

## LIVABILITY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Notes

Wednesday, 2 April 2025, 3:00 pm

*Covenant House, Board Room*

*611 N. Rampart Street, New Orleans, LA 70112*

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM and the agenda was read into the record.

ROLL CALL: COMMITTEE MEMBERS				
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent	Approve Meeting Notes
Madison	Charleston	X		Yes
Rene	Fransen	X		Yes
Mamie	Gasperecz	X		Yes
Erin	Holmes	X		-
Antonio	Carbone	X		Yes
Katie	Kolthoff	X		Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES: GUESTS		
First Name	Last Name	Role
Michelle	Courseault	FQMD Executive Director
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Bob	Bejarano	FQMD Program Manager
Alex	Dunkenberger	CAO Office
Gretchen	Byers	VCPOA

2. Public Comment:

No written public comment was received.

3. Motion – Consider a motion to approve the previous meeting notes

**Rene Fransen made a motion to approve the previous meeting notes. Katie Kolthoff seconded the motion, and it was approved.**

4. Committee Chair's Comments

Chair Mamie Gasperecz welcomed the Committee. She stated that she would like the expand the Committee's membership and asked that Committee members send any recommendations to her between now and the next meeting. Ms. Gasperecz noted that interested individuals may attend a meeting as a guest first to see if they are interested in joining. She reminded the Committee that a diverse balance between business owners and residents must be represented.

5. Work Plan Discussions –

- a. Review Work Plan Q1 Successes/In Progress/Stalled

# French Quarter

## MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

See attached document. Michelle Courseault stated that she would like to take a look at the 2025 Livability Committee Work Plan with the Committee to assess the current status of each project and to get feedback on what the Committee would like to prioritize. She noted that at the end of Q2, she will be working with each Committee to see if any stalled projects need to be removed from the work plans. The Committee reviewed the document, starting with the Infrastructure section. The Committee agreed that communication with City partners has been improving, which has led to more transparency and clarity for infrastructure projects. Antonio Carbone noted that working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) has been a success, and the DPW continues to be proactive in helping the Committee with any questions they have. Ms. Courseault noted that both the Livability and Security & Enforcement Committees have crossover areas with infrastructure, like the streetlight repairs project. She informed the Committee that she will be meeting with Pat Tobler this week to discuss a potential on-call warranty contract with All-Star. Mr. Carbone asked if the Committee could take the lead on the Project Nola crime cameras. Ms. Courseault replied that the Security & Enforcement Committee has already taken the lead on this project and is currently looking for residents and businesses who have interest in paying for the camera installations. Vice-Chair Erin Holmes stated that she can help to identify private property owners who would be interested in signing up for the program, if the Security & Enforcement Committee can set aside a budget for the installations and maintenance that she can disseminate to the residents and businesses. The Committee agreed that the first two items listed under Infrastructure have been a success, but the interior parking management, Code Enforcement, and wayfinding/signage projects have been slow in progress. Mr. Carbone pointed out that it would be necessary to hire a traffic engineer for the wayfinding and signage project. The Committee agreed to reassess these projects at the end of Q2 to see if any progress has been made.

Moving on to Sidewalks, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Safety, Ms. Gasperecz stated that the transportation planning for traffic calming measures has been a great success with the North Rampart Street initiative. Mr. Carbone noted that transportation planning for traffic calming measures for the interior of the French Quarter has been stalled. Maddie Charleston reported that New Orleans & Company (NO&CO) has been taking the lead on the ADA assessment for the French Quarter. She added that she will be attending a meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> with NO&CO and will report more information back to the Committee. The Committee agreed to leave this on the Work Plan for now, but noted that it is not a top priority since NO&CO will be leading this effort.

Reviewing the Sanitation Services & Cleanliness section, Mr. Carbone stated that the Committee should look into creating specific Key Performance Indices (KPIs) for a monthly report from IV Waste so that when the current sanitation contract ends, the new company taking over sanitation in the French Quarter can see the level of service that will be the expected standard. Ms. Kolthoff agreed, adding that there should be language in the new contract detailing what the consequences would be if the company fails to meet these standards. Ms. Courseault stated that the bid and selection process for the Sanitation contract are open to the public, noting that this would allow Committee members, residents, and businesses the opportunity to voice their questions and concerns regarding sanitation deliverables. The Committee agreed that this section of the Work Plan should stay as is, but new KPIs need to be defined.

Moving on to the Homelessness section, Ms. Gasperecz stated that the partnership with Covenant House continues to be a success, but noted that the other homeless services in the area do not seem to be as effective. Alex Dunkenberger reported that the Rapid Rehousing Program has housed 11 individuals to date, and noted that he will be meeting with Donna Paramore of the Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans (TASGNO) tomorrow to discuss getting TASGNO the remaining funds for the program, and to discuss TASGNO's progress with housing the final nine individuals by June. Ms. Charleston voiced her concern regarding the upcoming closure of Decatur Street due to Entergy and the Sewerage and Water Board, pointing out that this area already has a large community of unhoused individuals openly doing drugs and causing trouble to residents and businesses. She stated that the closure will negatively impact this area even more, and noted that she will bring up these concerns to the Security & Enforcement Committee next month. Ms. Courseault stated that this would be a great opportunity to invite KC Guidry of the French Market Corporation to the next Security & Enforcement meeting to open up this discussion. Shelby Ursu will include the TASGNO monthly reports in the Livability Committee meeting packets moving forward, as well as send the Covenant House monthly reports to the Security & Enforcement Committee. The Committee agreed to mark the Homelessness section as stalled.

