

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### Meeting Notes

Wednesday, 3 January 2024, 2:00 pm

*400 N. Peters Street, Suite 206, New Orleans, LA 70130*

1. Call to Order, Reading of the Agenda, and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm and the agenda was read into the record.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS				VOTES
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve mtg notes
Glade	Bilby	X		Yes
Christian	Pendleton	X		Yes

### INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES:

GUESTS		
First	Last	Role
Karley	Frankic	FQMD Executive Director
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Jane	Cooper	FQMD Chair
David	Bilbe	FQMD Commissioner
Alex	Dunkenberger	CAO's Office

2. Public Comment:

Glade Bilby read the public comment below into the record.

Mr. Christian Pendleton  
Government Affairs Chair  
French Quarter Management District

Good Afternoon Christian,

As a volunteer FQMD Commissioner, I am not being paid in connection for my comments regarding the Government Affairs Committee meeting agenda items 9 and 10.

Item 9: I am very much in favor of an "Access Task Force" to address and work towards a solution regarding continual access problems the NOFD contents with. The current situation delays response time, putting these responders in additional harm's way, increases property damage and exacerbates diminished public safety.

Item 10: I am not entirely sure what the Committee shall determine "preauthorization" entails. However, I believe the Commission should have input into the selection. There are Boards and Commissions with Mayoral appointments that vet and present three candidates for a single position. Anyone willing to serve must understand and embrace the accompanying responsibility of the position and qualify pursuant to FQMD's empowering State legislation.

# French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Many thanks to you and Glade for all your work on this Committee.

Regards,

Sue Klein

1020 Toulouse Street

NOLA 70112

### 3. Approval of previous meeting notes

**Christian Pendleton motioned to approve the previous meeting notes. Mr. G. Bilby seconded the motion, and it was approved.**

### 4. Committee Chair's Comments

Mr. G. Bilby welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He stated that one of his goals for the Government Affairs Committee in 2024 is to engage more with government officials which could prove to be beneficial for the French Quarter Management District (FQMD) in the future.

### 5. New Government Affairs Committee Member nominations for consideration by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners

- a. David Bilbe
- b. Heidi Raines

Mr. G. Bilby pointed out that by adding more members to the Government Affairs Committee it could help the FQMD be more responsive to the constituents in the community. He stated that he is happy to ask the Board Chair to nominate Commissioners David Bilbe and Heidi Raines to the committee. Mr. Pendleton agreed, stating that both are exceptional candidates.

### 6. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of 2024 Workplan

See attached document. Mr. G. Bilby stated that the 2024 Work Plan ties into his earlier comments of developing and fostering relationships with other agencies, specifically Councilmember Freddie King, the Mayor's office, and the Department of Public Works (DPW). Mr. Pendleton added that there will be changes in Baton Rouge due to the new administration, and pointed out the importance of being a part of conversations as much as possible before decisions and changes are made that would affect the French Quarter. Mr. G. Bilby agreed, noting that focusing on good communication is important.

### 7. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of Louisiana State 2023-2024 Appropriation Projects

- a. Upper Quarter Patrol Expansion
- b. North Rampart Street Safety Initiatives
- c. Glass Half Full Glass Recycling
- d. Trash Receptacle Acquisition
- e. Esplanade Cultural Landmarks Corridor Project

Mr. G. Bilby reported that each of the 2023-2024 Louisiana State appropriation projects are in the beginning stages. Jane Cooper noted that Karley Frankic has been in contact with Nicholas Boudreaux of the State Department of the Treasury concerning the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) draft and is in the process of making his suggested revisions to it. Ms. Frankic added that documentation from the vendors will need to be included when FQMD submits the CEA to the State. She is working with the vendors now to finalize all of the paperwork. Ms. Cooper said she expects the signed CEA to be sent to Mr. Boudreaux Friday or Monday.

### 8. Discussion – Discussion by Committee regarding long-term funding strategic planning

Mr. G. Bilby suggested coming up with a long-term funding plan as well as thinking of other viable projects if the State appropriation funding becomes reoccurring after 2024. Mr. Pendleton stated that the 2023-2024 State appropriation projects aren't just beneficial for the French Quarter, but for the City and State as well. Mr. G. Bilby agreed and pointed out that the current State appropriation could lead to potential matching funds from the City. Ms. Frankic noted that she has been in

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contact with hospitality leaders who would like to pursue the possibility of extending the spending deadline of the current State appropriation to the end of the calendar year.

