

VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION

LaToya Cantrell
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Bryan Block
DIRECTOR

Minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 1:30 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mamie Gasperecz, acting Chairperson
Angela King
Rick Fifield
Steve Bergeron
Keely Thibodeaux

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Bill Keck
Toni DiMaggio
Rodney Villarreal
Priscilla Lawrence

STAFF PRESENT: Renée Bourgogne, Senior Architectural Historian, Erin Vogt, Senior Plans Examiner

STAFF ABSENT: Bryan Block, Director; Nicholas Albrecht, Senior Building Plans Examiner; Marguerite Roberts, Inspector; Tony Whitfield, Inspector

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Bourgogne called the meeting to order and noted that as this was a rescheduled meeting and a number of commissioner were absent, it would not be appropriate at the present time to elect officers. Ms. Bourgogne stated that the Legal Department had instructed her to suspend the rules in order for the commissioners to add an election of temporary officers to the agenda.

Mr. Fifield moved to suspend the rules to allow for the temporary election of officers. Mr. Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fifield nominated Ms. Gasperecz to act as the temporary chairperson for the November 20, 2019, meeting. Ms. King seconded the nomination and the nomination passed unanimously.

Ms. Bourgogne read the roll and noted that 4 members were absent with 5 present, constituting a quorum.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Fifield moved that the minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of September 4th, 2019 be approved as previously circulated. Ms. King seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Gasperecz expressed her appreciation to all Commissioners for being in attendance for the rescheduled hearing and that she was looking forward to being back in City Council chambers in the New Year. She also recognized Brook Tesler as the new director of the Vieux Carré Commission Foundation.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Bourgogne presented the proposed 2020 calendar for Architectural Committee and Commission hearings. Mr. Fifield moved to accept the calendar as proposed. Ms. King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

626 Bourbon St: 17-06727-VCGEN; C Williams John, applicant; Grace T Granger LLC, owner; Proposal to remove existing balcony and construct new gallery, in conjunction with the relocation of an existing storm drain, per application & materials received 02/24/17 & 10/15/19.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Redirect.aspx?SearchString=17-06727-VCGEN>

Ms. Vogt read the staff report with Mr. Williams present on behalf of the application. Ms. King moved for **conceptual approval** of the gallery with the proviso that the storm drain must be moved to accommodate its installation, per the Committee's recommendation. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

620 Governor Nicholls St: 19-28814-VCGEN; Cangelosi, Jr Robert, applicant; 618-20 Gov Nichols LLC, owner; Proposal to create new window opening on the Chartres elevation, per application & materials received 09/23/19.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=821719>

Ms. Vogt read the staff report with Mr. Cangelosi present on behalf of the application. Mr. Fifield moved for the **conceptual approval** of the new window opening on the Chartres elevation, consistent with the Committee's recommendation. Ms. King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1113 Chartres St: 19-28818-VCGEN; Cangelosi, Jr Robert, applicant; Keyes Foundation, owner; Proposal to replace existing louvered shutters on the Chartres elevation with new paneled shutters as historically documented, per application & materials received 08/13/19.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=815929>

Ms. Vogt read the staff report with Mr. Cangelosi present on behalf of the application. Mr. Fifield moved for the **approval** of the new paneled shutters on the Chartres elevation to replace the existing louvered shutters. Ms. King seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

VII. APPEALS AND VIOLATIONS

632 Pirate's Aly, 712 Royal St.: 19-28337-VCGEN; McDonough Lee, applicant; F Hardcastle Trust Meaghan, Donough Lee A Mc, Living Trust Tilbury, Pirates Alley Lane LLC, owner; Appeal to retain plexiglass installed over French doors, per application & materials received 09/11/19. **[Notice of Violation sent 05/17/19]**

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Redirect.aspx?SearchString=19-28337-VCGEN>

Mr. Fifield moved to **defer** the appeal as there was no one present on behalf of the application. Ms. King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

641 Bourbon St: 18-41337-VCGEN; Erika Gates, applicant; 641 Bourbon Street LLC, owner;

Appeal of Architecture Committee denial of proposal to retain air conditioning compressor units installed on balconies without benefit of VCC review or approval, per application & materials received 05/17/19.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=788454>

Ms. Vogt read the staff report with Ms. Gates present on behalf of the application. Ms. Gates stated the units had been in place for 5-7 years prior to the citation and that their current location was the safest alternative as the courtyard was active and the balconies were not used. Mr. Fifield stated that the Committee was not told about any egress issues, was not presented with any alternative locations and was not notified of any hardship on the part of the owners/bar operators. Ms. Thibodeaux asked if there were in fact any alternative locations. Ms. Gates stated that the owners found all alternatives to be disruptive to the business. Mr. Fifield stated that the use of the building should not disrupt the architecture. Mr. Bergeron asked if the

applicant should return to the Committee. Mr. Fifield stated that if they were denied here, they could return to the Committee to try and resolve the issue. Ms. Bourgne asked the applicant if there was any point in returning the Committee. Mr. Gates stated that the owners were not interested in moving the units unless they were denied retention. Mr. Fifield moved for a **denial** of the retention of the HVAC units illegally installed on the courtyard balconies. Mr. Bergeron seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

I. RATIFICATION of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the Wednesday, September 4, 2019 VCC meeting.

Mr. Fifield moved to ratify the Staff actions since September 4, 2019. Ms. King seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Fifield moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:10 pm.