

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes
Wednesday, 2 November 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 2:06pm and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent
Madison	Charleston	X	
Rene	Fransen		X
Mamie	Gasperecz	X	
Erin	Holmes	X	
Dave	Jorgensen		X
Christian	Pendleton	X	
Frank	Perez		X
Graham	Williams		X

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	Executive Director
Shannon	Muschalek	Coordinator
Jessica	Dietz	SEC Member
Jane	Cooper	SEC Chair
Eric	Smith	City CAO

2. Public Comment

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Public Comment Policy can be found at <https://www.fqmd.org/public-comment-policy>. Written public can be submitted electronically via email to publiccomments@fqmd.org. Live comment requests should be registered on comment cards and submitted to the Committee Chair.

3. Approval of previous meeting notes

The committee had no quorum to approve the motion.

4. Committee Chair Comments by Mamie Gasperecz

a. Lighting Assessment Release & Updates

There has been an overwhelming and exciting response to the release of the lighting survey. Mayor Cantrell requested a copy of the lighting survey after she conducted a walk through of the French Quarter with Hospitality executives. The survey was also sent to Eric Smith. Local news outlets have been reporting on the release of the survey. Ms. Frankic reported that she has conducted seven interviews so far to discuss the lighting survey. Because of this coverage and the heightened attention to street lights in the French Quarter, the streetlights have been moved up to Tier One for repair. The FQEDD mid year budget adjustment funds are now at DPW, who is preparing the contract for new street light installations. Mr. Smith has been granted access to survey AllStar Electric's yard to discover how many light poles they are currently storing with the potential of reinstallation. Toro Blanco reported that they expect their 5G poles to have lights installed by the end of the year. Ms. Gasperecz reported that the DDD has also conducted their own lighting survey, where they reported that 75 lights are out and all of them need repairs along Canal Street.

b. 2022 Workplan Review

The Committee reviewed the 2022 plan and discussed possible projects to focus on in 2023. Please see the 2023 work plan draft attached. Mr. Pendelton said he would like to see FQMD having a voice in the Royal Street pedestrian mall conversation under infrastructure in the 2023 work plan. The Committee also discussed involving groups such as Glass Half Full to potentially include innovative recycling plans in the French Quarter. Ms. Cooper will invite this group to attend the next Livability Committee meeting. Ms. Gasperecz suggested that the committee create a one pager to educate and provide resources to the public on Homelessness services. This document would mirror the VCGAP one pager. Ms. Holmes suggested that taking on sound ordinances in the 2023 work plan may be tedious and divisive in nature; but should remain on the plan so that the Committee can respond to potential future issues.

5. Report – Sanitation Contract Monthly Key Performance Indices

KBS sent FQMD the following summary for October, 2022:

- 94% of three times per week and daily pressure washing completed; incompletions due to construction, crime, movie filming, and other unforeseen detours.
- 100% of monthly pressure washing blocks completed.
- Graffiti removed from 1739 spaces of public property.
- 0 instances of speeding 5+ mph over the speed limit over 120 routes.
- 94% of street flushing completed.
- 958 detail litter can cleanings by their supplemental crew.

Ms. Frankic reminded the committee to send in videos and pictures that demonstrate improper or insufficient cleaning techniques. Ms. Charleston asked how sidewalks can be adequately cleaned if they are broken in many areas.

6. Report – Keep the Quarter Clean Thanksgiving Event Planning

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Committee suggested moving the event to 3:30pm so as to not conflict with the New Orleans Saints football game. Mr. Pendelton is reaching out to the Redfish Grill to secure the venue for the event and will have the general manager get in contact with FQMD staff.

7. Report – Update on Keep Louisiana Beautiful Affiliate Training at the 2022 Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference by Shannon Muschalek

Ms. Muschalek presented to the committee the next steps necessary in the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Community Affiliate process. She reported that the next steps include deciding who the point of contact will be along with creating a steering committee. These steps have already been completed through the Livability Committee. She also reported that there are virtual trainings approaching that are mandatory in the affiliate formation process. One of the trainings includes information on conducting a litter survey, which the committee expressed interest in attending. Ms. Muschalek provided the committee with a timeline that she will be following in the next several months to complete the affiliate formation process.

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

Ms. Dietz reported that the Roux Krewe is doing a Riverwalk clean up at 8am on Saturday, November 5th and invited the committee to join.

9. Next meeting date – 7 December 2022

10. Adjournment

This committee dispersed at 2:48pm upon having no quorum to adjourn the meeting.

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

2023 WORK PLAN

INFRASTRUCTURE

Improve existing assessment programs and develop new programming with partners to address challenges with infrastructure in the French Quarter

SIDEWALKS

- Update 2019 Sidewalk Assessment and expand to include
 - Curb study/survey
 - ADA Compliance Assessment
 - Street signs survey
- Develop relationships with the Regional Transit Authority and Downtown Development District to improve user experience with public transit in the French Quarter

N RAMPART

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: Work with partners in transportation planning and funding for North Rampart Street traffic calming measures designed and implemented to reduce multi-modal collisions.
- Work with the New Orleans Water Collaborative on opportunities to improve stormwater management

LIGHTING

- Work for lighting improvements that offer historically appropriate installations that provide a sense of security and place.
- Support Security & Enforcement Committee's focus on repair and maintenance of existing streetlights

CLEANLINESS

Work for improved sanitary conditions throughout the French Quarter

SANITATION SERVICES

- Continue to work with the City's contractor, KBS, to improve services and provide transparency on Key Performance Indices
- Work with the City to monitor new contract negotiation and bidding
- Work with stakeholder partners on a Sanitation Services Best Practices Study

KEEP THE QUARTER CLEAN

- Complete the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Affiliate Program Registration
- Grow investment in litter abatement and beautification with outreach events with strategic partnerships
- Support VCGAP as lead on graffiti abatement in the French Quarter

HOMELESSNESS

Identify opportunities to build on existing partnership and create new partnerships that will benefit the District.

- Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans case workers for street outreach launch by establishing metrics for success and transparent reporting
- Identify new strategic partnerships through working with Unity of Greater New Orleans and New Orleans & Company in their efforts to address homelessness.

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