

VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION

LaToya Cantrell  
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Bryan Block  
DIRECTOR

**Minutes of Public Meeting**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021**  
**1:00 PM, WebEx Conference Call**  
**(312) 626-6799, Access Code: 916 2229 2079**

Minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of Thursday, February 18, 2021– 1:00 pm.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Mamie Gasperecz, Chairperson  
Rick Fifield  
Toni DiMaggio  
Stephen Bergeron  
William Reeves  
Angela King  
Keely Thibodeaux

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Rodney Villarreal

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bryan Block, Director; Renée Bourgogne, Senior Architectural Historian;  
Nicholas Albrecht, Senior Building Plans Examiner; Erin Vogt, Senior Building  
Plans Examiner; Melissa Quigley, VCC Legal Representation

**STAFF ABSENT:** Anthony Whitfield, Inspector; Marguerite Roberts, Inspector

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brook Tesler, Katherine Harmon

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**ROLL CALL** Mr. Block called roll. Ms. Gasperecz, Mr. Fifield, Ms. DiMaggio, Mr. Bergeron, Dr. Reeves, Ms. King and Ms. Thibodeaux were present.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** Ms. Gasperecz noted that, since Commissioner Lawrence stepped down, the Commission needed to elect a Vice Chair. She asked the Commissioners for nominations. Mr. Fifield nominated Ms. DiMaggio to serve as Vice Chair. Ms. DiMaggio accepted the nomination, which Mr. Bergeron seconded. Ms. DiMaggio was elected unanimously.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES** Ms. Gasperecz noted that staff requested a deferral of the minutes in light of reduction in staff time due to implementation of City-mandated furloughs. Mr. Fifield moved to defer review of the minutes. Dr. Reeves seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** Ms. Gasperecz stated that she appreciated the Commissioners' efforts in preservation. She reminded them that they were required to complete one hour of annual training in preservation, noting that many remote options were available, including a virtual camp from the NCPTT. She stated that information on these opportunities would be forwarded to the Commissioners.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** Mr. Block read the following report:

- We are pleased to announce that the Vieux Carré Commission is coming back to the French Quarter, temporarily! Due to safety protocol for the pandemic, they have been unable to work at City Hall and be accessible in-person to the citizens of the French Quarter. For that reason, The VCC Foundation has worked with The Berger Company and Berger/Tiller Families and the City of New Orleans to secure a space at 400 N. Peters, Suite 206. You can find them on Thursdays from 10am to 2pm, by appointment only. French Quarter office hours will begin on 3/4/2021.

During these hours, you will be able to meet with someone in-person to ask questions, drop off an application, and issue permits (restrictions apply, review plans, and discuss violations with a staff member. Keep in mind, you may not walk out with a permit, but the staff will do their best to assist you and can help with One Stop entries and questions.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO – all COVID protocols will be strictly followed. Masks MUST be worn and social distancing MUST be followed. If someone does not comply, they may be asked to leave or denied entry. Some transactions may be handled in the lobby if the office space is already occupied. Your safety and the safety of the staff members are FIRST priority.

- 5G Guidelines have been drafted and are being forwarded to City Council for review and ratification. In the meantime, VCC staff is currently reviewing applications and making non-binding recommendations based on the draft guidelines. It is important to remember that this new infrastructure will be installed on the City's public right-of-way. As such, VCC is required to comment on their appropriateness and the affect it potentially will have on the *tout ensemble* of the district. VCC staff has worked vigorously over the past year or so with Jonathan Rhodes in the Mayor's Office of Utilities to ensure that these guidelines encourage the design and placement of this infrastructure to be as minimally obtrusive to our fragile and invaluable historic district.
- In response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and City-mandated partial staff furloughs, the deadline for old business submittals will be extended to two weeks for 2021. All applications and materials for Committee or Commission-level reviews must be submitted to staff no later than two weeks prior to the meeting the applicant wishes to attend. **Please note that response times are delayed due to reduction in staff hours and anticipate additional lead time for permits and reviews accordingly.**

**Mr. Block explained the format for today's meeting. As noted on the agenda, there would be no 30-minute comment period prior to motions, but the floor would be opened for public comment. Any public comment received by email would be added into the record.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**943 Chartres St: 20-50001-VCGEN**; Loretta Harmon, applicant; McKane Properties LLC, owner;

Proposal to install new roof hatch, per application & materials received 12/21/2020 & 01/20/2021, respectively.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=868275>

Mr. Albrecht read the staff report with Ms. Harmon present on behalf of the application. Ms. Harmon stated that they would be happy to reduce the size of the proposed hatch to 2x2 and that they would submit the cut sheet and revised drawings to staff. Ms. Gasperecz asked what the use of the building would be. Ms. Harmon stated that it would be an apartment on both the second and first floors. Ms. Gasperecz asked for public comment.

### **No Public Comment**

### **Discussion and Motion:**

Ms. Gasperecz asked for a motion. Ms. DiMaggio made the motion for the approval of the new roof hatch with details to be worked out at the staff level, including the notes in the staff report to reduce the size to 2x2. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Fifield made the motion for adjournment. Ms. Thibodaux seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.