

VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION

Mitchell J. Landrieu  
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Lary P. Hesdorffer  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Minutes of the **Vieux Carré Commission** meeting of **Wednesday, January 06, 2016 - 1:30 P.M.**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Nicholas S. Musso, Chairman  
Daniel C. Taylor, Vice-Chairman  
Leslie S. Stokes, Secretary  
C.J. Blanda  
Rick Fifield  
Michael A. Skinner  
Jorge A. Henriquez

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Patricia C. Denechaud

**STAFF PRESENT:** Lary P. Hesdorffer, Director; Renée Bourgogne, Architectural Historian;  
Nicholas G. Albrecht, Building Plans Examiner; Erin Vogt, Building Plans  
Examiner; Erika Gates, Inspector; Melissa Quigley, Assistant City  
Attorney

**STAFF ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Katherine Harmon, Kurt Werling, John Bendernagel, Jennifer Rowe

**I. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Musso called the meeting to order at approximately 1:36 PM. After the roll was taken, Mr. Hesdorffer noted the presence of a quorum with seven (7) of the eight (8) seated Commissioners present. He added that at least five (5) positive votes would be needed to pass any action.

**II. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Mr. Blanda moved, Mr. Taylor seconded, that the minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of December 2, 2015 be approved as previously circulated. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman stated that the agenda was rather short but that there were some general administrative tasks that needed to be addressed. The Chairman then turned his attention to Mr. Hesdorffer. The Chairman recognized Mr. Hesdorffer's achievements and notified the public that January 29, 2015, would be his last official day in the office. The Chairman expressed his great appreciation and thanked Mr. Hesdorffer for his service. He then turned his attention to a follow-up on the discussion of a need for a transportation study in French Quarter and the need for various city departments to work together in this endeavor. The Chairman provided visual aides to further detail the need for this study.

The Chairman addressed the following issues:

- road conditions
- settlement issues
- potholes
- mixed body of materials used
- the fact that there were six modes of transportation besides pedestrians
- enforcement
- regulatory requirements
- accessory structures- signage, planters- obstructions to the right of way

-graffiti- 1101 Decatur

The Chairman stressed the need for citizen participation in order to make the French Quarter usable for all. He then stated that if anyone was interested in participating to please contact him or the Director.

The Chairman then again stated that the VCC would be making a transition in the upcoming months and that they may not be moving at the same previous pace, but that there were some good people coming in to assist both the Commission and staff.

#### IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hesdorffer began by showing his support for interoffice cooperation among the various departments in City Hall. He followed this by expressing his appreciation to the Commission and the staff for what he claimed could only be "a labor of love." He then stated that the plan was to address a temporary transitional period while a permanent director is sought out through an open call for resumes. In the meantime the idea was for a cooperative administrative role filled by Mr. Elliott Perkins, Mr. Hesdorffer's cohort, in the HDLC, and Mr. Bryan Block, preservation architect in HDLC, who would assist staff on a day to day level. The hope is that between both Mr. Perkins and Mr. Block, there could be some ease in the period until a new director was found. Mr. Hesdorffer then stated that he thought the transition would be easy since the VCC philosophy is clear and outlined in the Guidelines.

Mr. Hesdorffer then introduced Jennie Garcia, a new intern from the University of New Orleans in the Urban Planning Department.

He followed this by introducing Ms. Rogers, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Operations at the City of New Orleans, who addressed the process of hiring a new director.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

511 Bourbon St: L Katherine Harmon, applicant; Brevort Enterprises L L C, owner; Proposal to address outstanding violations with modifications to existing courtyard structures and construction of new structure, per application & materials received 06/09/15 & 12/15/15, respectively.

Mr. Albrecht gave the staff report with Ms. Harmon present on behalf of the application. Mr. Musso noted that the Architectural Committee had received cooperation from the architect and felt comfortable with the direction the project was going in.

With no further discussion necessary, Mr. Taylor moved to grant **conceptual approval** consistent with the staff recommendations. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1016 St Louis St: Kurt Werling, applicant; Mercier Realty And Invst Co, owner; Proposal to renovate building in conjunction with a **change of use** from *vacant* to *residential* (6 units), per application & materials received 09/07/15 & 12/18/15, respectively.

Mr. Albrecht gave the staff report with Messrs. Werling and Bendernagel present on behalf of the application. Mr. Musso stated he was happy to see progress to bring this building back to commerce and that the application will return to the Architectural Committee at least two more times prior to permit issuance.

Mr. Taylor moved to grant **conceptual approval** consistent with the staff recommendation. Mr. Skinner Seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

800 Bourbon St: Jennifer Rowe, applicant; Bourbon Street L L C 800, owner; Proposal to modify existing and add ground floor openings, per application & materials received 10/09/15 & 11/24/15, respectively.

Mr. Albrecht gave the staff report with Ms. Rowe present on behalf of the application. Mr. Musso stated that there was substantial evidence of what was previously there as far as the opening size and shape.

Mr. Skinner enquired why the previous applications had been denied. Mr. Albrecht stated he believed it was because of concern over increased noise spill coming out of the building.

With no further discussion necessary, Mr. Taylor moved to **approve** the application consistent with the staff recommendation. Mr. Skinner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**VI. RATIFICATION** of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the Wednesday, December 02, 2015 VCC meeting.

Mr. Musso noted that the attendance records from the previous year's meetings will be distributed at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Musso also noted that the final meeting schedule has been posted to the VCC website.

Mr. Taylor moved, Ms. Stokes seconded, to ratify the actions taken by the Architectural Committee and Staff since the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of December 2nd, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to be considered, Mr. Taylor moved for adjournment. The motion, seconded by Mr. Skinner, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:13 PM.