

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

Monday, 18 September 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 3:01 pm and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS				MOTIONS			
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve Meeting Notes	Move Agenda Item 10 to Item 2	Move Agenda Item 9 to Item 8	Approve FQMD applying for KLB grant
Madison	Charleston	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rene	Fransen	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mamie	Gasperecz	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Erin	Holmes	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christian	Pendleton		x	-	-	-	-
Graham	Williams	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Antonio	Carbone	x		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Karley	Frankic	FQMD Executive Director
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Jessica	Dietz	SEC Committee member
Danny	Conwill	French Quarter Business Owner
Jane	Copper	FQMD Commissioner and SEC Chair
Alex	Dunkenberger	CAO's Office
Eric	Smith	CAO's Office
Glade	Bilby	FQMD Commissioner and SEC Committee member
Nakeila	Polk	Director of Special Projects, DPW
Louis	Haywood	Project Manager, DPW

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2. Discussion- Sobering Center Statistics

Erin Holmes motioned to move agenda item number 10 to item number 2. Maddie Charleston seconded the motion, and it was approved. Eric Smith reported that the Sobering Center has been doing well post-Covid and informed the Committee that the center is open 24 hours a day and is utilized in cases where individuals are exhibiting signs of intoxication. He reported that the center has been successful with moving people into long-term treatment and detoxification programs and noted that there are around 200-300 clients a month, mainly coming in from the French Quarter and the Central Business District. Mr. Smith offered to come back to the Committee with more details and statistics. Chair Mamie Gasperecz requested that Mr. Smith prepare a formal presentation for the October Committee meeting. Commissioner and guest Glade Bilby asked Mr. Smith what the annual budget of the center is. Mr. Smith answered that the full operating cost is \$1.2 million but noted that the Center is looking for additional funding to provide more services. Mr. Smith added that the center is fully funded at the base level for the next two years. Graham Williams asked what percentage of clients are frequent flyers. Mr. Smith replied that he didn't have the specific numbers but estimated around 30-40%. Guest Danny Conwell asked if people can be forced to go to the Sobering Center. Mr. Smith answered no, the individuals have to go voluntarily.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Conwell expressed his frustration over the number of issues concerning the French Quarter and voiced his opinion that the multiple groups and committees working on these issues have a lack of effectiveness. Mr. Conwell stated that New Orleans is one of the most important cities in the world and added that he would like to see these groups unite with residents and business owners and go to City Hall to bring more attention to these concerns. Ms. Gasperecz thanked Mr. Conwell for his feedback and offered to speak with him outside of the Committee meeting along with Vice-Chair Holmes and Karley Frankic to give further details on the good work coming from the French Quarter Management District (FQMD) and its four sub-committees. Ms. Frankic added that the FQMD consists of 13 commissioners, a diverse group of both residents and business owners who are working together on the same goals.

4. Approval of previous meeting notes

Rene Fransen motioned to approve the previous meeting notes. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion, and it was approved.

5. Committee Chair Comments

Ms. Gasperecz thanked the Committee for their attendance and apologized for the confusion with meetings being rescheduled and canceled. She stated that meetings will commence as regularly scheduled moving forward.

a. Update on glass recycling

Ms. Gasperecz said that she is working on getting a plan ready for discussion by the next Committee meeting. Jane Cooper, FQMD Commissioner, informed the Committee that she is on the Glass Half Full Advisory Board, and stated that they are eager to provide their services to the French Quarter. Jessica Dietz added that the Eighth District station will be implementing glass recycling soon.

