

# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## Meeting Notes

Wednesday, 4 February, 2026, 3:00 PM

*The Historic New Orleans Collection, Boyd Cruise Room, 410 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70130*

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS				Approve previous meeting notes	Approve 2026 Government Affairs Work Plan	Approve nomination of Steve Caputo to Gov. Affairs Committee	Approve nomination of Daniel Hammer to Gov. Affairs Committee
First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent				
Glade	Bilby	X		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christian	Pendleton	X		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David	Bilbe		X	-	-	-	-
Joey	DiFatta	X		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES:

GUESTS		
First	Last	Role
Michelle	Courseault	FQMD Executive Director
Shelby	Ursu	FQMD Coordinator
Daniel	Hammer	HNOG

2. Public Comment:

No written public comment was received.

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

**Joey DiFatta made a motion to approve the previous meeting notes. Christian Pendleton seconded the motion, and it was approved.**

4. Committee Chair’s Comments & Guest Introductions

Chair Glade Bilby thanked everyone for their attendance. He reported that he and FQMD Executive Director Michelle Courseault met up with the new Chief of Staff for Councilman King- Winson Fiore, and discussed the FQMD as well as the French Quarter Economic Development District’s processes and programs.

5. Discussions –

- a. 2026 Committee Work Plan & corresponding Key Performance Indices - See attached document.
- b. Q1: Elected Officials Communications

Key discussion points made by the Committee include:

- Proposal for bi-monthly or monthly brief, concise, and bulleted communication updates to key stakeholders.
- Chair Bilby to provide Ms. Courseault with a target contact list for the communication updates including officials like Michael Hecht, Walt Leger, as well as State representatives.
- Ms. Courseault to integrate these updates into her Executive Director monthly Board reports.

- Plan to organize two elected officials' meetups or luncheons, featuring key policy and business leaders.

c. Committee Recruitment

- i. Nominee: Steve Caputo, Hotel Monteleone, FQMD BOC, New Orleans & Company
- ii. Nominee: Daniel Hammer, The Historic New Orleans Collection, CEO

Mr. G. Bilby stated that he is excited to have Steve Caputo and Daniel Hammer join the Government Affairs Committee, but emphasized the need for more female representation and broader business organizational involvement. He encouraged the group to send any candidate recommendations to Ms. Courseault and himself.

6. Updates –

a. Impact Study Progress

- The study is expected to wrap by February 26<sup>th</sup>, with presentation to the full Board in March.
- Committee agreed that the release and dissemination of the study's results should be carefully managed, with tailored communication packages developed for different audiences. (City, State, media, etc.)

7. Motions –

- a. Consider a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the 2026 Government Affairs Committee Work Plan.

**Mr. Pendleton made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the 2026 Government Affairs Committee Work Plan. Mr. DiFatta seconded the motion, and it was approved.**

- b. Consider a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners, Steve Caputo, to the Government Affairs Committee.

**Mr. Pendleton made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of Steve Caputo's formal nomination to join the Government Affairs Committee. Mr. DiFatta seconded the motion, and it was approved.**

- c. Consider a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners, Daniel Hammer, to the Government Affairs Committee.

**Mr. Pendleton made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of Daniel Hammer's formal nomination to join the Government Affairs Committee. Mr. DiFatta seconded the motion, and it was approved.**

8. 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.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled meeting date of the Committee is Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 3 PM.

10. Adjournment

**Mr. DiFatta made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pendleton seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 3:37 PM.**

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## Elected Officials, Comms Plan

Implement a structured outreach plan—including two engagement events—to guide how FQMD communicates with City and State leaders.

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## Recruitment

Identify priority candidates to strengthen the Government Affairs Committee. Prepare a short, vetted slate of potential nominees for the Mayor's Business-Appointee seat on the FQMD Board.

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## Governance Onboarding

Create a clear onboarding program and materials for (incoming) Board, Officer, and Committee members and provide regular updates to keep the full Board aligned on bylaws, statutory purpose, governance roles, and best-practice standards.

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## Advocate Committee Priorities

Advocate to elected officials on FQMD's top 2–3 priorities identified by SEC and Livability committees.