

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

Monday, 3 April 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 3:02 and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS				MOTIONS	
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve Meeting Notes	Ask Board to address expansion of street vending
Madison	Charleston	X		Yes	Yes
Rene	Fransen	X		Yes	Yes
Mamie	Gasperecz		X		
Erin	Holmes	X		Yes	Yes
Christian	Pendleton	X		Yes	Yes
Frank	Perez		X		
Graham	Williams		X		
Antonio	Carbone	X		Yes	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	Executive Director
Bronson	Gettridge	NOPD CLO
Jessica	Dietz	SEC Member
Glade	Bilby	Commissioner
Sal	Sunseri	Business Owner

2. Public Comment

FQMD-Livability Committee Meeting April 3, 2023

Public Comment for:

Alfred R. Sunseri 1039 Toulouse Street, New Orleans, LA 70112

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

I'm not being paid to comment- I own 2 buildings across the Street from where this meeting is taking place at the Covenant House. I have had problems with noise exceeding the allowed decibels at my property between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am. There are golf carts with music that taxi people to the bar across the street from here and park in front with music blaring for in many cases at least an hour. Patrons of the bar stand outside yelling obscenities. A person is now illegally selling food next to my P&J Oyster Company building on Toulouse Street. Trash is left strewn all over the sidewalks and street on Toulouse and North Rampart Street multiple times a week. I have complained about these issues to the City numerous times without resolving the matter.

Thank you, Al

3. Approval of previous meeting notes

Mr. Fransen made a motion to approve the previous meeting notes, Mr. Pendleton seconded the motion, and it was approved.

4. Committee Chair Comments by Mamie Gasperecz

Erin Holmes chaired the meeting in Ms. Gasperecz's absence. Looking forward to working programs like the upcoming Keep the Quarter work plan and events.

5. Presentation – Presentation on Quality-of-Life efforts by Community Liaison Officers Bronson Gettridge and Johnnie Brumfield

Officer Gettridge spoke about recent work by the Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) and took questions from the committee and attendees. The CLOs have been working on homeless situation in Jackson Square and do not want to move these individuals on to someone else's property. Individuals say they do not want to go to the shelter at 1530 Gravier Street because they say they get their belongings stolen, they cannot take their dogs, and they cannot smoke there. Officer Gettridge said that NOPD can no longer write citations for aggressive panhandling per the City Attorney's advice to the Superintendent. Ms. Dietz said that there has been no resolution to the constitutionality questions that were raised over a year ago. She noted that the City Attorney would not prosecute any charges of obstruction of the sidewalk even when shown that this is forcing pedestrians into the street. Ms. Charleston asked how this relates to ADA compliance; is this a violation of federal law ADA?

The pedicab vendors are trying to get NOPD to enforce the illegal golf carts and pedi-cabs. Officer Gettridge said they have reached out to the City Dept. of Safety & Permits' Taxi Cab Bureau but they have not responded yet.

Officer Gettridge said that they have been working on illegal vending with recent sweeps and issued three summons last weekend. The Bourbon Street shot girls need to be addressed by the States Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control. Supplemental parking enforcement has been on hold for three weeks because there is no one to staff the supplemental overtime weekend shifts. Mr. Fransen and Mr. Bilby said that they are not seeing parking enforcement on Esplanade Ave. Officer Gettridge will communicate this with Parking Enforcement Zepporah Edmonds, the Director, who usually connects him with Shamira Emory. Ms. Holmes said she is getting a lot of complaints about golf carts parking on the sidewalks to be charged through a window and golf carts being used for tours. Officer Gettridge said that impound lot would not take a golf cart because they do not have a VIN number. Ms. Holmes asked if the golf carts could be booted as an alternative. Officer Gettridge offered to do a ride along with Ms. Holmes to look at the problem.

Mr. Pendleton asked about towing during day and night hours. Officer Gettridge said that they made numerous efforts in the past two months and that was successful, but they need to get back with Parking Enforcement. Mr. Pendleton said that freight zones need to be cleared, especially with the reactivation on the pedestrian mall. Ms. Dietz asked if Sgt. Philibert, who mans the SPPP traffic enforcement shift, could work with Traffic Enforcement to do towing. Mr. Sunseri

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

noted that there used to be active parking enforcement in the French Quarter and it worked as a deterrent to illegal parkers. Ms. Frankic noted that there are numerous unfilled parking enforcement positions at City Hall. These positions pay \$16/hour and have remained unfilled since posted in 2021.

Mr. Bilby asked about electric scooter enforcement.