6. Report- Sanitation Key Performance Indices

See attached documents. Ms. Frankic reviewed the KPIs with the Committee and noted that results have remained consistent month to month. She asked the Committee if anyone had suggestions on how to quantify the quality of KBS's services. Ms. Charleston asked if Ms. Frankic knew if a manager was onsite during the week to double-check the quality of work. Ms. Frankic did not know the answer but encouraged the Committee members to keep submitting their Keep the Quarter Clean requests to FQMD.org. Antonio Carbone stated that he would like to see the KPIs include response times to make sure the tickets are met within the designated timeline, especially those concerning hazardous waste. Ms. Frankic replied that the response time should be one hour maximum and noted that services are inactive from 12 am to

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

4 am. She also encouraged the Committee to use email for submitting, not calling in by phone. Ms. Charleston pointed out that mule waste is an issue that needs follow-up and stated that though this isn't KBS's responsibility first and foremost, they have been handling the cleanup which can keep them from other priorities. Ms. Frankic informed the Committee that Keep the Quarter Clean will go out to businesses in the fall and give them informational brochures about the services that KBS offers so that awareness of this resource is more widespread in the neighborhood.

7. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of Street Vending Enforcement

Ms. Frankic reported that the illegal vending sweeps that were to take place after Essence Festival did not happen but noted that the Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) regularly perform sweeps on Canal Street and Bourbon Street. Ms. Frankic stated that illegal vending was also discussed at the Security and Enforcement Committee meeting earlier today, and one of the biggest challenges is that the citation doesn't present a high enough threat to the vendors. Mr. Conwell added that alcohol cannot be confiscated during these sweeps, and because there is a low citation of \$75 the illegal vendors can easily pay off this fee. Alex Dunkenberger stated that Cpt. Roberts has been coordinating the next sweep with the Finance Department and Nighttime Economy and noted that there has been a fair amount of community push back with the recent sweep on St. Claude Avenue. Ms. Cooper stated that the City's response to illegal vending is not adequate and added that she will work with Ms. Gasperecz on reframing the expectations of the sweeps with the City. Mr. Williams noted that he recently saw a vendor with exotic animals and suggested getting the LSPCA involved. Ms. Gasperecz will reach out to LSPCA on the matter. Ms. Holmes proposed raising the maximum cap for the fine. Mr. Dunkenberger stated that this would require legislative change but said that this is a possibility. Mr. Carbone asked if there was a way to deputize officers to allow them to enforce for more than one agency during the multi-departmental sweeps. Mr. Dunkenberger replied that NOPD attempted to deputize across agencies, but the individuals who were deputized did not feel safe dealing in confrontational situations.

8. Discussion - North Rampart Safety Measures

Mr. Williams motioned to move agenda item number 9 to item number 8. Ms. Charleston seconded the motion, and it was approved. Guest speaker Nakeila Polk, the Director of Roadwork Nola with the Department of Public Works (DPW), introduced herself to the Committee and discussed the upcoming 735 Project, which is aimed to improve the overall safety on North Rampart Street. Ms. Polk informed the Committee that the DPW will be restriping the crosswalk areas along Rampart Street in an effort to calm traffic and help improve the safety for pedestrians and cyclists and added that this project should take seven business days to complete. Lewis Haywood of the DPW introduced himself to the Committee and discussed the details involved with the project. He stated that the restriping plan is a non-invasive intermediate step before future permanent, larger scale safety projects. Mr. Haywood noted that the number of lanes will not be changed during this project. One of the goals is to calm turns so that pedestrians can safely walk across the street, and flex posts will be added by the crosswalk in front of the WWL building. He stated that two or three flex posts will be put on each block on the bike lane and pointed out that there will be minor parking adjustments. New signage will be placed around freight zones and bus stops and older signage will be cleaned for improved visibility. Ms. Polk stated that she would like to come back to the Livability Committee in October or November to discuss progress as well as introduce the liaison between the DPW and the FQMD, Brandon Copley. Mr. Carbone thanked Ms. Polk and Mr. Haywood for their work and informed the Committee that he has been working with FQMD and VCPORA on a safety survey for residents to raise public awareness of the project and receive feedback. Some of the ideas he has discussed with Ms. Holmes and Ms. Frankic regarding improvement of North Rampart Street safety measures include curb extensions, managing street corners, improving crosswalk lengths, installing speedbumps, adding a streetlight on St. Ann, and creating a way to retain stormwater. Mr. Carbone stated that community engagement with this program will be beneficial for both the DPW and the Livability Committee and asked Ms. Polk what the best avenue for feedback would be, noting that a number of businesses and residents don't feel like they have input in these matters. Ms. Polk answered that there are public design meetings that allow for community input on these projects, adding that outreach specialists act as a liaison for the residents and businesses and will defer the public feedback to the design team. Ms. Holmes stated that the survey is being launched this Wednesday, the 20th and will be open for two weeks, and noted that

