

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Notes

Livability Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 2 February 2022

2:00 pm

Via Videoconference: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/204758921>

Meeting ID: 204758921

Audio: +16504191505,,204758921#

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS				VOTES	
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve Notes	Approve KQC funding request
David	Bilbe		X	-	-
Mamie	Gasperecz	X		Yes	Yes
Erin	Holmes	X		Yes	Yes
Dave	Jorgensen	X		Yes	Yes
Christian	Pendleton	X		Yes	-
Frank	Perez	X		Yes	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	Executive Director
Eric	Smith	City CAO Analyst
Sue	Klein	Commissioner
Rene	Fransen	
Will	DuBos	Louisiana Restaurant Association
Maddie	Charleston	
Luke	Savaall	Interim Director Tour Guides Association

2. Public Comment:

No written public comment or request for live comment were received at the conclusion of the reading of the agenda.

3. Approval of previous meeting notes

Mr. Pendleton made a motion to approve the previous meeting note. Mrs. Holmes seconded the motion, and it was approved.

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4. Welcome by 2022 Committee Chair Mamie Gasperecz

Committee Chair Gasperecz thanked everyone for participating in the work of the committee. She reported that Brittany Mulla McGovern has taken another position and would no longer be working in the French Quarter. Therefore, she would no longer be a committee member. Ms. Gasperecz noted that Ms. Mulla McGovern's work for the Quarter for many years was greatly appreciated.

5. Update on 5G small cell tower installations by Erin Holmes

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:06 PM

So we all know that installation of the G small cell. Infrastructure is well underway. Though it's not near completion between at AMP, T and Verizon, the two main tele carrier's, 145 permits have been issued and ten more have been approved. Co location or the sharing of poles by multiple carriers, which was an expressed desire by the community could not be achieved without increasing the height and the diameter of the approved Poles. And I believe it was the Department of Public Works and VCC. You correct me? If I'm mistaken that decided they would prefer the shorter poles, so the 5G poles began being installed in December and initially the lamp brackets and base wraps were manufactured in fiberglass and other metal materials. But the finished product did not meet aesthetic expectations. The new components, which are going to be made of cast iron, are being remanufactured, but it leaves the Poles high finished. Furthermore, a lot of the polls about 20 or so were placed directly next to existing lamp posts. In anticipation that removing them would remove more lighting from the nighttime. And so they were kind of paired. The city, including the VCC, The Department of Public Works and the Department of Utilities, agreed that the temporary installation of the substandard lamps is necessary in advance of Mardi Gras to ensure adequate lighting in the neighborhood, so they do have temporary lamps on them, and some of them are still paired with the existing streetlights. Despite efforts by numerous organizations. And city departments. The residents and businesses of the friends who are updated and foster public participation. I'll agree that the visual reality is still going to be a shock to many, particularly so as they are incomplete. And we have these little paired poles, but I do want to remind the committee that the FCC deregulated this technology in 2018 Municipalities cannot. Prevent this technology from going In. But efforts to reduce the impact have been underway for about over two years, and originally, they were going to be 40 foot tall. Federal lawsuits ensued, of course, but that basically retain municipality rights to. Have recommendations on aesthetics, um. And, uh, it has been expressed by the pee carriers and the installation and, um. Groups that they are going to be. Stopping construction, the week before Mardi Gras. To ensure that the. Sidewalks are kind of shored up and cleared and that there's adequate lighting for Mardi Gras and then installation will continue.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:09 PM

That's terrific, Erin. Thank you so much for all the work that you've done on this, I appreciate the. Formidable team of Karley, Brook Tesler, Erin Holmes and Brittney McGovern as and their leadership to. Really try to make the best out of this bad situation. So do we have any questions?

+15712350731 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:09 PM

Yeah, this is Christian. May I ask the question?

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Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:09 PM

Certainly, Christian.

