

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the
French Quarter – Marigny Historic Area Management District**

Monday, March 2, 2009, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Palace Cafe, 605 Canal Street

New Orleans, LA

Minutes

I. Call To Order; Intro of Guests

Present: Darryl Berger, Nathan Chapman, Carol Greve, Steve Pettus, Kim Rosenberg, Brett Smith, Sal Sunseri, Lois Sutton and Ted Young Absent:
Chris Costello, Dr. Ralph Lupin, Jude Marullo, Myra deGersdorff

Guests: Billy Guste, Attorney; Annie Flettrich, French Quarter Business Association; Mike Moffitt, VCPORA and Bonnye Pardo, French Quarter Citizens; Patrick Thompson, DDD Public Safety Director

Guests were recognized and welcomed by Mr. Berger Steve Pettus was thanked for hosting the meeting. Lois Sutton was welcomed as a new member of the Board representing French Quarter Business association and replacing Mark Wislon.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 2 , 2009

Approval of the Minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

III. Board Membership - new appointments from FQBA and New Orleans Hotel Association

Mr. Berger announced that Mark Wilson has resigned from the Board since he now has a position outside the French Quarter. Lois Sutton, the editor of Where Magazine, will represent the French Quarter Business Association as his replacement. Mr. Berger reported that Myra deGersdroff is no longer with the Ritz Carlton and the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association has not named a replacement to represent the hotels located between Canal and Iberville Streets.

A motion by Kim Rosenberg, seconded by Steve Pettus, to amend the Agenda to include the election of a secretary and treasurer passed unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. Election of Secretary and Treasurer

A motion by Kim Rosenberg, seconded by Brett Smith, to elect Carol Greve as Treasurer and Lois Sutton as Secretary passed unanimously by roll call vote.

V. Discussion Regarding Strategic Planning Session of The Board

Mr. Berger continued the discussion from the February Board Meeting regarding the various approaches that the Board may take to fund the District, which primarily consist of assessing a flat fee or a millage to the taxable parcels of land located in the District.

Mr. Berger discussed the upcoming legislative session with Senator Ed Murray who reminded him that local bills, such as the bill the Board is considering, need to be advertised twice at least 30 days prior to filing the bill for the session which begins March 27. [The Board approved such advertising at the end of the February 2, 2009 Board Meeting.] The consensus of the Board was for Mr. Guste to proceed with such advertising.

The Board discussed the many variations and ramifications of pursuing either course. Several suggestions regarding holding a strategic planning retreat were proposed for the Board to set a five year plan with priorities and action steps.

Other issues aside from safety and security were discussed as being important to the residents and visitors to the Vieux Carre, such as parking, lighting and sidewalks. Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Mike Moffit reported on the final presentation and report of the DDD's consultants hired to do the Parking and Mobility Study. They indicated an electronic copy of the report will be forwarded to the Board as soon as it is released.

Mr. Thompson also reported on ongoing studies regarding alternative forms of transportation. Many ideas were presented regarding managing pedestrian traffic such as the use of shuttles and creation of pedestrian malls. Mr. Sunseri reminded members that the serviceability of businesses must be kept in mind. Mr. Smith recalled what happened on Bourbon Street when it was closed to traffic and the fact that locals stopped coming and it turned into a draw for tourists.

Mr. Chapman discussed a TIF plan formulated during the UNOP meetings to pay for parking garages including a sales tax on parking with a percentage going back to the owner to help pay for the building of the garage.

A motion by Sal Sunseri, seconded by Steve Pettus, to hold a special meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2009, 10:00 am - 2:00pm, for further discussion on strategic planning passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion of Outline of Potential Taxing District

Discussions by the Board have been ongoing for the past year about proposals for a taxing district. The conditions of the state budget shortfall lead many to believe that it will be difficult if not impossible to count on state funding. It was generally agreed that funding will come through a taxing district and that a flat fee would be considered for residents.

Being aware that the voters in the proposed district will have to approve a taxing district, many suggestions were discussed as ways to educate the voters regarding the benefits to residents and businesses of the taxing district. How and when to present this material to the public was discussed.

Mr. Patrick Thompson discussed the funding and deployment of police officers regarding safety and security in the DDD. Mr. Guste discussed how he compiled the pro forma budget that was presented.

Suggestions were made to present the taxing district plans through a large public meeting and to convene smaller focus groups.

VII. A motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Greve, Secretary