French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

VCPOA will be amplifying awareness of the survey via social media. Ms. Frankic added that at the October Livability Committee meeting they will share preliminary updates from the survey. Mr. Carbone said that he hopes to give a formal presentation for the Board of Commissioners regarding the program. Ms. Polk thanked the Committee for their time and invited them to tour the Roadwork NOLA website for any additional information they may need.

9. Discussion - Discussion by Committee of Royal Street Pedestrian Mall including parking enforcement and barricade mobilization

Ms. Frankic reported that until the new NOPD Superintendent is in place, overtime for NOPD officers is being allotted for the mall patrol, with SPPP officers covering these shifts if NOPD officers are not available. Ms. Frankic stated that replacing the sleeves for the barricades was a topic of discussion at the Agreement Monitors meeting and informed the Committee that six new sleeves have been added to the 2024 budget.

a. Towing Enforcement

No new updates were discussed.

10. Discussion - Keep Louisiana Beautiful 2024 Grants

See attached document. Ms. Frankic reported that the FQMD's Keep the Quarter Clean program is eligible for beautification grants through Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) as an affiliate member. The grant is between \$1,000-\$8,000 and the application is due by October 18th. Beautification projects must be in a highly visible public space to promote community pride. FQMD staff have been brainstorming ideas for this project and have been mapping out a plan to plant a garden at Bienville Place on North Peters Street. Ms. Frankic has reached out to Leslie Alley with the French Market Corporation (FMC) to see if this is something FMC would be interested in collaborating on. Ms. Alley stated that Bienville Place is not property of the FMC, but FMC maintains the landscaping and she would love to see improvements. Ms. Frankic reported that she has spoken to the Director of Parks and Parkways, and they were supportive of the plan, but voiced their concern about who would handle the garden's upkeep. Ms. Frankic suggested that the plants chosen for the garden be low maintenance and native. Ms. Frankic asked the Committee if they were supportive of the idea and would like to move forward with FQMD staff applying for the grant and added that she would love it if anyone wanted to volunteer to help create a landscaping plan. **Mr. Carbone motioned for FQMD to apply for the KLB grant. Mr. Fransen seconded the motion, and it was approved.**

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. Charleston reported to the Committee that she is working with District C on restrictions for food vending and asked the Committee to send any recommendations or feedback regarding push carts for food vendors her way. Mr. Fransen asked if updates on the streetlight installations and repairs could be discussed at the next Committee meeting. Ms. Frankic informed the Committee that she is waiting to hear back from Mr. Smith who her point of contact with the DPW will be after Sarah Porteous's resignation but stated that FQMD staff along with staff from VCPOA have finished conducting the 5G small cell and streetlight fieldwork. Ms. Frankic is sending the collected data to the DPW and will conduct a nighttime assessment for light functionality once the weather cools down. Mr. Dunkenberger informed the Committee of a new graffiti abatement program by the City that includes private property.

12. Next meeting date

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Monday, October 2nd, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fransen seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 pm.