+15712350731 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:09 PM

Erin, A I echo Mamie's comments that between you and Karley and Brittany and Brook. This is an amazing effort you all have made here. Has any. um Frustration or question, or whatever the proper word is has been raised with. The city and really from the city down to the contractors. To get these holes filled. Rapidly, I mean, I myself have. Taught myself in a couple of them over the last couple weeks. Is there any way to shorten the period of time? That the whole is actually there. Can we not dig the whole three months in advance to putting the poll in? I guess is what I'm saying.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:10 PM

Christian, I'm 100 percentage. Feel your pain the other day as I was taking some picture of some filming issues, I nearly fell into one of the poorly covered holes, and so I just I just thought it'd be funny that I went down between filming and five G on the same day. I will direct those comments to the installation guys at the next call.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:11 PM

Um, I'm not told actual days, but they say, you know, we're work. They say we're working we're working, but we don't get actual days of when this will be finalized. I think the problem a lot of the problem is juxtaposition between our six different entities, manufacturers, installation companies, the tele-carriers, the various city department's energy. We know that coordination. Is not, um. Coordination is something The city of New Orleans and its counterparts are striving for, but I don't have a final answer. I will try to find one for you.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:11 PM

Actually, thank you, Erin. For that, it is an ongoing challenge, So I know that you guys are often on those calls and you report back and, uh, thanks for representing our questions. Um, Dave, I believe you had your hand raised. I think you're muted.

Dave Jorgensen | Feb 02, 2022, 2:12 PM

Recent work on the 5G tower in front of my home at 910 St Ann Street, provided an opportunity to see the 5G Post Architectural Cladding. In place of the Iron Cladding, we discussed earlier, is a fiberglass cladding which is less than 1/8" thick. This Cladding I doubt would be acceptable at Disney world, much less survive conditions here in the French Quarter. Cast Iron cladding will be difficult and expensive for the contractor to source and provide. It is doubtful, at least to me, that they will replace this shoddy fiberglass cladding with the appropriate iron cladding any time soon. If we are to expect the proper iron cladding in our lifetime it will be important to get a schedule with a specific deadline for delivery and installation of the proper iron cladding. The fiberglass cladding is likely not to survive one Mardi Gras much less the relentless punishment expected in the French Quarter.

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Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:14 PM

Thank you, Dave. Would you mind photographing that particular item? Maybe putting something in it for scale and then emailing it. So I can make sure I share it with the VCC staff. That would be great. That would be great. Thank you for that.

Dave Jorgensen | Feb 02, 2022, 2:14 PM

Sure. Absolutely. Thank you!

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:14 PM

One more point. I do I realized that I neglected to bring up one thing which is becoming a major concern.

Sue Klein | Feb 02, 2022, 2:15 PM

Yeah, I just I just wanted to let Dave know, um. I think they're still in business. Manufacturer called. Its Union Medal or union metals out of Ohio. The city has had a relationship with them in the past or at least rta has. Because. They manufacture the lamp standards that are on the neutral ground of North Rampart Street. um so You know, if in your committee work or whatever you ever had to contact someone. I believe it's union. Metals in Ohio. Possibly Cincinnati, but I'm not sure. That's all!

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:16 PM

Thank you, sue. That's good information, appreciate it. Erin and Carley, Do you have any comments on any of the questions that were part of this discussion? Since you guys are really a front line?

Karley Frankic | Feb 02, 2022, 2:16 PM

I don't think I have anything additional to add. I think Erin and Brittany have been doing the lions share of the latest since the installation started. so Erin's going to be picking up most of that Now that we've lost Brittany. But I will definitely be trying to help out where I can.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:16 PM

Okay.

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Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:17 PM

Right now, the majority of the poles that we've seen installed out at AMP T F polls and those poles include a sticker that says. Basically, you need to stay 5 ft from the. Antenna and from the equipment and a lot of times, these poles are installed within that 5 ft. And when I expressed why we if there is. A radius that needs to be maintained for health risks or health standards. Why are they being placed inside this radius? And I was told that that was a default sticker put on by the manufacturer and that it's really only 3 ft. And I said, then why is there a warning sticker That says 5 ft and I have been unable to. Obtain a sufficient response other than well. That's it's safe that way. Um, I am in the process of. Writing to some council members expressing a deep level of concern because one would assume that a warning sticker was created out of tested tested measures or tested standards and to be told that. Well, it's just a default sticker. You don't need to really pay attention to. It is disconcerting, so then they replaced the stickers with three foot stickers to assuage any concerns and have let us know that the installation. Professionals can reduce the power of the frequency. If it's still determined to be within a harmful. Range, but they can do that internally with the equipment, and I questioned how an average citizen could verify that this has been tested and so. My concern is that we have warning stickers that are basically saying, keep 5 ft away. They adjusted them to say 3 ft, but it seems a bit arbitrary the way they're going about rationalizing this. I didn't want to, you know, Stoke new fears. But it's concerning.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:19 PM

Erin it definitely is concerning and just the liability of. This a capricious way of just let's just change the sticker.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:19 PM

And so I do want to let City Hall know about this kind of odd discrepancy. Because I think it just like you said. Maybe I think it puts the city at risk, So I'm working on that and seeing if I can get a better answer out of that other than oh, no, it's fine. We just put that sticker on there for fun.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:19 PM

Yeah. Okay. Oh, okay, there you go, that's good. Um, we'll keep up the good work, Erin and please let us know if you need any reinforcements on that. But yeah, I would be very concerned about the liability to the city with that kind of. I don't know it's distressing you're correct. Well, good, um. We I believe that we still don't have an answer as to who is two, two five. Uh, would you please identify yourself on the call?

