

**French Quarter-Marigny Historic
Area Management District
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2009
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Royal Sonesta, Bienville Gallery • 300 Bourbon St. • New Orleans, LA**

Minutes

I. Call To Order; Roll Call; Intro of Guests

Present: Peter Ambrose, Darryl Berger, Nathan Chapman, Carol Greve, Dr. Ralph Lupin, Steve Pettus, Kim Rosenberg, Brett Smith, Sal Sunseri, and Lois Sutton.

Guests: Annie Flettrich, French Quarter Business Association (FQBA); Billy Guste, Attorney; Bonnye Pardo, French Quarter Citizens; Chuck Ransdell, President of MOM; Robert Thurman, SEI, Inc., a division of Security Engineers, Inc.; Dominic Dibenedetto, SEI, Inc. and Kalen Wright, resident.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Sal Sunseri and seconded by Steve Pettus for approval of the revised July 6, 2009 Minutes passed by unanimous roll call vote.

III. Discussion of Business Plan

A. General Discussion

Darryl Berger presented the initial draft of the business plan and requested additional input from entire Board.

Billy Guste, working with Louis Dabdoub (head of security for Entergy Corporation), suggested the following:

- RE: Police vs. private patrol - go with private patrol so not competing with but augmenting police and not taking police away from more urgent matters and violent offenders
- RE: Baseline Services – There is no way to enforce this. If there is a spike of crime in one area, police are redeployed to that area.
- Hire upper level 8th District police to consult with private patrol and advise as to where to allocate resources
- Consider lighting and cameras, working with Robert Mendoza, Director of Public Works for the City of New Orleans, and with Entergy for repairs. Cameras could be used to secure the perimeter of the District and be integrated

with current cameras. Guste is working with two companies to obtain camera information. Integration would be expensive.

- Need a staff person who could research grant money

Darryl Berger suggested that the District would need a staff person well-versed in safety and security and donated office space, if possible.

Ralph Lupin asked if anyone knew who is responsible for cleaning the city lights. Because they are so dirty, they are operating at only 20% capacity.

Darryl Berger reiterated that tax dollars are not the only monies the District could raise. Additional grant or other money could be allocated for cameras. As the District is a relatively small area, with hardware costing \$300-\$400 each, 60 cameras for the perimeter plus the blocks of Bourbon Street would cost approximately \$25,000. A monitor would be needed to make system work.

Chuck Ransdell told the Board that currently, SDT has 65 cameras which they monitor. This system is web based so laptops can be used to monitor, as well. He volunteered to head a committee to meet with Sidney Torres of SDT. Billy Guste and Ralph Lupin volunteered to serve on this committee.

Ralph Lupin discussed the police use of flashing lights while driving through the District during Bayou Classic. Kalen Wright said Major Hosli followed these cars in an unmarked vehicle to monitor negative activity.

B. Liability

Nathan Chapman brought up the issue of liability.

Kim Rosenberg stated that the Board probably could obtain insurance through the state via the Office of Risk Management and the Board may want indemnity insurance.

Chuck Ransdell said it would cost \$85-\$90 per person for liability insurance.

C. Additional Comments

Nathan Chapman stated that Capt. Hosli will have baseline established by next week.

Darryl Berger reiterated that the police can not be legally bound to keep specific number of police in the District. However, the Board can use the power of public opinion to pressure them through constant vigilance, and the ability to monitor the District. This will ensure the equivalence of what is currently in place.

Kim Rosenberg said this illustrates the need for a liaison in the police department. FQMAMD will provide a positive counterpart to the police and it will be important that they see the District as such. She also mentioned that if no one is taking responsibility to clean the light fixtures in the District, perhaps SDT would for an additional fee.

IV. Night Out Against Crime – August 4, 2009

Nathan Chapman will create and email an informational sheet to the Board for use at Night Out Against Crime and Lois Sutton will create a sign-in sheet, which will be emailed to all.

V. Date and Logistics of Election

Darryl Berger asked if there was a preference for a November 14, 2009 election.

Billy Guste discussed the as there is nothing on the November ballot, the Board could not get fees waived to hold an election on that date. The Board would have to go through the procedural steps to allow an election to take place, including submission of a request to the State Bonds Commission and a request that the City Council pass a resolution allowing the election to take place. Cost would be approximately \$15,000 - \$17,000 total for the eight precincts within the boundaries of the District.

Kim Rosenberg said that if the City Council grants the resolution, the resolution must be submitted to the State Bonds Commission to enable it to be put on the ballot by the Secretary of State.

Motion by Lois Sutton, seconded by Sal Sunseri, to adopt a resolution to set into motion holding an election on November 14, 2009, to implement a taxing district within the boundaries of the FQMAMD was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Kim Rosenberg stated that FQMAMD monies can be used to hold this election.

If necessary, Steve Pettus indicated that funds to pay for the election could be raised through private sources.

The Board agreed to setup meetings with Jackie Clarkson and James Carter immediately. The following agreed to attend: Darryl Berger, Nathan Chapman, Steve Pettus, Check Ransdell, Kim Rosenberg, and Lois Sutton.

The Board will present the business plan to the boards of all District organizations, setup presentations at membership meetings and hold public meetings to present and get feedback.

VI. Other Business - None

VII. Motion Sal Sunseri and seconded by Lois Sutton to adjourn passed by unanimous vote.

Minutes submitted by Lois Sutton, Secretary