### b. Bourbon Street Town Hall Takeaways, Feedback, & Next Steps

# French Quarter

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Ms. Holmes reported that the town hall meeting at the Omni was a success, stating that 250 people attended, as well as representatives of the media. She noted that the NOPD misinformed her that the Taneo group was confirmed to be present at this public meeting to present their final Bourbon Street public safety recommendations, but this was not the case and led to some confusion, as well as a nola.com article that further added to the misunderstanding. Ms. Holmes stated that the purpose of the meeting was to allow residents the opportunity to communicate their questions and concerns. She added that there were a lot of polar opposite opinions being voiced, and many folks had concerns regarding the logistics of making the street into a temporary or full-time pedestrian mall. Ms. Holmes reported that Taneo sent their final recommendation to Mayor Cantrell last Monday, but no other updates have been released. She recommended that the Committee stay alert on this subject and report back any updates they may receive.

c. Updates

i. Streetlight Maintenance: Finance & Development Committee On-call Warranty Contract

No new updates were discussed. This agenda item is deferred to the May Committee meeting.

ii. Street Markings Project Request for Proposals

No new updates were discussed. This agenda item is deferred to the May Committee meeting.

iii. Graffiti Abatement

No new updates were discussed. This agenda item is deferred to the May Committee meeting.

iv. Keep the Quarter Clean Love the Boot Week Event

See attached document. Ms. Ursu reported that Keep the Quarter Cleans' 2025 Love the Boot Week event will be this Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10 AM to 12 PM. She stated that the total volunteer count is currently at 31, but noted that all Committee members are welcome to stop by and volunteer if interested.

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

No new business was discussed.

7. Next Meeting Date:

The next scheduled meeting date of the Committee is Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3 PM.

8. Adjournment

**Ms. Holmes made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Charleston seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.**

# Livability Committee

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## Infrastructure

- Continue identification of challenges with infrastructure in the French Quarter and work with City partners to work towards improvements
- Support Security & Enforcement Committee's focus on repair and maintenance of existing streetlights
- Identify and communicate challenges with Interior Parking Management and Code Enforcement to address Illegal Parking with City Partners
- Collaborate with City Partners for opportunities to improve Wayfinding / FQ signage

## Sidewalks, Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety

- Work with partners in transportation planning for traffic calming measures designed and implemented to improve pedestrian safety
- Continue to assess needs of Sidewalk Assessment and partner with the City towards improvement of:
  - Curb study/survey
  - ADA Compliance Assessment
  - Street signs survey

# Livability Committee Continued

## Sanitation Services & Cleanliness

- Work for improved sanitary conditions throughout the French Quarter; Continue to work with the City and City's contractor to improve services and provide transparency on Key Performance Indices (KPI's)
- Continue Keep the Quarter Clean program
- Continue Glass Half Full recycling programs and services
- Maintain the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Affiliate Program Registration
- Grow investment in litter abatement and beautification with strategic partnerships
- Support VCGAP as lead on graffiti abatement in the French Quarter
- Utilize City's Graffiti Abatement pilot program, monitor Key Performance Indices (KPI's)

## Homelessness

- Identify opportunities to build on existing partnership and create new partnerships that will benefit the District.
- Monitor success of and transparent reporting from Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans and Covenant House
- Identify new strategic partnerships through working with Unity of Greater New Orleans and New Orleans & Company in their efforts to address homelessness.

# French Quarter<sup>®</sup>

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

KEEP THE QUARTER CLEAN

# VOLUNTEER CLEAN UP EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025,  
10AM - NOON

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED ALL SUPPLIES TO "KEEP THE QUARTER  
CLEAN" AT THE MOONWALK OF THE RIVERFRONT.

A KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL AND LOVE THE BOOT WEEK  
PROJECT



# French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## KEEP THE QUARTER CLEAN UP EVENT SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025, 10AM - NOON

**FQMD is hosting our third annual Keep the Quarter Clean/Love the Boot Week event.** Volunteers are provided with t-shirts, gloves, water, sunscreen, & grabbers to pick up trash all along the Mississippi River between Jax Brewery and the French Market. Volunteers are to meet at the FQMD tent at the Jean Baptiste Baudrau II historic marker (along river, directly across Jackson Square) at 10 AM. Family and pet-friendly event, all ages welcome. Event ends at 12 PM.



*FQMD staff will be hosting our volunteer table by the Jean Baptiste Baudrau II historic marker.*

### About Love the Boot Week

Love the Boot Week, April 5-13, 2025, is Louisiana's largest litter removal and beautification event, bringing awareness to the state's litter problem while empowering organizations and individual citizens to clean up and beautify their communities. Last year, 19,441 individuals volunteered a total of 100,712 hours at 760 events in all 64 parishes, leading to the removal of 347 tons of litter. In addition to litter removal, volunteers focused on community beautification, planting 921 trees and 4,408 plants, and refurbishing 366 gardens. An even greater impact is expected in 2025. Love the Boot Week is organized by Keep Louisiana Beautiful with support from the Office of the Lt. Governor.

Glass Half Full Recycling Stats					
Statistics Across All 3 Drop-Off Locations	January	February	March	Year to Date Average	Total
Glass (in lbs.)	4,437.50	3,237.50	4,225.00	3,966.67	11,900.00
Plastic (in cubic yards)	8.95	8.45	11.20	9.53	28.60
Metal (in cubic yards)	3.25	5.00	5.60	4.62	13.85
Cardboard (in cubic yards)	14.25	14.75	20.00	16.33	49.00
Aluminum (in cubic yards)	2.27	2.04	3.31	2.54	7.62



Drop- Off Site Breakdown					
	January	February	March	Year to Date Average	Total lbs. glass recycled
Cabrini Park	2,550.00	1,600.00	1,975.00	2,041.67	6,125.00
HNOC	412.50	162.50	700.00	425.00	1,275.00
Jazz Museum	1,475.00	1,475.00	1,550.00	1,500.00	4,500.00