

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes
Monday, 6 February 2023, 3:00 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 3:00 and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS				MOTIONS	
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve Meeting Notes	Approve Litter Survey Results
Madison	Charleston	X		Yes	Yes
Rene	Fransen	X		Yes	Yes
Mamie	Gasperecz	X		Yes	Yes
Erin	Holmes	X		Yes	Yes
Christian	Pendleton		X	-	-
Frank	Perez	X		Yes	Yes
Graham	Williams	X		Yes	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	Executive Director
Shannon	Muschalek	Coordinator
Jessica	Dietz	SEC Member
Kristi	Taglauer	
Jane	Cooper	SEC chair
Dave	Jorgenson	Resident

2. Public Comment
 No public comment was received by the beginning of the meeting.
3. Approval of previous meeting notes

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Mr. Perez made a motion to approve the December 2022 meeting notes, Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was approved.

4. Committee Chair Comments by Mamie Gasperecz

a. Street Light Assessment and Repairs

Ms. Gasperecz reported that no representatives from DPW attended the last Agreement Monitors meeting to discuss any updates on streetlight repairs in the French Quarter. Ms. Gasperecz will follow up with Ms. Frankic and DPW representatives to obtain an update.

b. 2023 Workplan Review

Ms. Gasperecz informed the committee that she also has heard no updates on the Travelers Aid Society case management program, as there were no representatives present at the last Agreement Monitors meeting to report. Ms. Gasperecz recommended that the committee reconnect with Glass Half Full, a local glass recycling operation, to see how they can partner in 2023. Ms. Gasperecz would also like to prioritize ADA compliance moving forward. Ms. Gasperecz thanked the volunteers who worked diligently to complete the litter survey as well as Officer Price from the upper Quarter Patrol and Officers Gettridge and Rumfield from the NOPD for escorting the volunteers safely around the French Quarter.

5. Report – Sanitation Update by Karley Frankic

a. Sanitation Contract Expiration

b. Sanitation Contract Monthly Key Performance Indices

Ms. Muschalek read the KPI summary for January as follows:

- i. 96% of three times weekly and daily pressure washing completed; incompletions due to construction, crime, movie filming, and other unforeseen detours
- ii. 100% of monthly pressure washing blocks completed
- iii. Graffiti removed from 1,748 spaces of public property
- iv. 0 instances of speeding five plus miles per hour over the speed limit on over 120 routes
- v. 95% of street flushing completed
- vi. 743 detail litter cleanings by the supplemental crew

6. Report – Update on Keep Louisiana Beautiful Affiliate Formation by Shannon Muschalek

a. Report on Conducting a Litter Survey – Results

Ms. Muschalek reported the results from the litter survey conducted on January 25th and January 26th, 2023. The purpose of the litter survey was to understand the severity of the litter in the French Quarter and discover pathways to correct littering behavior. The litter survey was conducted on 10 diverse areas in the French Quarter and were visually inspected. The volunteers estimated the severity of the litter in each marked off area (1000 sq ft each) and rated the severity on a scale from 1 – 4. A score of 1 reflected little to no litter, 2 being some litter, 3 being noticeable litter, and 4 being significant litter. After making this assessment of each space, the volunteer team got to work picking up each piece of litter and tallying the type of each piece. Ms. Muschalek reported that the volunteer group picked up 2,596 pieces of litter. The worst offenders were as follows:

- i. Cigarette Butts – 806
- ii. Small Pieces of Paper – 388
- iii. Small Pieces of Plastic – 340
- iv. Small Pieces of Glass – 280
- v. Gum / Candy Wrappers – 115

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Ms. Muschalek also reported that collectively they filled 5 trash bags of litter and made over 10 reports to the sanitation company for bulky trash. Through this study, the volunteers were able to provide the committee with a foundation from which to build future projects from. Ms. Muschalek reported that overall, the volunteers were surprised to discover that the French Quarter was cleaner than they anticipated, to which they attribute the swift response from the sanitation company to calls for service. The litter survey further details a discussion of what challenges the French Quarter faces regarding litter and litter behavior and also provides recommendations based on the results.

Mr. Perez made a motion to approve the litter survey results as written to be presented to the FQMD Board of Commissioners, Mr. Fransen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

b. Report on Love the Boot Week

Ms. Muschalek reported that KLB's Love the Boot Week is from April 17th through April 23rd. As the committee continues to move through the KLB Affiliate process, they are required to conduct a Love the Boot Week activity. This can be a clean up or a beautification event. Ms. Muschalek reminded the committee that they need to register as soon as possible to receive free clean up supplies.

7. 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 introduced the committee to the attending guests and provided them with an overview of Livability Committee mission. Mr. Antonio Carbonne was invited by Chair Heidi Raines and is a resident of the French Quarter. He is also an owner of the restaurant Mamou. Ms. Kristi Taglauer was also in attendance and reported that she has worked into the hotel business for the last 40 years and is on the Downtown Development District's Board.

Mr. Jorgenson was present and introduced himself to the guests. Ms. Gasperecz reminded those in attendance that Mr. Jorgenson was responsible for creating and managing the recently completed lighting survey. Mr. Jorgenson reported that he is getting responses to the 311 reports that coincide with the survey. According to those reports, 12 streetlights have been repaired. Mr. Jorgenson reminded the committee that the next step of this survey should be to take the list of repairs and verify that the lights have been repaired correctly.

Mr. Perez reported that in June 2023 there will be the 50th anniversary of the upstairs arson that killed 32 people. This event is remembered as one of the deadliest fires in New Orleans history and one of the deadliest crimes against the LGBTQ+ community. More information on this event can be found at: <https://www.lgbtarchiveslouisiana.org/>

Ms. Dietz reported that access passes for residents and business owners to access the French Quarter during Mardi Gras have not yet been printed for distribution.

Ms. Charleston reported there have been several business owners in the French Quarter helping graffiti artists to promote their art shows by illegally tagging other property and posting evidence of their action on Instagram. Ms. Charleston has attempted to reach out to NOPD and the CLO officers. The residents are responsible to remove graffiti from their property and can potentially be fined if the graffiti is not removed in a timely manner. Ms. Gasperecz will touch base with the VCC so determine if they plan to do anything about this. Ms. Dietz will connect Ms. Charleston with the NOPD property crimes officer.

Mr. Williams reported that Wednesdays at the Square is looking for vendors. This event brings in a large economic impact to the French Quarter. More information can be found at: YLCwats.com

Ms. Holmes reported that Councilman Freddie King is hosting a meeting this Thursday, February 9th at 5:30pm for short term rentals at Holy Faith Baptist Church, 1325 Governor Nicholls St., New Orleans. Ms. Holmes invited everyone to attend and share their public comments.

Mr. Jorgenson brought up the sidewalk conditions, due to the 5G tower installations. He reported that one of the green plastic covers in front of his residence cracked and has left a hole in the ground. Someone subsequently pulled the wires out and wrapped aluminum foil around them. Mr. Jorgenson was able to get in contact with someone at the phone number 800-288-

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2020, which is an exposed cable report line for AT&T. Ms. Holmes will follow up with AT&T about the design of the utility covers.

8. Next meeting date – 6 March 2023

9. Adjournment

Ms. Holmes made a motion to adjourn the February 6th, 2023 meeting, Ms. Charleston seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm.