patrols will cease until a CEA is executed.

VIII. REPORT BY CHAIR, LIVABILITY COMMITTEE – Ms. Gasperecz

- a. The Committee constituent expansion was successful with robust and amenable exchanges noted.
- b. Ms. Gasperecz noted Karley’s leadership for developing a partnership with the Downtown Development District. Funding for programs through partnerships continues to be a working guideline
- c. Tulane University’s School of Historic Preservation has approved the intern partnership. The Committee shall begin recruitment.
- d.. New Orleans Regional Transportation Authority (NORTA) / Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): This shall \$4,900,000.00 grant shall reinstate the NORTA circulator shuttle in the French Quarter and the DDD with a two year operating fund. This shall serve hospitality workers, residents, and visitors. The time frame is the end of 2021 following a CEA executed with NORTA and procurement of four 25 foot shuttles. Ms. Cooper moved (M3) to “approve the pre-application process for the CDBG grant to fund four NORTA shuttles...”, seconded by Ms. Cavett and unanimously approved.

Ms. Klein asked Ms. Gasperecz to contact the City for proper installation of the 15 MPH speed limit

signs. It appears some are too low at 4 ½ feet and not in compliance of ADA requirements.

Mr. Pendleton thanked Ms. Gasperecz and her Committee for the important work on the NORTA shuttles and will make a tangible positive impact for residents, businesses, and their workers.

IX. REPORT BY CHAIR, SECURITY and ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE - Mr. Emory

- a. The Committee did not meet but he met with Ms. Frankic and Ms. Cooper to reevaluate Committee goals as the District is reopening. They would like to invite NOPD District 8 and the District Attorney's office to the next meeting which shall be on Next meeting on April 19, 2021. The Committee goals shall be on the agenda. He feels the goals should be in line with the philosophy of the agencies supporting the French Quarter.

X. SURPLUS PROPERTY VALUATION: As reported by Ms. Frankic the surplus materials to be donated are valued at \$4,500.00 following accountant recommendation. Mr. Simms agreed the inventory as circulated was accurate. Mr. Simms moved (M4) to "to accept the SPPP surplus inventory of automotive parts and materials valued at \$4,500.00 to be presented for donation consideration to the City of New Orleans...", seconded by Mr. DeBlieux and unanimously approved.

XI. ACT OF DONATION: Mr. Simms moved (M5) to "approve the donation of the SPPP surplus parts and materials as inventoried and approved by the FQMD Board of Commissioners to the City of New Orleans for the French Quarter patrols...", seconded by Mr. DeBlieux and unanimously approved.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mr. Simms noted the operational piece of the FQ EDD is encouraging because there are eight shifts per day currently and if the tax passes it can increase to thirty shifts per day utilizing the existing FQ EDD funds; even without that, shifts would rise to twenty-three.
- b. FQC asked to share that they have signs available to businesses and residents regarding the upcoming FQ EDD ballot vote.
- c. Ms. Klein reported May 15, 2021 is the annual deadline for the Louisiana State Board of Ethics Financial Disclosure submittal by all Commissioners. She shall send a link to file.
- d. Mr. Pendleton shared there is a working a plan to resume in-person meetings. The Historic New Orleans Collection and Le Petit Théâtre Du Vieux Carré are two possible locations.
- e. Mr. Simms and Ms. Copper have been nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of the Security and Enforcement Committee for a vote at the next meeting.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: 10 May 2021

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. DeBlieux motioned (M6) to "adjourn the April 2021 Regular Meeting of the FQMD Commission at 2:56 p.m.", seconded by Mr. Watters and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed original available)

Susan Klein, Secretary