

**Special Meeting – Dickie Brennan’s Steakhouse
French Quarter – Marigny Historic
Area Management District
716 Iberville Street, New Orleans, LA 70170
February 25, 2008 – 9:00am – 11:00am**

Minutes

I. Call to order - Welcome and introduction

The meeting was called to order by Darryl Berger who recognized guests Robert Mendoza, Department of Public Works, Lary Hesdorffer, Executive Director, Vieux Carre Commission and Ryan Berger, Berger Companies.

Roll call:

Present: Darryl Berger, Nathan Chapman, Chris Costello, Carol Greve, Jude Marullo, Steve Pettus, Kim Rosenberg, Brett Smith, Sal Sunseri, Mark Wilson, Ted Young

Absent:

Dr. Ralph Lupin

II. Review and approval of 2/11/08 Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 11, 2008, were approved on a motion by Brett Smith and seconded by Sal Sunseri and passed by unanimous vote.

III. Status of :

- **Louisiana Hotel Lodging Association appointee**

Darryl Berger sent a letter to the appointing authority requesting a replacement appointment but has not received a response. Mark Wilson and Brett Smith will follow-up with the LA Hotel and Lodging Association..

- **CEA**

The following resolution was made by Steve Pettus and seconded by Mark Wilson.
and approved by unanimous vote.

Be it resolved that authority is given to Kimberly Wooten Rosenberg to act on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the French Quarter-Marigny Historic Area Management District by signing the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the State of Louisiana regarding the \$50,000.00 appropriation to the French Quarter-Marigny Historic Area Management District in Act 18 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, signing Attachment E to the CEA,

and entering into any and all contractual obligations with the State of Louisiana and/or the Louisiana State Treasury related to the \$50,000.00 appropriation.

- **Potential technical amendments to Act 280**

On a motion by Mark Wilson and seconded by Ted Young, the following proposed changes presented by Kim Rosenberg were passed by a unanimous vote. Kim Rosenberg will contact Senator Ed Murray and ask him to author the legislation to include the proposed amendments as follows:

1. On page 6 of 10 (of enrolled SB 364), line 7, change “(4) Any member who misses fifty percent or more of the board’s regular” to:

“(4) Any member who misses more than fifty percent of the board’s regular”

2. On page 7 of 10 (of enrolled SB 364), lines 17 and 18, delete the following: “in which it shall publish its minutes, and”

3. On page 9 of 10 (of enrolled SB 364), lines 27 and 28, change “features, and preserving tourism.” to “features and preservation and cultural tourism.”

Point of reference was brought up by Sal regarding amending Act 280 to that we are not in the business of “buying and selling of real estate.” And that the only exclusion would be for public restrooms, public parking and our own office. But it was decided that this issue needed more study to determine how best to change Act 280 to protect the interests of the Board and satisfy promises made when the original legislation was passed.

- **Other**

It was proposed by Brett Smith that the temporary physical address be the same as the LA Hotel and Lodging Association which is the United Postal Service Store at Place St. Charles. The mail will be picked up from the post office box and taken to Marsha Boyer, assistant to Darryl Berger. Brett Smith will send out the street address which will be used as the Commission temporary address..

IV. Report on status of public works proposed or underway in the District – Mr. Robert Mendoza

Mr. Mendoza made a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Public Works. He detailed the work his department is doing in four categories as follows:

!. Street lighting – Has a pilot program where they are installing a new technically advanced program “ROAM,” in which each street light has the capacity to monitor and report back regarding the working and condition of the light so that the lights do not have to be physically checked. He said new kinds

of light bulbs are being used that are much more effective in the illumination of streets and high profile areas..

2. Traffic – Crews will soon complete putting up traffic signs on the streets in the Quarter, but admits that there are too many signs and they are confusing. A block by block survey is being done by Urban Systems to see how the signs are utilized and whether or not the current system is effectively working. The department is still suffering from a lack of tow trucks and tow truck drivers. Booting of cars was discussed.

3. Engineering

4. Maintenance – The department has the money for repairing the sidewalks in the pedestrian alleys and the ADA compliant ramps for disabled persons. Requests are being made to the state for funds to resurface some streets in the Quarter.

Mr Mendoza emphasized his willingness to sign off on any grant money or funding that requires a match of city funds. He stated that in 2007 he was able to do thirty to forty million of work with the city only paying 30%.

V. Overview of strategic planning process, including:

- **Proposed projects**
- **Budget**
- **Funding source**
- **Economic study to support any legislative requests**
- **Executing Legislative strategy and timing**

VI. Discussion of potential projects in the District (assuming significant funding source)

- **Infrastructure/ public works**
- **Safety and security**

Kim Rosenberg presented NOPD CrimeMaps from the 8th District giving detailed statistics on all recorded crime incidents in the following categories for the current month, 1-6-06 to 1-5-08 and the previous year, 2-20-07 to 2-20-08.:

Assaults, Auto theft, Burglary, Robbery, Theft, Murder

A discussion followed regarding the ways to best reduce crime. Security camera, increased police officers on the streets, instituting a public safety ranger program similar to the DDD Hospitality Rangers and graffiti removal was discussed. It was suggested that the level of “base line services” needed to be established prior to adding more services

- **Commercial/ tourism enhancement**

. It was also recommended that the Commission needs to collect the multiple studies that have been done to outline the problems we face in the district so these can be used to justify request for funding requests.. .

- **Residential life enhancement**

It was suggested that some sidewalk work and façade match programs would help with tourists and residents.

- **Code enforcement**

Lary Hesdorffer stated that the Department of Safety and Permits are responsible for code enforcement., but that the VCC has begun to do more reporting to the Dept of S&P. He said that Councilman James Carter is interested in “use and zoning issues.”He discussed using Administrative Adjudication as a good way to address violations. He also stated that a Code Enforcement Analysis is being done and will focus on better coordination among all city code enforcement agencies.

- **Sanitation**
- **Other**

VII. Development of Budget for proposed projects

VIII. Discussion of potential funding source

Suggestions were made to contact our legislative delegation to discuss our needs and

get feedback and recommendations to use to help write up our plan. Senator Ed Murray, Representative Karen Carter and Representative Juan LaFonta will be asked to meet with Commissioners.

IX. Existing \$50,000 – Potential short term expenditures with most impact on District, providing good examples for legislature – e.g. RHI, graffiti removal, security, landscaping, special event promotion, etc.

X. Legislative strategy and timing

- **Economic study to support projects and budget, and benefits of re-investment in VC/ Marigny**
- **Execution of legislative strategy**

XI. Executive Administration / Other Assistance Needed

XII. Other Business

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sal Sunseri that was seconded by Mark Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Greve,
Secretary

Handout:

Kim Rosenberg: NOPD CrimeMaps, 8th District