

VIEUX CARRÉ COMMISSION
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020
1:30 PM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
(RELOCATED TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE ROOM, 8TH FLOOR)
1300 PERDIDO STREET, NEW ORLEANS LA 70112

Minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of Wednesday, January 22 2020 – 1:30 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mamie Gasperecz, Chairperson
Priscilla Lawrence, Secretary
Rick Fifield
Angela King
Toni DiMaggio
Steven Bergeron

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Bill Keck
Keely Thibodeaux
Rodney Villarreal

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Block, Director; Nicholas Albrecht, Senior Building Plans Examiner; Erin Vogt, Senior Building Plans Examiner.

STAFF ABSENT: Renée Bourgogne, Senior Architectural Historian; Marguerite Roberts, Inspector; Anthony Whitfield, Inspector.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Gasperecz called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Mr. Block read the roll and noted that six members were present and three members were absent, constituting a quorum.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Block stated that staff's ability to circulate the minutes from the last hearing had been impaired due to the December 13th cyberattack on the City of New Orleans. He stated that they would be forwarded to the Commissioners for review when available, hopefully before the February hearing.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Gasperecz stated that she is glad VCC hearings will be held in chambers again, as it will enable the broadcast of the hearings on local television, boosting the transparency of the meetings and the opportunity for the Commission to educate the public on the preservation of the French Quarter.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Block provided an update on the status of the VCC following the cyberattack, stating that staff now has access to email and limited use of the permitting program used by the One Stop Shop. He stated that the public must still visit the VCC in person to submit applications and supplemental materials at this time, but that he was hopeful normal operations will be restored in the next thirty days.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1236 N. Rampart St: 19-06343-VCGEN; Rick A. Fifield, applicant; The Rampart Church LLC, owner:
Proposal to demolish three accessory structures in conjunction with the renovation of the overall site and **change of use** from *vacant* to *residential (multi-family)*, per application & materials received 03/06/19 & 10/29/19, respectively. **[Note: second review of proposed demolition following 30 day layover requirement]**

[Mr. Fifield recused himself prior to the presentation of staff reports for this property.]

Ms. Vogt presented the staff report with Messrs. Murray and Gibbs present on behalf of the application. With no discussion necessary, Ms. Lawrence moved to **conceptually approve** the demolition, consistent with staff and Committee recommendation. Ms. DiMaggio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1236 N. Rampart St: 19-06285-VCGEN; Rick A. Fifield, applicant; The Rampart Church LLC, owner:
Proposal to construct three duplex buildings in conjunction with the conceptually approved renovation of the St. Joseph Convent complex, per application & materials received 11/12/19 & 12/04/19, respectively.

Ms. Vogt presented the staff report with Messrs. Murray and Gibbs present on behalf of the application. With no discussion necessary, Ms. DiMaggio moved to **conceptually approve** the new construction, consistent with staff and Committee recommendation. Ms. King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

[Mr. Fifield returned to the hearing following the vote.]

800-10 N. Rampart; 1041 St. Ann St: 17-40402-VCGEN; John Williams Architects, applicant; J&R Rental Properties LLC, owner;
Proposal to renovate building, including new millwork, gallery, and awning, per application & materials received 12/01/17 & 01/07/2020, respectively.

Ms. Vogt presented the staff report with Mr. Heck and Ms. Bradwell present on behalf of the application. Mr. Fifield commented that the Committee had reviewed the applicant's research on the gallery as it developed over several hearings, and that the staff report reflected the Committee's comments well. He stated that the gallery is part of the unique character of this building, and moved to conceptually approve the gallery/awning consistent with staff and Committee recommendation. Ms. Lawrence seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

729 Gov. Nicholls St: John Williams Architects, applicant; Reagan Thomas, owner;
Proposal to demolish existing brown-rated carport/shed and all concrete at grade, per application & materials received 12/18/2019.

Mr. Albrecht gave the staff presentation with Mr. Heck and Ms. Bardwell present on behalf of the application. With no comments from the applicants or audience, Mr. Fifield moved to adopt the staff and Architecture Committee recommendation of approval of the proposed demolition of the shed structure and concrete slabs except in the area of the previously existing service building. Mr. Fifield continued that the demolition of the service building slab would be staff approvable provided that it was found that the building was permitted to be demolished; if the building was not approved for demolition, the matter would return to the Commission. Ms. DiMaggio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VII. RATIFICATION of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the Wednesday, December 04, 2019 VCC meeting:.

Mr. Block asked the Commission to delay ratification to the next hearing due to the December 13th cyberattack.

With no other business to discuss, Ms. DiMaggio moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:50 pm.