

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes
Wednesday, 1 June 2022
 2:00 pm

Covenant House, Board Room
 611 N. Rampart Street
 New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

1. Call to Order, Reading of the Agenda, and Roll Call The meeting was called to order at 2:05 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	-
Madison	Charleston	X		Yes
Rene	Fransen	X		Yes
Mamie	Gasperecz	X		Yes
Erin	Holmes	X		Yes
Dave	Jorgensen		X	-
Christian	Pendleton	2:09		-
Frank	Perez		X	-
Graham	Williams	X		abstain

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	Executive Director
Shannon	Muschalek	Coordinator
Jessica	Dietz	Business Owner & Resident
Jane	Cooper	Commissioner
Johnny	Brumfield	NOPD 8 th District Quality of Experience Officer
Bronson	Gettridge	NOPD 8 th District Quality of Experience Officer
R.D.	Gaines	NOPD 8 th District Quality of Experience Officer
Eric	Smith	City CAO Analyst

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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

Mrs. Holmes made a motion to approve the previous meeting notes. Mr. Fransen seconded the motion and it was approved by the majority of the members present.

4. Committee Chair Comments by Mamie Gasperecz

- a. Welcome new committee member Graham Williams

Committee Chair Mamie Gasperecz introduced Graham Williams and welcomed him to the committee

- b. 2022 Mid-year Committee Work Plan review

Keep the Quarter Clean Campaign

The intent of the program is maintaining a higher level of cleanliness, with all stakeholders feel a sense of ownership in promoting the Keep the Quarter Clean campaign and driving concerns to the survey tool to inform future programming. Keep the Quarter Clean will utilize a multi-pronged campaign to be rolled out in collaboration with our appointing entities, political partners, and friends throughout our community.

Launch with a full breadth of physical and virtual installations including:

- Social media: *VCPORA, Inside NO, NO & Co*
- Billboard
- Light pole banners
- Streetcar stop advertisements: *Pedicab signs*
- Store window decals: *First run printed, in distribution*
- Bumper stickers/magnets: *First run printed, in distribution*
- Balcony banners
- *In person events: Patio Planters, VCPORA, New Orleans Chamber, etc! Thank you, Karley!*
- *In progress: YLC, FQMA and member museums for social media reach and engagement*

We are proud of our accomplishments thus far in branding the FQC campaign focused on sourcing outstanding issues and enhanced communications with the city and their contractors to improve the cleanliness of the FQ.

SIDEWALKS

Build on 2020 Committee Work to implement solutions to identified problems

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- Promote the improved 2020 Sidewalk Survey to build awareness of deteriorated conditions
- Pursue funding to repair the findings of the 2020 Survey
- Work with the Vieux Carré Commission and its Foundation to assure installation of proper historically appropriate sidewalk materials

In progress

LIGHTING

Work for lighting improvements that offer historically appropriate installations that provide a sense of security and place.

Street Light Assessment

- Work with volunteers/interns to have an experiential education in practical application of historic preservation and urban plan by surveying existing lighting condition.
 - Assess existing lighting conditions
 - Identify locations which would benefit from additional lighting, reusing the historic light posts removed to accommodate small cell poles.
- Revisit Vieux Carré Commission Lighting Assessment for recommendations that overlay with the output from the intern program

We completed volunteer Onboarding and Training in May. We should complete the assessment by the beginning of July. Dave Jorgensen deserves accolades for his painstakingly detailed process and a myriad of spreadsheets. Thanks to Beverly Fulk, we have additional information. We located the seemingly lost VCC 2014 lighting survey. Next steps: Determining the locations that need additional lighting and match with the 5G plan.

DRAINAGE

Investigate storm drain scoping and repair options to address the increased flooding throughout the French Quarter.

Our plans include emphasis on current N Rampart issues. (See TRANSPORTATION priorities below.)

Homeless Needs

Work with the Security & Enforcement Committee to identify actionable items from the Travelers Aid Society's Homeless Needs Assessment that improve the livability of the District in coordination with the French Market Corporation and the Downtown Development District.

Building upon the Traveler's Aid study, our Listening Tour included our non-profit strategic partners to achieve synergy and impact with our recommendations. This group includes: Unity New Orleans, Habitat New Orleans, Covenant House, Catholic Charities, French Market Corporation, United Way, Volunteers of America SELA and, of course, Travelers Aid. We plan to include St Mark's Church and the New Orleans Mission in the discussion prior to the budget meetings. A matrix of services, impact area and focus is in the works. Our dialogue with DDD is open

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and has not been adversely impacted by staffing changes at the organization. We anticipate a strong action plan will be ready in time for the EDD budget meetings.