6. Report – Update on Keep Louisiana Beautiful Affiliate Formation by Karley D. Frankic
 - a. Annual Work Plan
 - b. Love the Boot Week Event

See attachments.

7. Presentation – Presentation on [Eyes on Infrastructure](#) webinar series by Nellie Catzen

Nellie Catzen talked about the mission of Committee for a Better New Orleans (CBNO) to bridge the gap between people inside of and outside of City Hall. This year they are focused on the grant funding available for infrastructure programs. She discussed CBNO's Eyes on Infrastructure webinar series. The series is both about education and getting feedback to gather useful data using the *I See Change* web platform. The City can use this data for targeted decision making and investment. All of the sessions are on Zoom, the first is this Wednesday, and centered around energy.

Ms. Holmes asked if CBNO is using the data to push the City toward specific investments. Ms. Catzen said right now, CBNO is focused on equity and advocacy to apply for funding. At this time, CBNO is not applying for federal funding. Mr. Bilby asked if there will be help for others writing grant applications. Ms. Catzen answered that grant writing training is coming. Mr. Pendleton asked how we can do more when we are not managing our current allocations for infrastructure. Ms. Catzen noted that we have more infrastructure than we have a population to support. Ms. Catzen said CBNO is positioned to have the right questions that build momentum around the topic. CBO is working mostly with the Office of Resilience and Sustainability, specifically Dan Jatres, grants and project management, and Zach Monroe, policy, and Joe Thread is the CAO for Infrastructure. There is more information about the City's infrastructure funds at www.CBNO.org/ijja

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

Mr. Pendleton wanted to make the committee aware of two issues that are being raised in the neighborhood at this time:

- a. Royal Street Pedestrian Mall has been going through a 30 day trial of having SPPP patrol officers put out the barriers and take them in at the end of mall hours.
- b. There is a push for having more street vendors in the French Quarter.

Ms. Holmes is interested in these issue as the ED of VCPORA and asked if FQMD would get involved. Mr. Pendleton said the FQMD Board would have to be briefed and would share this with the Gov. Affairs Committee. Ms. Charleston reported that Cm. King's Chief said that they were not planning on speaking to residents about the street vendors issue before proceeding with it at City Council. Ms. Holmes said she has been looking at the current legislation and she is concerned that the quick fix of opening the permits without the infrastructure in place to deal with food safety, sidewalk obstruction, and illegal vending, that this is more complicated that it first appears. Further, last year the City Council passed laws to open opportunities with popup vendors that would address the equity issues that Cm. King says he is trying to address with this new effort. Ms. Frankic asked Officer Gettridge how opening up street vending would effect NOPD. Officer Gettridge explained that NOPD does not have the manpower to enforce current rules much less

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

expansion of these rules. Ms. Holmes said that any new laws need to clearly outline who is responsible for enforcing these things. Mr. Sunseri asked if these vendors would be collecting taxes? Officer Gettridge said street vending licensing would fall under the Dept. of Safety & Permits. Ms. Holmes said this can be done one of two ways: 1. Introduce an ordinance or 2. Ask CPC to study how to expand and properly regulate street vending. She believes Cm. King is planning on going with the first path.

The committee members discussed the issues of concerns that are under the purview of the Livability Committee with impact on sidewalk access, litter, permitting, regulation enforcement and the lack of police manpower to enforce. **Ms. Holmes made a motion that because the Livability Committee mission is to address and improve the quality of life for the residents and businesses in the French Quarter, the Committee is concerned about moving forward with expansion of street vending without due diligence would be detrimental to the neighborhood. Therefore, the Livability Committee asks the Board of Commissioners to address concerns around illegal vending and Cm. King's efforts to open up street vending in the French Quarter. Mr. Charleston seconded the motion, and the motion passed.**

Mr. Fransen asked when the parklets would go away. Mr. Bilby said the parklets were supposed to be removed when the Mayor's emergency declaration ended. Ms. Holmes said that the parklets were supposed to be removed by May.

9. Next meeting date – 1 May 2023

The next scheduled Livability Committee meeting is Monday May 1st at 3:00 pm at Covenant House.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Carbone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Pendleton seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.

ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS AND WORKSHEETS

Organizational Goal/Objective Worksheet

Organization's Mission Statement: Keep the Quarter Clean is an initiative of the French Quarter Management District Livability Committee. Keep the Quarter Clean's mission is to help keep the French Quarter a clean, safe, and welcoming neighborhood and destination through litter abatement and beautification.

