

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the
French Quarter – Marigny Historic Area Management District
Monday, November 3, 2008, 2008, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
Omi Royal Orleans Hotel, 621 St. Louis, Esplande Room
New Orleans, LA**

Minutes

I. Call to order and Roll Call:

Present: Darryl Berger, Chris Costello, Myra deGersdorff, Carol Greve, Kim Rosenberg, Brett Smith, Sal Sunseri, Mark Wilson, Ted Young

Absent: Nathan Chapman, Dr. Ralph Lupin, Jude Marullo, Steve Pettus

Guests: Jim Funk, Louisiana Restaurant Association; Bill Langkoff, Louisiana Hotel & Lodging Association, Billy Guste, Attorney, Andy Gallagher, Assistant to Nathan Chapman

Mr. Berger called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

It was suggested that Dr. Lupin designate Lary Hesdorffer, Executive Director, Vieux Carre Commission, to attend in his absence.

II. Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 6, 2008

The Regular Meeting, October 6, 2008, Minutes were unanimously approved on a Motion by Ms. Rosenberg and a second by Ms. deGershoff.

III. Determine Future Meeting Schedule

December 2008

Ms. deGershoff offered to host the December 4, 2008, 4:30 pm meeting at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. The business meeting will take place from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Holiday libations will follow.

Calendar Year 2009

A motion was made by Kim, seconded by Myra, and passed by unanimous vote to adopt the following schedule for 2009.

Regular Meetings, 11:00 to 1:00 PM

January 5, March 2, May 4, July 6, September 14, November 2

Special Meetings, 11:00 to 1:00 PM

February 2, April 6, June 1, August 3, October 5, December 4

IV. Future Funding Update * Discussions Regarding Potential Funding Sources and Political Strategy Going Forward

Mr. Berger acknowledged that future funding is our most important issue. Small group discussions will continue to explore all funding options. The Chairman will continue to meet with the local elected officials and state legislative leaders to explore all funding possibilities. Suggestions include but are not limited to 1) annual request for a state appropriation 2) use of a percentage of sales tax revenue 3) creation of a "TIF" type concept district 4) exploration of concepts similar to the Cultural Products District 5) variations of an increase in ad valorem taxes.

There was a discussion of the need for research on each of these funding ideas to get figures on how much revenue can be generated with various strategies. It was suggested that we carefully consider going for state appropriations for several years to establish a record of what we could accomplish before we discuss other options for raising needed funds.

Safety and security are considered a top priority in the Management District. Discussion also centered on the willingness of residents in neighborhoods of the city to assess themselves to form security districts to supplement police efforts to reduce crime several of which were expected to gain approval from voters on the upcoming November 4th election.

There was a discussion on a number of infrastructure projects that need to be addressed in the French Quarter that are seen as essential to presenting the city as a place that has recovered from Katrina and is ready to again be a destination city for the world. Sidewalk repair was cited as a major need that requires attention.

V. Comments on Current Projects

Web Site Mr. Costello, Web Site Sub-Committee, presented the current web site design and asked for comments and suggestions regarding what Commissioners would like to see on the site. Plans are to include the following on the site:

1. Who we are – Description, Static
2. What We Do – Description, Static
3. Map of District – Static
4. History
 - a. Of the District, Static
 - b. Of the three neighborhoods, Static

5. Funding Info
6. Find a business/service – Interactive map. By name or category. Shows on a map. If web site have link. Need admin areas to add names, categories
7. Board Minutes – lists by date, pdf format. Needs to have admin area
8. Contact – Address, Board Members
9. Announcements – by date. Submit to site & via admin area
10. Resources – Listing By area
 - a. Rules/Ordinances/Prohibitions applicable to businesses, visitors and residents
 - b. Contact info for Area organizations
11. Calendar of Events – Submit to site & via admin area
12. Join our mailing list

Since the budget for the web site is \$5,000, as much as possible will be done within the allotted budget. It is projected that the site will be up by our December meeting. Suggestions were made that a Press Release be done for the web site.

Parking Study Mr. Costello, FQMAMD representative on the Parking Study Task Force, reported on the progress of the study. The release of the study was delayed due to Hurricane Gustav. The committee will meet this week to review the draft study.

Henry Charlot, DDD, sent a memo with the following information:

- 1) We are currently reviewing a draft of the mobility Strategies section of the study.
- 2) Teams from the UNO Transportation Center are doing traffic intercept surveys last weekend (Oct 25) and this weekend (Nov 1)
- 3) The timing is pretty much on track, maybe only a 1 month to six week slip because of the hurricanes
- 4) We intend to convene the Task Force around Nov 6 or 7 or the following week to review the draft mobility report.

Ambassador/Safety Mr. Young, Safety and Security Sub-committee, met with J. Patrick Thompson, Public Safety Manager, DDD, and Sam Poche, President, Lower Quarter Crime Watch, to review the details of the extension of the Ambassador Program into the French Quarter. Mr. Young reports that the program seems to be working fine. Mr. Thompson indicated that the DDD would add an additional shift.

Efforts are being made to secure the \$5,000 pledged for the Ambassador program by Pat O'Briens. Ms. Rosenberg states that \$1,000 will be used for the current obligation and we should have another contract for the \$4,000 and any additional private funds that may be raised. .

A motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. deGersdoff, that additional funds be allocated to add another Ambassador shift. The motion passed unanimously.

Kim will work out the details regarding the additional Ambassador shift with Patrick Thompson, DDD.. The Board indicated its preference was for a patrol during the hours of 12:30 to 4:30 pm on Sundays, but the Board understood that the DDD might not have patrols working those hours. The Board also indicated a preference for the Sunday patrols to begin as soon as possible.

VI. Old Business

Ms. Rosenberg reported on the progress of the Asset Inventory Survey of businesses in the French Quarter Marigny Historic Area District. On November 4, 2008, Ms. Rosenberg and Ms. Annie Flettrich, French Quarter Business Association, will meet with six Loyola University Masters of Business Administration students to discuss completing the survey. It is possible that the students will start the survey over again.

VII. New Business

Mr. Berger stated that the fiscal strategy sessions will continue with the goal to have directions in place for the new year.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned on a Motion by Ms.deGersdorff.

Next Regular meeting: December 4, 2008, 4:30 pm, Ritz Carlton Hotel, 921 Canal Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Greve, Secretary