

VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION

Mitchell J. Landrieu
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Bryan Block
DIRECTOR

Minutes of the **Vieux Carré Commission** meeting of **Wednesday, May 2, 2018 - 1:30 P.M.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Nicholas S. Musso, Chairman
Leslie S. Stokes, Secretary
Mamie Gasperecz
Rick Fifield
Angela King
Adrienne Thomas

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Bill Keck
Patricia C. Denechaud

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan D. Block, Director; Renée Bourgogne, Architectural Historian;
Nicholas G. Albrecht, Building Plans Examiner; Erin Vogt, Building Plans Examiner; Melissa Quigley, Assistant City Attorney

STAFF ABSENT: 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 six (6) of the nine (9) seated Commissioners present.

[Commissioner King would arrive after the Roll Call]

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Fifield moved, Ms. Gasperecz seconded, that the minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of April 4, 2018 be approved as previously circulated. The motion passed unanimously.

[Note: No Commission meeting was held in March, 2018]

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Musso noted that a second example of an appeal of a Vieux Carré Commission deferral was brought before the City Council. Mr. Musso noted that he was seeking assistance from the state legislature to see that that can't continue to happen.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Block gave the below Director's Report addressing the **OTHER BUSINESS** item on the agenda:

V. OTHER BUSINESS

As of December 1, 2017, thanks to the efforts of the Historic District Landmarks Commission staff, New Orleans has been approved to be a Certified Local Government (CLG) under the provision of Section 101 (c) of the National Historic Preservation Act. The City has been added to their database which can be accessed, along with additional information on the CLG program at www.nps.gov/clg. One of the Commission's responsibilities as a Certified Local Government (CLG) is to review pending National Register Nominations of properties within the Vieux Carre. This is required, in part, to detect any errors in fact, but also provide local insight or knowledge concerning the property.

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing on the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Listing of a property provides recognition of its historic significance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property. If the property is listed on the National Register,

tax credits for rehabilitation and other beneficial provisions may apply. The entire Vieux Carré was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1965.

I forwarded information to all commissioners regarding a nomination to update the “French Quarter Revival style” to the Vieux Carré National Register Historic District along with a survey of 48 buildings in question. The Vieux Carré was last updated in 2011 to add the French Quarter Revival architectural style with the period of significance covering buildings constructed 1934-1961. At that time the buildings in question were considered to be contributing elements to the Vieux Carré “because they exemplify an approach to historic preservation dominant at the time: the use of the French Quarter Style to be ‘in character’ with, and preserve the feeling of, the old quarter”.

This proposal further updates that period of significance to 1968 for buildings classified under this style, as described in the survey. By updating the period of significance to 1968, 16 buildings are being proposed to be added to the Vieux Carré as contributing for their significance. It is also being requested that an additional 32 buildings would become contributing buildings once an age of 50 years is reached.

NHL defines Period of Significance as the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, or persons, or attained the characteristics which qualify for National Register listing. Period of significance usually begins with the date when significant activities or events began giving the property its historic significance; this is often a date of construction.

The following guidelines have been provided for selecting the periods of significance:

- Criterion A: For the site of an important event, the period of significance is the time when the event occurred. For properties associated with historic trends, such as commercial development, the period of significance is the span of time when the property actively contributed to the trend (i.e. building in the revival style instead of in the more typical Modern and International styles prevalent at the time).
- Criterion B: The length of time the property was associated with an important person
- Criterion C: For architecturally significant properties, the period of significance is the date of construction and/or the dates of any significant alterations and additions.

Additional guidelines were also provided as follows:

- The property must possess historic integrity for all periods of significance
- Continued use or activity does not necessarily justify continuing the period of significance. The period of significance is based upon the time when the property made the contributions or achieved the character on which significance is based.
- Fifty years ago is used as the closing date for periods of significance where activities began historically, continued to have importance and no more specific date can be defined to end the historic period. Events and activities occurring within the last 50 years must be exceptionally important to be recognized as “historic” and to justify extending a period of significance beyond the limit of 50 years ago.

The staff recommends extending the period of significance to 1968 for the National Register District as proposed provided that this does not imply that any building constructed in the French Quarter Revival style within that period is automatically then considered to be a “contributing” building for VCC jurisdiction. A contributing building for VCC jurisdiction is defined as a resource which is an integral component of the City because they are historically or architecturally significant. Each building should be considered on a case-by-case basis with its rating being reviewed by the Architectural Committee and approved by the Commission.

The nomination is scheduled to be forwarded to the National Register Review Committee on Friday, May 4, 2018.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

229 Royal St: 17-27261-VCGEN: John C. Williams, applicant; 229 Royal Street LLC, owner; Final review of conceptually approved proposal to restore façade elements & to construct new rooftop pool and deck, per application & materials received 08/08/17 & 04/17/18, respectively.

Mr. Albrecht read the staff report with Mr. Williams and Mr. Heck present on behalf of the application. Mr. Fifield moved for approval with the details to be worked out at the staff level without the applicant returning to the Architecture Committee. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. RATIFICATION of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the Wednesday, April 4, 2018 VCC meeting.

Mr. Fifield moved to ratify the Architecture Committee and Staff actions since April 4, 2018. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

With no other business to discuss, Ms. Gasperecz moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45pm.