French Quarter KPI Reporting for the month of June

99%

Of 3x 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 1602 spaces of public property in June

99%

Street Flushing Completed



0

Instances of speeding 5+ miles over the speed limit over 120 routes in

June



732

Detail litter can cleanings by our supplemental crew

French Quarter KPI Reporting for the month of July

99%

Of 3x 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 1674 spaces of public property in July

99%

Street Flushing Completed



0

Instances of speeding 5+ miles over the speed limit over 120 routes in

July



776

Detail litter can cleanings by our supplemental crew

French Quarter KPI Reporting for the month of August

99%

Of 3x per week and daily pressure washing completed; incompletions due to construction, crime, movie filming, and other unforeseen detours



Graffiti removed from 1622 spaces of public property in August

99%

Street Flushing Completed



100% of monthly pressure washing blocks completed

0

Instances of speeding 5+ miles over the speed limit over 120 routes in

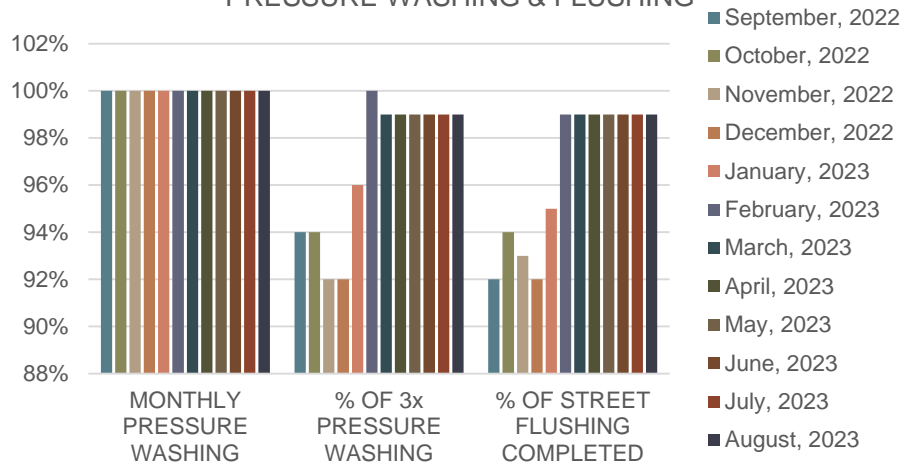
August



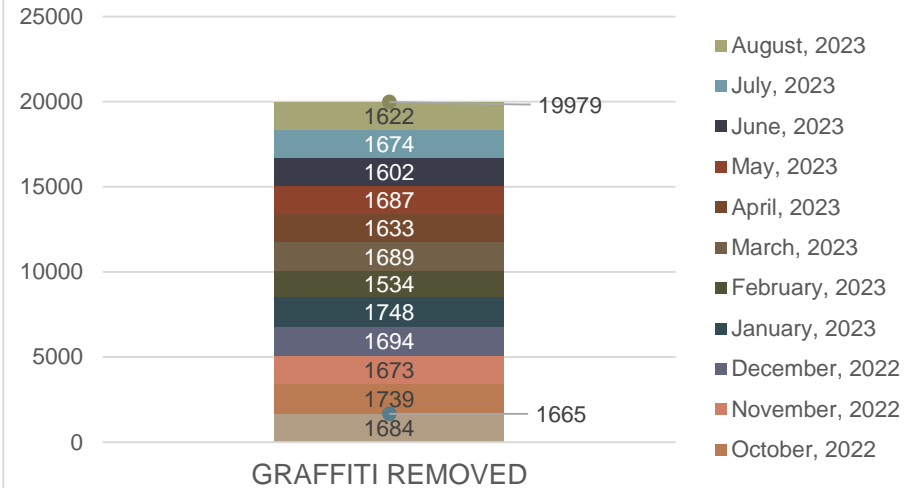
749

Detail litter can cleanings by our supplemental crew

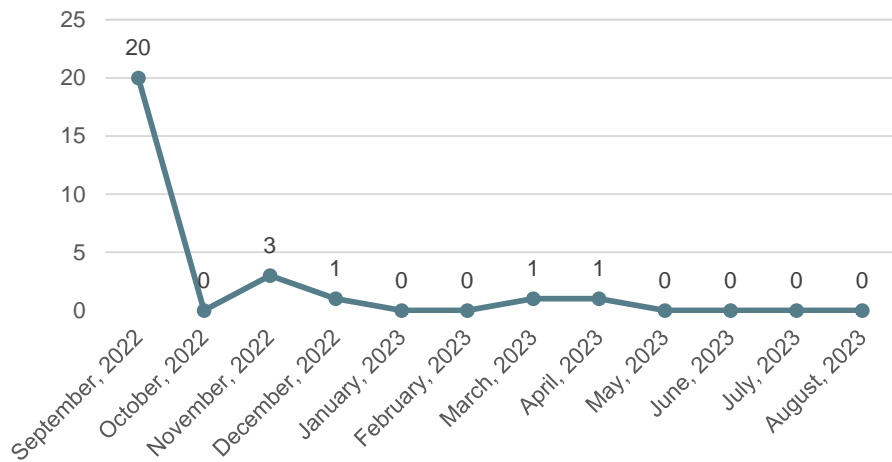
PRESSURE WASHING & FLUSHING



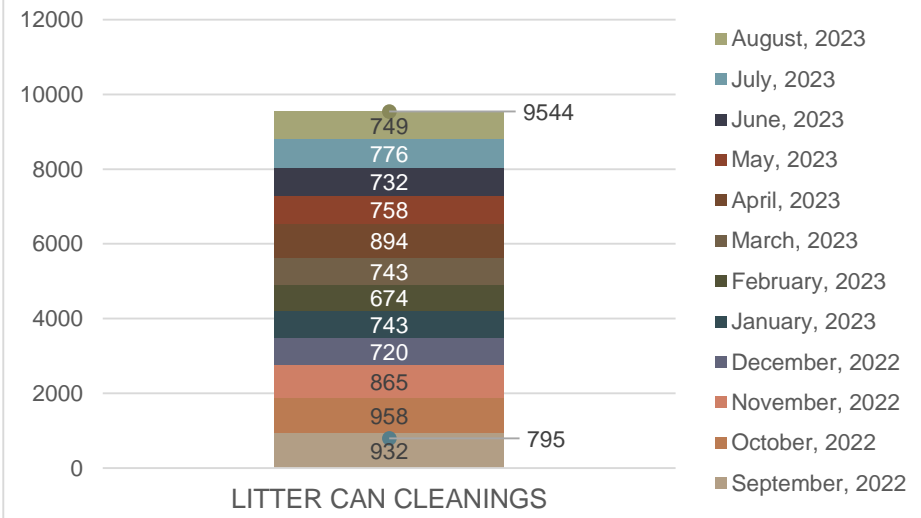
GRAFFITI REMOVED



INSTANCES OF SPEEDING



LITTER CAN CLEANINGS



French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Keep Louisiana Beautiful

Beautification Project

As a Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) affiliate, The French Quarter Management District (FQMD) is obligated to hold a litter abatement or beautification project for Keep the Quarter Clean during Love the Boot Week in late April 2024. KLB offers a beautification grant which FQMD would be able to apply for. The deadline is October 18th. This grant can land anywhere between \$1,000-\$8,000 and must be utilized at a location in a highly visible public space. We want to promote community pride and make this project a collaboration between neighborhood organizations that will foster diverse community support.

Staff has been exploring the options for improvements to beautify Bienville Place on North Peters Street by adding a garden with a variety of native plants. Bienville Place is owned by the City and is currently maintained by French Market Corporation (FMC). Both FMC and The City's Department of Parks and Parkways would be our ideal partners for this project. Staff had preliminary calls with Parks and Parkways and FMC to gauge their interest. Three areas of primary focus at this stage of planning include Livability Committee interest in the project, opportunities for funding and partnership resources.



KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE



Funding: Funding would be allocated towards plants, gardening tools, soil, and items like sunblock, snacks, and water for our volunteer gardeners.

Resources: Finding out how many volunteers we would need for this project, as well as the upkeep and long-term maintenance of the garden are factors that we need to consider.



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.