

**Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the
French Quarter-Marigny Historic Area Management District**

Monday, February 2, 2009

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Westin Hotel, 100 Iberville, Riverbend Terrace Room

New Orleans, LA

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Present: Darryl Berger, Nathan Chapman, Myra deGersdorff, Carol Greve, Chris Costello, Steve Pettus, Kim Rosenberg, Sal Sunseri, Mark Wilson, Ted Young

Absent: Dr. Ralph Lupin, Jude Marullo, Brett Smith

Guests: Mike Moffitt, Pres. VCPORA; Coco Paddison, Pres. FQC; Meg Lousteau, Exec. Dir. VCPORA, Bill Langkoff, New Orleans Hotel & Lodging Association, Patrick Thompson, DDD; Marsha Boyer, The Berger Company.

Mr. Berger called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On Motion of Sal Sunseri, seconded by Chris Costello, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 5, 2009, were unanimously approved by a roll-call vote.

III. DISCUSSION OF FUNDING OPTIONS

Pursuant to the last meeting, Mr. Berger reiterated that it was unlikely that FQMHAM District would receive any meaningful funds from the state and asked the Board members to continue discussion on the possibility of developing a tax district for the French Quarter and Marigny Triangle. Though similar in some respects to the DDD, the working consensus was that the FQMHAM District taxing district should be based on some type of flat fee per parcel, with variations depending on categories and size of property.

Items discussed:

- Safety and security high priority
- City must provide base line services, therefore FQMHAM District Board needs to take a proactive role if a tax district is formed – base line services must be demanded and enforced.
- The tax would provide a source of funds for additional security (i.e. patrol, cameras, lighting repairs), infrastructure, code enforcement and other services

- The FQMHAM District consists of approx. 3,400 taxable parcels, with approx. 750 parcels receiving homestead exemption.

- Considering a possible 3-4% tax increase could provide an estimated \$750,000 to \$1million. Second option (preferred) would be to set a flat rate for residential and businesses - residential paying a less amount than businesses (e.g. residential perhaps \$200-300; businesses \$450-\$500; big businesses \$1,500 - \$3,000)

- Billy Guste is to prepare an analysis of residential property and businesses

- Legislation would have to be very clear on purpose, limitations (e.g. discussion about 75% must be spent on safety/ security)

- Designated budget would include an Executive Director

- Mr. Berger and Mr. Guste reported on their visit with the City Assessor(s) and various other City departments regarding collection of the tax.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Following a motion of Steve Pettus, that was seconded by Kim Rosenberg, by unanimous roll-call vote the Board elected the current officers to a second term. The Board understands that Carol Greve, Secretary, has requested that someone else assist with taking meeting notes and transcribing same into minutes, which has been arranged.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Kim Rosenberg reported that proposed legislative bills must be advertised twice in the Times-Picayune newspaper thirty days prior to being introduced in the Louisiana Legislature. (The next legislative session is April 28 to June 2.) She requested, as a preliminary measure, for the Board to authorize running such an advertisement in case the Board votes to have a bill and/or bills introduced the next upcoming legislative session to amend the District's enabling legislation and authorize a vote on a taxing district. Motion was made by Sal Sunseri and seconded by Kim Rosenberg to authorize the advertising of such proposed legislation and/or bill(s), and to authorize expenditure of funds for this purpose, if necessary. After a roll-call vote, the Motion passed, with Nathan Chapman voting "no" to the Motion.

Patrick Thompson, Public Safety and Special Project Manager with the DDD reported on the current issue of trash removal in the French Quarter. The story is reported daily by the Times-Picayune regarding the Mayor and City Council's disagreement on trash removal contract. At this time, the city is only picking up trash twice a week. Unless an agreement is reached, by next week, any building with more than 5 units will be required to hire private trash pick-up services. The City Council and Mayor have on-going discussion and hopefully the issue can be resolved prior to Mardi Gras.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2009 at Palace Caf*, 605 Canal St. (Thanks in advance to Steve Pettus.)

A motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Greve, Secretary