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:20 PM

Okay, okay, im. Sorry, luke. And what is your last name to the okay. Thank you, thank you very much for sting your name for the record and welcome to the call. Did we get everyone else on the call to identify themselves? Think we have everyone, okay. Good, thank you and again. If you don't have the floor, please make sure you're muted.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:21 PM

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We'll move on again. Thank you all so much for your attention to the five G. And for those of you, who are in the quarter if there's any photograph at any time that you wish to shoot out? We love having literally boots on the ground and eyes everywhere. We can possibly have them.

6. Update on tour guide licensing by Frank Perez

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:21 PM

So, we'll move on to the next item number six update on the Tour guide licensing by Frank Perez. Frank, thank you for bringing this concern to our attention and you have the floor.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:21 PM

Sure, um. This is a small cloud on the horizon, but it's coming our way, so I just wanted to put it on Everybody's radar. The city is. Considering. And probably will proceed with trying to amend the tour guide ordinances. In a nutshell, what they want to do? Is reduce. The size of walking tour groups from a maximum limit of 28 Down to 14 so they want to cut that in half. They also want to limit access to. Uh, Lafayette Cemetery number one, which is in the Garden District they want to. Reduce that number of people allowed on a tour in there seven. And they want to charge people to go in and they have all sorts of. Ideas of how to how to run that. That whole shebang in the garden District, they had a meeting and leta. They it was, uh, Ground Transportation bureau and the cemetery's office. Both of which are under public works had a meeting with tour guides a couple of weeks ago. To float this idea out. It was met with great resistance. Without going into a whole lot of details, there are a lot of problems with the proposal. But tour guides are mobilizing tour operators and tour company owners are mobilizing and getting ready. For what. Looks like may be a pretty ferocious city council fight because to amend the ordinance. You've got to get a majority vote of the. Of the city council. So they say they're gonna have more meetings. But we're real early in the process. But I just want to put that on your radar.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:23 PM

Thank you, Frank. I appreciate that, um. Know, that really does the tours issue. It does speak to quality. Frank, thank you for all the time that you spend Teaching guides how to be more credible and professional. You might know that Frank teaches that at Loyola. And there are a number of different courses and. So can this might just be so patently obvious, but what is the motivation to increase the numbers in the doors?

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:24 PM

So the motivation they gave is, they're trying to reduce the number of complaints they're getting from residents. So what they came up with is not very well thought out. I mean, there are a lot of logistical problems with it. I mean, you just cut the number from 28 and half. You're going to have two groups instead of one group? In the same block so. I'm not saying the number can be reduced, but they just haven't really thought about it real well. And, you know, after that meeting a couple weeks ago, I met with Randy Bibb, who teaches the tour guiding course at Delgado. I'm at Loyola. And we also met with Great Perkins, who is the coordinator of the Friends of the Cabildo course, and those are the only three classes in the city. That offer licenser to potential TE guides in other words, if a student takes any one of those three classes and passes the test, the city will accept that as the equivalent of their test.

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And our feeling is that if you really want to reduce complaints the way you do, ie, you enforce the rules that currently exist, which they're not doing. Probably because of capacity, and then you improve the quality of tour guides and there are a number of ways to do that, but that might be something to think about. In the future?

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:25 PM

Interesting. Are the tours back? Are they even anywhere near capacity at this point, Frank?

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:26 PM

Yes, and no. Some weeks are better than others. The weather and the filming hasn't helped.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:26 PM

Okay, hm, okay, all right. Yeah, I just didn't know if we were if they were at zero. And what's half and zero still zero, right.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:26 PM

They're not, they're not at zero. But they're nowhere near pre pandemic levels.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:26 PM

Yeah. Okay, okay, okay, thank you. Thank you for that. Uh, do we have any other comments on this particular item?

+12255735071 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:26 PM

I'll just this is Luke, the manager of the Tour Guides Association

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:26 PM

Certainly, Luke.

