

**Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the
French Quarter – Marigny Historic Area Management District
Thursday, December 4, 2008, 2008, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Ritz Charlton, 921 Canal Street, Board Room, Second Floor
New Orleans, LA**

Minutes

I. Call to order and Roll Call:

Present: Darryl Berger, Nathan Chapman, Myra deGersdorff, Jude Marullo, Steve Pettus, Kim Rosenberg, and Sal Sunseri

Absent: Chris Costello, Carol Greve, Dr. Ralph Lupin, Brett Smith, Mark Wilson, and Ted Young

Guests: Billy Guste, Attorney

Mr. Berger called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. He thanked Ms. deGersdorff for hosting the Board meeting.

II. Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 6, 2008

The Regular Meeting, November 3, 2008, Minutes were unanimously approved on a Motion by Ms. Rosenberg and a second by Ms. deGersdorff.

III. Special Presentation

Mr. Pettus presented a check in the amount of \$8,000.00 from the Vieux Carre Alliance payable to the FQMHAM District. He explained that the Vieux Carre Alliance was dissolving and, as the FQMHAM District has the same mission as the Alliance, the Board of Directors of the Alliance approved the donation of the balance of its funds to the District.

The Board discussed spending the funds in 2009 on a continuation of the Public Safety Ranger Program. Ms. deGersdorff explained that safety is one of the most important factors that professional convention planners consider when selecting a host city for a convention and that New Orleans has poor ranking in public safety. Mr. Pettus indicated that the Sugar Bowl, PCMA and NADA are the primary special events in New Orleans in January.

Regarding the continuation of the Public Safety Ranger Program in 2009, Mr. Chapman inquired whether the rangers could look for building violations, etc., while they are patrolling. Ms. Rosenberg said she would ask Patrick Thompson at the DDD.

Mr. Berger indicated that the Board would consider and/or decide how to spend the funds at the January Board meeting.

IV. Update Meeting Strategy Regarding Funding Options

Mr. Berger reported on his meeting with Angele Davis, Commissioner of Administration. They spoke about the projected deficit in the state budget, the line item veto of the \$1,000,000.00 appropriation, bond initiatives, grant programs and appropriation requests.

Following an inquiry from Ms. deGersdorff, the Board briefly discussed its mission and spending priorities. Mr. Chapman suggested that the Board create a one page position paper.

Mr. Berger led a discussion on funding options from state, municipal and federal sources, including ad valorem taxes and/or special property assessments. The District currently is under two assessors.

V. Approve Extension of CEA with State Treasurer

At the request of Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Pettus moved to approve a request for a three (3) month extension of the term of the \$50,000.00 Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State Treasurer's Office, from December 31, 2008 until March 31, 2008. Mr. Sunseri seconded the motion and it unanimously passed.

VI. Old Business

Deferred until the January Meeting.

VII. New Business

See Section III, supra.

VIII. Monthly Schedule for 2009

Deferred until the January meeting.

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.

IX. Election of Officers for 2009

Mr. Sunseri moved to approve extending the length of the term of office of the Board's officers until new officers are elected during the January meeting of the Board. Mr. Pettus seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

X. Adjourn and Holiday Libations

The meeting adjourned on a Motion by Ms.deGersdorff.

Next Regular meeting: January 5, 2009, 11:00 am, Royal Orleans Hotel.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Rosenberg, substitute secretary

Carol Greve, Secretary