

VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION

LaToya Cantrell
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Bryan Block
DIRECTOR

Minutes of the **Vieux Carré Commission** meeting of **Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 1:30 P.M.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Nicholas S. Musso, Chairman
Daniel Taylor
Rick Fifield
Bill Keck (arrived during the discussion of 611 Bourbon)
Mamie Gasperecz
Angela King

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Patricia C. Denechaud
Adrienne Thomas

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan D. Block, Director; Nicholas G. Albrecht, Building Plans Examiner;
Erin Vogt, Building Plans Examiner; Margaret Zinzel, Intern

STAFF ABSENT: Renée Bourgogne, Architectural Historian; Marguerite Roberts,
Inspector; Tony Whitfield, Inspector

I. ROLL CALL

Chairman Musso called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 PM. A quorum was established with the presence of five (5) of the nine (9) seated Commissioners present. **[Mr. Keck arrived during the discussion of 611 Bourbon.]**

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Taylor moved, Mr. Fifield seconded, that the minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of May 1, 2019 be approved as previously circulated. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Musso stated that nominations for the Vieux Carré Commission Foundation Awards would open in November 2019, with the awards to take place in February 2020. Currently there are four categories, more may be added if anyone wishes to recommend additional categories.

Mr. Musso suggested adding two or three ad hoc members to the Architectural Committee to avert losing a quorum in AC meetings. They would be appointed by the Committee to vote in the absence of full members at Architectural Committee hearings, but would not have a vote in Commission proceedings. Mr. Taylor moved for the appointment of two ad hoc Committee members. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Taylor asked if the members would have to be nominated by the AIA; Mr. Musso stated that both of the potential new Committee members were recommended by the AIA, but that it is not required.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Block stated that more proposals are being prepared by cell phone vendors to install towers for 5G access in the district, which they are required by the FCC to provide. He has met with several vendors already and will be meeting with all of the vendors and their engineers, along with the director of utilities, a representative from the Mayor's office, a representative from City Council, and the Legal department, to define the VCC's expectations and submittal requirements for Committee and Commission review. They will discuss the VCC's concerns, as well as potential consolidation of towers to minimize the impact on the *tout ensemble* of the French Quarter as much as possible. Mr. Block stated that the various vendors have put forth effort to be responsive to VCC concerns.

Mr. Fifield asked if the towers were being publicly or privately funded. Mr. Block was not sure but would inquire.

Ms. King asked if the towers could be located on top of buildings instead of at the street level. Mr. Block answered that the engineers could provide a more informed answer but that he believed that the 5G technology needed to be closer to the user. Mr. Musso noted that mounting the towers on buildings would be more logistically difficult and that the vendors may not wish to complicate their installation and operation. He requested an unbiased opinion on the possibility of this alternative.

Mr. Block informed the Commissioners and public that Mary Hewes, the executive director of the Vieux Carré Commission Foundation, has resigned her position. Brook Tesler will be serving as interim director in addition to continuing her ongoing work on the Vieux Carré Virtual Library.

Mr. Block introduced Dan Shedd from the City Attorney's Office, who will be providing counsel for Commission meetings in future. He also introduced Margaret Zinsel, who will be interning with the VCC staff over the summer.

APPEALS AND VIOLATIONS

1135 Decatur St: 16-34772-VCGEN; Harry Smith Jr, applicant; 1135-37 Decatur St LLC, owner; Appeal of Architecture Committee denial of proposal to retain transoms installed in deviation of VCC review and approval, per application & materials received 11/01/16 & 03/26/19, respectively. **[Notice of Violation sent 11/09/18]**

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Redirect.aspx?SearchString=16-34772-VCGEN>

The applicant requested a deferral prior to the hearing. Mr. Taylor moved to **defer** the appeal. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

611 Bourbon St: 19-12124-VCGEN; Kirk Fabacher, applicant; Lr1lr LLC, owner;

Proposal to correct or retain various violations including proposed demolition of courtyard infill construction, and proposed construction of new balcony on the Dauphine elevation, per application & materials received 04/16/19 & 05/16/19, respectively.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=802624>

Mr. Albrecht read the staff report with Mr. Fabacher present on behalf of the application. Mr. Taylor moved for the approval of the proposal including the waiving of the 30 day layover period for demolition. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

I. RATIFICATION of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the Wednesday, May 1, 2019 VCC meeting.

Mr. Taylor moved to ratify the Architecture Committee and Staff actions since May 1, 2019. 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 1:48 pm.