+12255735071 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:26 PM

The association just I'll just pretty much echo. What Mr. Frank said there? Were, uh. I actually have a note to reach out to Mr. Frank to set me to sit down with him to talk. As well. Hopefully we could set that up, but just echoing what he said as well, you know it's. We really want to be allies. We the tour guide in the industry. Really want to be allies to the city and good neighbors and the vast majority of us. Strive very hard to be that. Uh, we do have some bad eggs in our industry, um? And that's why we really want to push the city to enforce the rules. They already have on the books because that would help get rid of those bad eggs and as Mister, Frank said. Cutting tour group size in half just means. Instead of know?

Five groups at the little Lory mansion. You have ten or, you know, instead of you. You're not actually going to improve quality of life for residents Because you're just gonna have the same amount of people with.

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Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:27 PM

Yes, I do, um, and I want to say thank you, Frank, for giving us an update and, um, I'm sorry I caught. I did not catch the last. Uh, speaker's name but?

+12255735071 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:27 PM

More tour guides. Speaking over each other and things like that, so there are definitely ways to to approach the problem and improve things for everybody. We want to working with the city to do that.

One of our goals is. To try to get the city to. uh Speak to us and work with us and allow us to have a voice and. And also work with resident groups like yourselves and others to. You know, find a good. Good solution to all this so.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:28 PM

Thank you, Luke. Thank you for joining us. I and I'm going to move to Erin in a 2nd, but I will note that years ago. Mark Romig's research. I hope it still holds true that, uh?

+12255735071 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:28 PM

Um, yeah.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:28 PM

You know that the professional? Experience the historically interested visitors stays longer and spends more. And honestly, it does seem like if you had more tour guides, it would just increase the noise. So, ah, it's just my \$0.02 for what it's worth, but yeah.

+12255735071 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:28 PM

That's exactly right, you and we don't want the only thing. We don't want the only reason to go to the French quarter at night to be Bourbon Street, right, nobody wants that, so we're family friendly. We help increase safety on the streets.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:28 PM

Yeah.

+12255735071 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:29 PM

Uh, at night and? You know all the things, so we wanna be good allies to everyone.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:29 PM

Yes, thank you, I appreciate that that, uh, that's spirit. Erin, you have your hand raised.

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Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:29 PM

Speaking as a, you know, a representative of one of the residential groups. I heard you know, kind of what I'm hearing is a resounding. Let's enforce the rules that are on the books. So is that the taxi cab bureau that would be enforcing things like tour size? Um, spacing limits and things like that.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:29 PM

Yes. They changed their name a couple years ago, and they're now called the ground transportation bureau, but it's the old taxicab Bureau. The problem is, they're understaffed. And they don't have that many enforcement agents. Uh, and so they don't have the. The capacity really to do it.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:30 PM

One thing they could do that I'm going to bring up at some point in the future is. Unless you tell me it's not a good idea. Um, I don't understand why the, French Quarter Task Force couldn't have some authority to write citations. Yeah, just a thought.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:30 PM

There you go.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:30 PM

I won't comment to the French quarter task force. But I think you know the ability for an entity to write citations, ie, already on the ground while the the tours are operating. Um, if you already have, you know? Employees, um. On the ground, lets let's utilize them but we. The city was talking about, and I think they're underway of creating the office of nighttime economy, and we got a chance to speak briefly with the city about what this office would look like and. It seems that this office could be a nighttime advocate for businesses in. That sector of the economy, but also. Act as an enforcement arm and a peacekeeping arm. And so I wonder if you've had any conversations about the tour. Regulations going under the purview of that department.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:31 PM

I have not. Discuss that, specifically, I I think it's probably a good idea. I, um, I did personally reach out to Freddie King. Our new council person. And while he was polite and listened, I got the sense he could not be. Really the! Less interested in the issue. If I can put it that way.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:31 PM

Well, I will say that when I heard about the meeting for Tour guides that the city approached the meeting saying. Hey, we're gonna cut the number of. People in a group to half. Also questioned what was the rationale behind that, you know, from 28 to 14 and it made sense as I was hearing. Well, if you have 28 people and you split them into two groups and

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you have two an additional voice on the street, ie trying to be heard and so it, the argument that it's just going to double the number of group sizes it.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:32 PM

Well. There are some tour guides and some companies.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:32 PM

I mean, it makes sense to me.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:32 PM

That have gone to what they call a whisper system. And that puts a burden of financial burden on tour companies and guides, so they're probably not going to like it, but that would reduce noise.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:32 PM