<p>Goal: The intent of the program is to maintain a higher level of cleanliness, where all stakeholders feel a sense of ownership in a greater level of litter abatement and sanitation amongst our visitors, residents, businesses, and government agencies providing services in the French Quarter.</p>	
<p>Objective 1: Reduce Litter in the French Quarter</p>	<p>Tasks: Work with partners to increase the quantity of trash receptacles in the French Quarter.</p> <p>Timeframe: 6-9 months</p> <p>Performance Measures: The quantity of trash receptacles installed</p>
<p>Objective 2: Reduce cigarette butt litter</p>	<p>Tasks: Identify opportunities for adding new cigarette butt disposal receptacles</p> <p>Timeframe: 6-9 months</p> <p>Performance Measures: Reduction in the quantity of cigarette butt litter</p>
<p>Objective 3: Build support for litter abatement and cleanliness in the French Quarter</p>	<p>Tasks: Build awareness by holding events, issuing window decals, car magnets, hotel rack cards, educational materials, etc. by partnering with residential, business, governmental, and civic-minded partners.</p> <p>Timeframe: Ongoing</p> <p>Performance Measures: Volunteer hours and media value</p>

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



The French Quarter Management District's [Keep the Quarter Clean](#) Campaign is teaming up with French Quarter Fest to support their [Green Team](#) for the kick off of [Love the Boot Week](#). The Green Team will be on hand throughout the festival grounds to guide the public in the use of recycling and composting stations. Keep the Quarter Clean volunteers can sign up for four hours Green Team shifts for **Sunday, April 16th** with the Keep the Quarter Clean group. Volunteer shifts are from 10 am – 2 pm, 1 pm – 5 pm, or 4 pm – 8 pm.

Contact Karley Frankic at kfrankic@fqmd.org to sign up. Please note if you would like to be scheduled with specific friends or neighbors. The sooner the better to make sure you get the slot you want. Thank you for your support of a cleaner French Quarter!

FRENCH QUARTER FESTIVAL
40
ANNIVERSARY
EST. 1984

**JOIN THE
FRENCH QUARTER FEST
GREEN TEAM
APRIL 13-16**

**GREAT FOR GROUPS &
SERVICE HOURS**

REGISTER NOW
FRENCHQUARTERFEST.ORG/VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER PERKS:
GREEN TEAM SHIRT
\$10 IN MERCHANDISE
AND BEVERAGE TICKETS
BLUE BIKE PROMO CODE

**WE NEED YOU TO KEEP
THE GREEN TEAM
GEAUXING!**

MORE INFO:
FQFI.ORG/GREEN
VOLUNTEERS@FQFI.ORG

The French Quarter Management District is a state political subdivision created by the Louisiana Legislature as a means for the residential and business communities to work together to protect, preserve, and maintain the world famous French Quarter as a safe, clean, vibrant and friendly neighborhood for residents, businesses, and visitors.

[← Back to All Events](#)

Eyes on Infrastructure Webinar Series

Wednesday, April 5, 2023
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Committee for a Better New Orleans
Virtual (map)

[Google Calendar](#) · [ICS](#)



EYES UP! If you care about potholes, bus routes, and flooding, you care about INFRASTRUCTURE. Learn more about it & get involved!

Join us on Wednesday, April 5th (6-7pm CT) for the first session of "Eyes on Infrastructure"!

Eyes on Infrastructure is a 6-part webinar series where we'll explore local climate and infrastructure issues—and learn how to use ISeeChange to bring solutions to our neighborhoods. In each part, we will dive deep into the infrastructure systems that keep our city running, examine how climate change is impacting them, and discuss ways YOU can help.

FIRST UP ON April 5th - Energy with the Alliance for Affordable Energy

Local experts and community leaders will provide insights on transportation infrastructure, flooding, energy efficiency, dumping, and more. Then, learn to use ISeeChange and share local experiences of climate and infrastructure, identify neighborhood priorities, and co-design solutions with city decision-makers.

By learning how to share critical infrastructure data through ISeeChange, you'll help inform federal funding decisions with top concerns in your neighborhood. Be sure to pass this along to friends, family, colleagues, or anyone passionate about bringing change to their neighborhood.

Eyes on Infrastructure is presented by Healthy Gulf, Committee for a Better New Orleans, and ISeeChange as part of the People Empowering Projects initiative.

[Click Here To Register](#)

March 10

< NerdOut for Infrastructure Best Practices

COMMITTEE FOR A BETTER NEW ORLEANS

PO Box 791570 New Orleans, LA | (504) 356-3156 | INFO@CBNO.ORG

Made with [Squarespace](#)