

VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION

LaToya Cantrell
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Bryan Block
DIRECTOR

Minutes of the **Vieux Carré Commission** meeting of **Wednesday, October 3, 2018- 1:30 P.M.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Nicholas S. Musso, Chairman
Daniel Taylor
Rick Fifield
Mamie Gasperecz
Angela King

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Bill Keck
Patricia C. Denechaud
Leslie S. Stokes, Secretary
Adrienne Thomas

STAFF PRESENT: Renée Bourgogne, Architectural Historian; Nicholas G. Albrecht,
Building Plans Examiner; Erin Vogt, Building Plans Examiner

STAFF ABSENT: Marguerite Roberts, Inspector
Tony Whitfield, Inspector

I. ROLL CALL

Chairman Musso called the meeting to order at approximately 1:45 PM. A quorum was established with the presence of five (5) of the nine (9) seated Commissioners present.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Taylor moved, Mr. Fifield seconded, that the minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of September 12th, 2018 be approved as previously circulated. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Musso noted that he would postpone his report until a later date but stated that it will address recent questions that had been raised about deferral of applications at the Architecture Committee and Commission level.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Block gave a brief discussion of some VCC stats in regards to days for various types of reviews to take place and for permits to be issued. Mr. Block noted that on average permits are issued in 90 days or less. Mr. Block also noted three upcoming events:

- Vieux Carré Commission Foundation Spirit of the Vieux Carré Gala to be held on Saturday, October 13th at the Old Ursulines Convent
- A public meeting hosted by the Audubon Institute to discuss the future of the Governor Nicholls and Esplanade Wharves to be held on October 3rd from 6-9:30pm at 2300 St. Claude Ave.
- Preservation Matters Symposium (PRC, HNOG) to be held on Friday, October 5th from 9am-5pm at the Historic New Orleans Collection, 410 Chartres.

I. CHANGE OF USE HEARINGS:

308 N Rampart St: 18-17889-VCGEN; Loretta Harmon, applicant; Lesly H Labadie, owner; Proposal to renovate building including the installation of new mechanical venting, in conjunction with a proposed change of use from *vacant* to *restaurant*, per application & materials received 05/29/18 & 09/04/18, respectively.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=763708>

Mr. Albrecht read the staff report with Ms. Harmon present on behalf of the application. Mr. Taylor moved for approval consistent with the staff report with final details to be worked out at the staff level. Ms. Gasperecz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. APPEALS AND VIOLATIONS

721 Bourbon St: 18-12862-VCGEN; Richard Sahuc, applicant; Tib 721 Limited Partnership, owner; Appeal to retain excessive signage and flags installed without benefit of VCC review and approval, per application & materials received 04/17/18.

[Notices of Violation sent 05/02/11, 06/01/11, 03/05/14, 04/11/14, 03/11/15, & 04/19/16.]
<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Redirect.aspx?SearchString=18-12862-VCGEN>

At that time the commission reiterated that the existing signage is in excess of what is allowable as per the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) and does not comply with New Orleans Municipal Code which requires that all signs in the Vieux Carre be approved and permitted by the VCC. In order to be retained the matter would first need to be approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustments as the VCC cannot approve anything in deviation of the CZO without a waiver being in place.

VCC Chairman, Nick Musso, questioned whether the main sign located at the corner of the building is in excess of the square footage allowed by the CZO. He also commented that the placement of the sign was not approved by the VCC and has been in contention for a number of years. The applicant stated that they plan to seek retention of this main sign, the two advertisement flags and the "Drinks To Go" sign. All other signs were to have already been removed by the tenant. (Staff investigation proved that these signs were not indeed removed.)

Mr. Musso stated that, as the sale of drinks at a to-go window is not permitted by City Code, the associated signage is inappropriate and impermissible, as well. Mr. Fifield moved that, as this property has been cited by the VCC six times for these signage violations, the VCC denies this application for retention. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. RATIFICATION of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the Wednesday, September 12, 2018 VCC meeting.

Mr. Taylor moved to ratify the Architecture Committee and Staff actions since September 12, 2018. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15pm.