I see.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:32 PM

And what French quarter residents have to ask themselves is? You know when carrying a bunch of groceries back from rouses. And maybe I've had a few ****tails do I want to? Navigate one group of 28 people. Or would it be easier for me to navigate two groups of 14 per block? So I guess you can make an argument either way.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:32 PM

What is the whisper system? Is this kind of everybody has a.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:32 PM

It's a microphone that the tour guide has and then ear plugs that they give to the.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:33 PM

That's what I figured.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:33 PM

People on tour and you, you Don't have to scream. You can literally whisper, and they can hear. But again, that's probably gonna meet some resistance from. Tour guides and tour operators because it cost money.

+12255735071 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:33 PM

Less concerned about the cost right now with that, honestly with Covid issue.If you can't really sanitize microphones. Like that.

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Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:33 PM

That's a good point, Luke, Thank you

+12255735071 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:33 PM

That are in peoples you in people's face, so that? That's more I'm a tour manager of a company as well and that'd be more my concern with that right now.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:33 PM

Right, well, I yeah, I think we're gonna keep our eye on this issue. And Frank, please keep us in the loop. Um, let us know if you need, uh.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:33 PM

Fair enough.

7. Discussion by Committee of filming in the French Quarter

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:34 PM

So we're going to head into discussion by committee of the filming and the French quarter and, ah, that conversation will be led by Erin Holmes. Is that okay, Erin, okay.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:34 PM

Yeah, sure! Um, I thought this was Everybody was going to just throw their two cents in. But I guess I have been the recipient of a lot of people have been reaching out to the office with concerns about the current film productions that are happening in the quarter. Um, we have three major productions that are happening in the Quarter and this doesn't count smaller ones that'll pop up doing. Commercials and whatnot, Three major. Uh, productions. I have to say I bit in contact with the Film New Orleans office, seemingly on a daily basis because people haven't been receiving notifications about parking and then one particular production has taken over parking. For a number of blocks for about. Five weeks, um, and I've also noticed that many of these streets this parking that has been retained by this production is not fully being utilized, so there's no insult to in no more insult to injury. If you're trying to get to your business or your home and you're cruising around for blocks and blocks to see a row of curb that's been claimed for five weeks, so in these conversations and I have.

Teamed up with. District C to talk about. How we can better manage the productions in the French Quarter and in the city so that the pressures. And the impacts to resident and business owners can be. Kind of spread out Over the course of the year we can't necessarily have the 900 block of Royal Street under filming half of the year. It's just not working and it's not just residential complaints. I'm getting business owners that didn't know a street was going to be blocked and suddenly had to turn around a whole. Delivery of inventory. Residents that might use a parking garage that were not allowed to leave their homes via their car and then certainly. The residential anecdotes that can't seem to get close to their homes within even a three or four block radius that are having to drive blocks and blocks out of the way and so while we understand that the filming industry does bring in money to the state's economy and the city's economy a lot of

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times. That economic windfall is not felt on the ground in terms of who it's impacting the most. So I think that a better noticing. System and a way that we can track actual locations and duration of these productions across the French border. Kind of by quadrant. Will yield hot spots and the places that need to be avoided and then we can work with our city council to put some policies in place. The current, um, mindset is not to limit production because. It is such a boon for the city, but that's on a very macro level, So I think with the right data we can come up with. um Some compromises film productions have a lot of money.

If that's identifying a better location around the city to film. A creepy looking double shotgun rather than creating one. I can think of about 80000 of them in this in the city. So, uh, I think that there's a lot of room for improvement. But when it comes down to it and your day-to-day operations are being impacted for weeks at a time, something has to give, and so I think that working with District C and I would like to continue working with this committee on this to come up with some fair and even. Regulations that can be placed on. The granting of film permits.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:38 PM

Thank you, Erin. It's very articulate and insightful I appreciate that very much. My own experience was at the Hermann Grima we made a whole lot of money off American horror story, but it took a great deal of effort to make sure. That the film crew didn't run rough shot over the historic property. Our neighbors, a lot of things, It's just it just takes a lot of effort to get it where it needs to be, um. So I have some really unique insight to that. I'm happy to be part of that conversation. Because we wrote our contracts so tightly so that we had oversight and we had to take that ownership. So, um, but it does seem like there's a lot of different things, and I'm pretty happy to introduce you guys to Maddie Charleston. Who's a French quarter resident? She's lived in the French quarter all of her life, and she has a virtual catalog of. The film issues that she's been struggling with Maddie. Would you like to talk to us about that? Maddie has been cataloging photographing and making lists every single evening. Of different sidewalks that are blocked street corners that are blocked and. She has a unique perspective, like said she knows the quarter she's lived in the quarter. All of her life grew up there, but her husband is in a wheelchair. So the accessibility issue has a different meaning for her family. So, uh, Maddie, Are you back with us? Okay.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:40 PM