9. Discussion – Discussion by Committee regarding creation of an “Access Task Force” to address the crisis surrounding proper access by first responders and the Fire Department

See attached document. Mr. G. Bilby spoke about the ongoing concern of first responders and firefighters of not being able to get through the French Quarter streets due to illegal parking blocking of street corner zones and fire hydrants. He suggested creating a team with members from the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Eighth District, the NOPD Superintendent, the Dept. of Public Works, the local Firefighters Association, French Quarter Citizens, Vieux Care Property Owners, Residents, and Associates, and Representatives from City Council District C to put more pressure on Parking Enforcement to address this issue. He noted that Parking Enforcement has previously shown up to Security and Enforcement Committee meetings to discuss towing in the neighborhood and stated that they have 12 available tow trucks but lack enough drivers. He stated that another issue is the lack of available space for storing towed vehicles. Mr. Pendleton added that finding lots for towed vehicles in safe areas is a challenge. Ms. Frankic stated that it is necessary to first find out what is legally possible and find out who has the authority to write citations and tow vehicles. She noted that if the FQMD creates a Task Force, it would be handled like the FQMD’s Committees, meaning it would be subject to the same public meeting rules and regulations.

- a. Motion – Consider a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to Create an “Access Task Force” to address the crisis surrounding proper access by first responders and the Fire Department

Mr. G. Bilby stated that he would not proceed with a motion at this time but would like to speak with the Board of Commissioners at Monday’s Board meeting to see if anyone would like to provide input for a working group to tackle this issue. Mr. D. Bilbe asked to create an agenda item for this topic and invite stakeholders to attend the next committee meeting to discuss solutions further. Mr. G. Bilby stated that he would like to reach out to some of these stakeholders privately first to discuss the legalities of the issue.

10. Discussion – Discussion by Committee of City representatives to the French Quarter Management District

See attached document. Mr. G. Bilby stated that he feels the FQMD faces the issue of not having data from the City provided in a timely manner. He stated that his intention with the letter was not to suggest City Commissioner Appointees to the FQMD be pre-vetted, but to improve the efficiency of collecting data between the FQMD and the City. Ms. Frankic informed the committee that the City is under no legal obligation to provide data, or to attend the FQMD board or committee meetings. She stressed the importance of building a relationship not only with the City, but with other entities as well. Ms. Cooper agreed with Ms. Frankic, suggesting building personal relationships with City and State leaders to raise awareness of the FQMD’s purpose and programs.

- a. Motion – Consider a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners authorizing the Government Affairs Committee Chair to author a letter to the City of New Orleans requesting pre-authorization on City representatives to the French Quarter Management District

Mr. G. Bilby stated that he does not want to introduce a motion at this time but thanked the Committee for allowing him to provide further clarification on the matter.

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

No new business was discussed.

12. Next meeting date:

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2024, at 3:00 pm. Future meetings will be rescheduled from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

13. Adjournment

**Mr. Pendleton made a motion to adjourn. Mr. G. Bilby seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm**

# Government Affairs Committee

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Develop and foster relationships with other governmental agencies

- Work with state and local administrators and legislators to promote the importance and value of the French Quarter to the City, Region, and State
- Work towards permanent state funding through the legislature

Negotiate governmental contracts with other Committees for consideration by the Board of Commissioners

- Explore options for a French Quarter Economic Impact Assessment
- Renew Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the French Quarter Museum Association

1/2/23

### **French Quarter Access Task Force**

Establish a task force to address the crisis surrounding proper access by first responders and the Fire Department

Members to include:

- 1) 8<sup>th</sup> District
- 2) DPW
- 3) NOFD Superintendent
- 4) NO Firefighters Assn. Local 632
- 5) Representative from District C
- 6) French Quarter Citizens/VCPORA

1/2/23

French Quarter Management District is looking forward to, and working toward, a prosperous year for business and the French Quarter in 2024.

As the Board of Commissioners and the various committees are composed of volunteers with a focused agenda to make our historic core more viable for our residents and tourists, we need to make our deliberations and actions more efficient. In order to increase the effectiveness of our actions, we respectfully request more prepared and responsive representation from the City of New Orleans at all of our various committee meetings.

The Board of Commissioners find it necessary to vet and approve any representatives of the city at our various meetings. We are requesting this requirement so that the Security and Enforcement committee, Livability committee, Financial and Development committee and the Board of Commissioners may more effectively address the important topics that we are tasked with.

Progress reports and collected data needs to be presented in a timely fashion that reflects the constant needs that FQMD is charged with addressing. Proper maintenance and security does not wait for the perpetual stream of tourists to subside. We need to be able to address issues as they arise, and a healthy collaboration with our partners in the City is vital to making this happen.

Respectfully,

Glade Bilby II  
FQMD Government Affairs, Chair