Sound

Bring the stakeholders together with the City's Department of Health to improve the existing sound ordinance into a fair and enforceable instrument.

Pending review, planning and strategy.

Transportation

Work with partners in transportation planning and funding for North Rampart Street traffic calming measures designed and implemented to reduce multi-modal collisions.

Our immediately priority after the conclusion of the Lighting Survey is to address the increasing dangerous N Rampart Street area. We will begin by connecting with the N Rampart Main Street board as well as residents, businesses and vigilant non-profit organizations fronting N Rampart. We plan to include bicycle safety and ADA compliance along with multi-modal traffic issues.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

We hope to include flooding, ADA compliance, filming and graffiti as we move forward on the priorities listed above.

The Livability Committee has recruited a number of new members during the past six months. These FQ residents bring diversity of thought, vision and new constituents to our working group.

We are grateful that our Committee has found a new, regular meeting venue at Covenant House, and we hope to develop this powerful partnership with our neighboring non-profit serving the FQ.

- c. Thank you to Beverly Fulk for volunteer efforts on missing streetlight poles

Ms. Gaperecz thanked Beverly Fulk for her efforts to catalog the missing street light poles in the French Quarter.

5. Presentation – Presentation on Quality-of-Life work by the New Orleans Police Department Eighth District

Quality of Experience Officers

Vice-Chair Erin Holmes introduced the New Orleans Police Department Eighth District Quality of Experience Officers Brumfield, Gaines, and Gettridge to the committee. The officers reported that they are focusing on illegal vending, parking, graffiti, and homeless encampment clean up. From 10:00 pm -2:00 am on Fridays and Saturdays for three weeks there will be three two trucks working with the parking enforcement team in the French Quarter. Complaints can be called into 658-8100. Starting at 8:00 pm the Quality of Experience Officers will be doing illegal vending sweeps with warnings this weekend and citations next weekend. This will include solicitation for photos, sales of beverages on the street, etc. The difference between illegal vending and street performance was discussed. Officer Gettridge noted that if there is an exchange on money for goods or services that is vending, it is illegal when not properly permitted by the City. He also noted that exotic animals re not allowed in the French Quarter. **Mr. Pendelton asked that the Officers bring statistics on this directed enforcement at the next meeting**

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of the committee. Mr. Smith said that the directed enforcement effort was being funded out of the French Quarter Improvement Fund as approved in the City's 2022 Municipal Budget. **Ms. Frankic asked that Mr. Smith provide an accounting of the French Quarter Improvement Fund and Mr. Smith said he would provide that to the committee.**

6. Report – Update on the 2022 Lighting Assessment to present Mamie Gasperecz

Ms. Gasperecz reported that the volunteer Onboarding and Training was completed in May. The field work should be complete by the beginning of July. Dave Jorgensen deserves accolades for his painstakingly detailed process and a myriad of spreadsheets. Mr. Williams volunteered to help with the lighting assessment field work. **Ms. Frankic will connect Mr. Williams with Dave Jorgensen for the training protocol.** She has located the seemingly lost VCC 2014 lighting survey.

Next steps: Determining the locations that need additional lighting and match with the 5G plan.

Ms. Frankic reported that Winston Fiore of City Council District C had stated at the last Security & Enforcement Committee meeting that the All Strat maintenance contract had expired and the City was determining how to proceed with the contract renewal. Mr. Fiore said that there was a large backlog of streetlight maintenance work awaiting work orders from the Dept of Public Works.

7. Report – Update on homelessness services partners to present Mamie Gasperecz

Ms. Gasperecz reported that the committee is building upon the Traveler's Aid study, our Listening Tour included our non-profit strategic partners to achieve synergy and impact with our recommendations. This group includes Unity New Orleans, Habitat New Orleans, Covenant House, Catholic Charities, French Market Corporation, United Way, Volunteers of America SELA and, of course, Travelers Aid. We plan to include St Mark's Church and the New Orleans Mission in the discussion prior to the budget meetings. A matrix of services, impact area and focus is in the works. Our dialogue with DDD is open and has not been adversely impacted by staffing changes at the organization. We anticipate a strong action plan will be ready in time for the EDD budget meetings.

Mr. Smith spoke with Star at the low barrier shelter, they are staffing up and bring beds online as staff is trained. They have increased the number of beds from 95 to 185 so far. There will be 345 beds when full expansion is complete. Mr. Pendleton asked how the City measures success with homeless case management. KPIs will need to be established.