I don't want. Speak over Maddie but I did want to say back to the kind of coordination when we have three productions that are doing filming and we have a five and five G installation and invariably a sidewalk that's being replaced. We really need to look and see the ADA accessibility In the French Quarter on its perfect day is challenging, but when we have so much going on in terms of street and sidewalk impediments in construction. There needs to be better coordination at the city level to make sure that there is still a path for all people to take depending on your level of mobility.

+15712350731 | Feb 02, 2022, 2:41 PM

I maybe have a question or comment. And I know this is tricky, but I wonder whether. Perhaps yourself and Erin and Maddie, whether the three of you invite. The film office down to see firsthand. What it is you're talking about because I think a lot of the struggles whether it's the tour issue whether it's. Safety, whether it's cleanliness. I think we have struggled to get the officials down and put their feet on the ground and show them what we're talking about. I understand that everybody is busy, but I think they're in their offices, reading emails or on the phone and they care, you know, they are doing this thing, but I don't think they fully appreciate as in as opposed to if they were here. Walking through and seeing what we're talking about. Then perhaps we might be able to get a little more traction out of them.

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Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:42 PM

Well, that's a good point, Christian. I you know, and I, if even then looking at Maddie's photographs and catalog is important. I know that Eric Smith is in the quarter all of the time I actually did text. Oh, good, Maddie, uh. We think maybe you can unmute yourself now. Just start talking when you get when you get the floor. I did text Carol Morton. I'll reached out this morning and invited her to come and said, and it was short notice, and if he couldn't, she couldn't join us. I knew that Eric would represent, but I do think a conversation. And a picture's worth a thousand words and I think that some of these are pretty compelling. Maddie had a recent win last week. She, uh, they installed a head washing fountain on the sidewalk that basically covered the entire sidewalk and she got him to move it because nobody could actually walk on the sidewalk and there was street construction, so there was just the entire space was impassable.

Karley Frankic | Feb 02, 2022, 2:43 PM

I'm sorry that Brittany isn't here. This was really her hot button issue on her way out the door. She has been. She has been fielding a number of complaints through French Quarter Business Association. Even when the filming isn't blocking the sidewalk, it does conflict with people's ability to see a business is open to traverse the street as we know if there's an encumbered in the street, it causes people to not want to proceed down the sidewalk and to visit those businesses. So I think that you know one of the things we could see from the city is, you know asking these filming? Groups to work with those businesses to make sure that they are able to receive customers. And if they're if not, then they need to be compensated, Eric does have his hand up. Perhaps he could speak to that.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:44 PM

Yes, absolutely, yes, Eric, please do have the floor.

Eric+Smith+(CNO) | Feb 02, 2022, 2:44 PM

Yeah, thank you, I finally able to get unmuted. Yeah, may. I if you can forward me whatever you get for Maddie. Um, I would greatly appreciate it. I'll see if I can make the right connections to see what we can look into.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:44 PM

Oh, perfect, Eric. Thank you for that. Appreciate it. All right, Maddie, please talk to us.

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:44 PM

Hello. So, to go back to what I think Eric was saying, I've actually had the film crew personally see my husband's gotten stuck and you know I've introduced. You know me. And Disney have had it out a couple times. They they've seen it.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:45 PM

Hey, Maddie. I also have a direct contact with somebody that, uh, we have worked with for issues with interview.

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:45 PM

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Unfortunately, from my experience growing up, Disney kind of gets what they want. Um, and from the city's aspect of it, I've been told, we're sorry it's an inconvenience to you, but sometimes these things have to happen. It's just accountability is what I'm really fighting for residents and especially residents in wheelchairs and accessibility that there just needs to be accountability. It feels like a lot of people are getting away with things on the sidewalk, and there's no punishment for a film crew or five G or Entergy or anyone.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:45 PM

Well, said Maddie. And, uh, I'm glad you finally got the floor and got unmuted. Did you were you able to hear that? Eric asked if we could send your photographs and your lists down so we can begin the dialogue.

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:46 PM

Yeah. Yeah, of course.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:46 PM

I will send that I'll start that conversation once we in the meeting today and thank you for that. Eric, appreciate it.

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:46 PM

And I have the contact with Disney. I've been working with a Johnny Sanchez, who's there one of their managers and I've been trying to work with interview with the vampire, but that hasn't gotten very far so.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:46 PM

Okay. Interview is filming mostly at the Beauregard Keyes House. Is that correct?

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:46 PM

They were blocking near where we parked for a little bit near St. Anne and Chartres Street, there were some issues with that, and then they've moved on Esplanade earlier. I believe they were filming like a funeral scene this morning, and then I know Disney is wrapping up, but that was our most recent thing was dealing with the that and mansion reboot.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:46 PM

Maddie, if you don't know, um, Annie Irvin at the Beauregard Keyes House, I will make sure I introduce you because I believe she's been a contact for interview. She's the director of the Beauregard Keyes House.

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:47 PM

Okay.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:47 PM

And he has been really, uh, good to work with and really receptive, so I'd like to go ahead and put you two in contact.

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Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:47 PM

I would love that.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:47 PM

That would be great. Thank you, Erin. Yeah, it's just to keep the dialogue going to make sure that you know you didn't actually relinquish control of your property. The public right away to a film crew. That's out of here in 5 min, or maybe not 5 min. But the fact is. They're not as invested in this, and we know the money's good. So it we're all a win, I mean. As a consequence of, uh, the American Harmon Grima, having the American Horror Story, our attendance went up. But that's different for a business. This is home, Maddie. And we respect that so we'll make those connections cross pollinate. They called the negative two degrees of separation. That's in New Orleans, not six. Anyone else have anything about the filming that they'd like to add.

Okay, great discussion. Thank you, Maddie. For joining us. I really appreciate it and we'll make sure get this conversation to continue.

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:48 PM

Thank you!

8. Motion – Consider a motion to request the Finance & Development Committee review a budget request for funding materials related to the Keep the Quarter Clean campaign for consideration for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:48 PM

We are going head into the next item we're going to consider a motion to request the Finance and Development Committee to review a budget request for funding materials related to Keep the Quarter Clean and eventual consideration by the commissioners. So, Karley, would you like to tell a little bit it more for the group that we have a lot of folks who are haven't heard about. Keep the Quarter Clean, so definitely start at the beginning.

Karley Frankic | Feb 02, 2022, 2:49 PM

Thank you so much! So, some of you've been around for a while know the Keep Quarter Clean campaign we started when we were in the initial stages of lockdown in 2020 And the idea at the time the French Quarter got cleaned up during that 1st few months when everybody wasn't locked down with businesses, doing improvements. There is a lot of deep cleaning, facade improvement, so on and so forth. Now, as you know, we've reopened for business. A lot of the issues we've had with sanitation have been coming back. So the Keep Quarter Clean campaign is trying to build a sense of ownership among our residents, our workers, our visitors and so forth. A message like, let's keep it clean here. We all have to cohabitate this space. Let's all have a shared sense of ownership about this.

And so for those of you who've been around for a while, you might remember the young leadership council's New Orleans Proud to Call it Home campaign. This is similar in that it's a very simple message trying to get people to up after themselves, frankly. So, at this point, we are looking at a social media push and then getting window decals for

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businesses. Car bumper sticker slash magnets that we could be giving out. We're not going to be charging for these. This would be to hand out people to get this campaign off the ground. This is a pretty small budget as since it's only for 250 decals and 250 bumper stickers or magnets, so we're looking at a total cost of a thousand dollars at this point.

So the intent here is if the liability committee wants to move this campaign forward. If you all choose to approve a motion to do so, it would go to the Finance and Development Committee to assess the financial impact on the annual budget and then make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to approve this budget request. Are there any questions about the budget request?

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:51 PM

I think it's important to note that we are actually going to also have a social media campaign, so it isn't just collateral materials. It'll be a metaverse and all that! Okay, Any questions about the campaign, okay.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:51 PM

Anyone think this is such a good idea that we should just go ahead and make the motion? Hey Dave you have yourself on mute Okay, okay. I read his lips. They made a motion. Okay, do we have a 2nd? Thank you, Erin. Okay, would you call the vote, Karley?

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

I'll 2nd.

Karley Frankic | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Of course. Happy too. Mamie Gasperecz?.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Yes.

Karley Frankic | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Erin Holmes.

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Yes.

Karley Frankic | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Dave Jorgensen?

Dave Jorgensen | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Yes.