8. Report – Update on 5G small cell towers in the French Quarter to present Erin Holmes

Mrs. Holmes reported that there are 147 5G towers approved in the French Quarter. AT&T and Toro Blanco's poles are 100% sidewalk cuts repaired, Verizon is 50-60% sidewalk cuts repaired. There are another 84 submitted applications in the OneStop website. All poles are awaiting finishing details, bases and lighting brackets. These were being manufactured in Hungary and have been impacted by the war in Ukraine. Toro Blanco has identified a manufacturer in Ohio and should be arriving in about two weeks. None of the installed poles are complete.

9. Discussion – Discussion by Committee on pedestrian and bike safety initiatives.

Ms. Gasperecz said that the committee is looking for partnerships for bike and pedestrian safety. The committee discussed working with Ride and Bike Easy to address bicyclists that do not follow traffic laws. VCPORA did a pedestrian safety survey in 2019 and Ms. Holmes will share with the group. Priorities for improved infrastructure along N. Rampart

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Street were discussed as the priority for working with the City. **The committee will reach out to the Mayor's Office of Transportation, Laura Bryant, and the Dept of Public Works, Jennifer Ruley.**

10. Report – Update on Keep the Quarter Clean launch and new opportunities to present Karley D. Frankic
See attached report.

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

Ms. Gasperecz welcomed back Eric Smith.

Ms. Frankic introduced FQMD's new Coordinator, Shannon Muschalek.

Mr. Fransen asked about the status of parklets. Mrs. Holmes reported that the parklet governance had moved from the City Planning Commission to the City Council. In the recommendations parklets are prohibited in or adjacent to residential zoning districts. All applications from bars would be a conditional use. Parklet are about 311 square feet. Councilmember Harris is leading the initiative for the Council and working with Cm. King. VCPORA is working directly with Cm. King's office. Mr. Fransen said that he is concerned about the lack of design standards for aesthetics and impact on drainage.

Mr. Pendleton asked about the status of the Sanitation Contract. Mr. Smith stated that it was likely that the French Quarter and DDD contract would not go out to bid this year. The City feels that it is cost prohibitive at this time because of the increased costs and challenges with hiring and purchase of equipment due to supply chain issues.

12. Next meeting date – 7 July 2022

The correct date of the next scheduled meeting of the committee is Wednesday, July 6th at 2:00pm

13. Adjournment

Mr. Pendleton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:13 pm

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

KEEP THE QUARTER CLEAN

Campaign Launch Engagement

- 2022/05/09 Board of Commissioners Meeting
- 2022/05/10 New Orleans Chamber's Power Hour – Karley promoted campaign and passed out magnets & stickers
- 2022/05/11 Press Release
- 2022/05/11 New Orleans Chamber Quarterly Luncheon with Gulf Coast Bank guests and bank President, Guy Williams
- 2022/05/11 New Orleans Magazine runs press release as digital article



2022/05/11 Suzanne Alford, Need a Ride Pedicabs, emails offer for free pedicab space “We would love to see a cleaner FQ!”

2022/05/12 Teleconference with Young Leadership Council planning engagement with their membership. They will host a membership event later in the summer to walk the neighborhood engaging with businesses to place stickers in their windows. YLC will help with social media

2022/05/12 Receive email from Jonee' Daigle-Ferrand, Owner/Publisher of Inside New Orleans Magazine, requesting interview. Waiting on her to schedule

2022/05/12 French Quarter Business Association Event – Karley promoted campaign and passed out magnets & stickers

- 2022/05/13 VCPORA includes in their newsletter
- 2022/05/15 VCPORA Mother's Day Concert Picnic – Karley & Mamie promoted the campaign and passed out magnets & stickers
- 2022/05/16 French Quarter Citizens included in their newsletter
- 2022/05/18 Downtown Rotary – Mamie promoted campaign to membership
- 2022/05/18 Wednesday at the Square – Mamie promoted campaign at event
- 2022/05/19 Cabell R. Mouton, Affiliate and Grant Director, Keep Louisiana Beautiful contacts Karley about collaboration



2022/05/25 Keep Louisiana Beautiful introductory call – Karley to work on grant applications for hotel info cards, sanitation study, and possible donation of trash cans

2022/05/25 2022 Chamber After 5 - New Orleans Jazz Museum - Karley & Mamie promoted the campaign and passed out magnets & stickers

2022/05/26 Patio Planters Event - New Orleans Jazz Museum - Karley & Mamie promoted the campaign and passed out magnets & stickers

2022/05/27 Habitat New Orleans leadership team luncheon – Mamie promoted the campaign

2022/06/01 Patio Planters Membership Meeting – Karley is a presenting speaker

2022/06/07 French Quarter Business Association Membership Meeting – Karley is a presenting speaker