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Karley Frankic | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Did we lose Christian, all right.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

I think we did.

Karley Frankic | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Frank Perez?

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Yes.

Karley Frankic | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Yes, very good. Motion passes, thank you all.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:52 PM

Thank you so much that's great. That's great. I will keep everyone posted on the next steps in that and the activity of the Finance and Development Committee.

Mr. Jorgensen made a motion to request the Finance & Development Committee review a budget request for funding materials related to the Keep the Quarter Clean campaign for consideration for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Mrs. Holmes seconded the motion at it was approved.

9. New business – To consider and take action upon any other matters that may properly come before the French Quarter Management District Livability Committee

Sue Klein | Feb 02, 2022, 2:53 PM

Just a matter of information. Not for the committee to take any action on. Parklets have a definite impact on the quality of life and visitor experience in the quarter and tomorrow at the city council, I don't know if it's 1st or 2nd reading, but they're considering an ordinance, I believe make them permanent and there's no standards or guidelines in place. And so, at the least I would ask y'all to send an email letter to the council people to defer this until there's more structure to determine how this program would be run.

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:54 PM

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May I ask a question about that?

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:54 PM

Certainly, Maddie.

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:54 PM

And not to affect businesses because we know that it was needed during covid, but same with the guidelines is with wheelchairs in the filming industry. We run into a lot of issue. I'm sure anyone carrying groceries with some of the tables and five G polls or trash cans. Those parklets that are on the sidewalks in the corridor. There's not a lot of clearance and sometimes restaurants, there's a little push to move them or for residents to get through.

Frank Perez | Feb 02, 2022, 2:54 PM

Yeah.

Maddie Charleston | Feb 02, 2022, 2:54 PM

So what is that? Are there any guidelines as far as that like how much clearance there can be on a sidewalk with those?

Sue Klein | Feb 02, 2022, 2:54 PM

There're supposed to be. A lot of things again, come down to enforcement. But also, it's not just sidewalk use. It's also bumped out into the street taking parking. And also the visual issue, increased ambient sound and litter and that type of thing. So there's a bunch of issues that need to be addressed regarding parklet's.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:55 PM

Yes, Erin?

Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:55 PM

Um, Sue, I wanted to let you know that. The parklet ordinance is deferred until March 3 Um. Which the day after Ash Wednesday. This effort is part of maneuver that was initiated at City Council. The 1st was a motion that was passed at the. January 6 meeting directing city planning to essentially promulgate text amendments of where and how parklets can operate with regard to anything that would be enshrined in the comprehensive zoning ordinates, the 2nd one is an ordinance, i.e. a little bit more specific, but to my understanding. This ordinance directs changes to the city code rather than the CZO, the City Code of Ordinances. And so it's in tandem approach to make this program permanent. Do you have a copy of the ordinance? It goes into a little bit more detail. So, I'll go ahead and send that to you. If anybody else would like a copy, I'll be happy to share it. But the actual ordinance, which is deferred.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:56 PM

That be that's great.

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Erin Holmes | Feb 02, 2022, 2:56 PM

March 3 is going to go into hours of operation, design standards, et cetera, et cetera, operational standards. And things like that and also into, accessibility and clearance for the utilization of these kind of curbside spaces.

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:57 PM

Okay, that's great, Erin. Actually, since Eric Smith's no longer on the call, I was going to assign him the task of getting us the ordinance. But there you go one less thing for him have to do that would be great and ill. Make sure I share it with the group. Thanks, and if you hear that, it's deferred further at any time, let us know.

Sue Klein | Feb 02, 2022, 2:57 PM

Thank you!

Mamie Gasperecz | Feb 02, 2022, 2:57 PM

I think that's important for us to be able to participate and speak.

So any other new business? Okay, I appreciate again. The calls that that have gotten over the last couple of weeks with people with ideas about what we should be doing and working towards just a better life in the quarter. So, uh, while we have our work plan, it's fairly fluid. We'll be adding to it and hopefully. Making things making a difference. So your homework, if there's people that you can recruit to join our group, do so. I'll help you and thank you. We have the next meeting date as March 9 2022 At 02:00 I'm going to assume that we'll still be by Zoom. And we'll move towards an in person meeting as soon as it's safe and reasonable. So thank you all for that. I do Ms. Seeing each and every one of you.

10. Next meeting date – 9 March 2022

The next scheduled meeting date of the committee is Wednesday, March 9th at 2:00pm.

11. Adjournment

Mrs. Holmes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Perez seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm