

VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION

LaToya Cantrell  
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Bryan Block  
DIRECTOR

**Minutes of Public Meeting**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**  
**1:00 PM, Zoom Conference Call**

(312) 626-6799, Meeting ID: 923 9007 1046, Passcode: 998484

<https://zoom.us/j/92390071046?pwd=UCtxbThMV1NEak1WdEJySjVpCERYQT09>

Minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021– 1:00 pm.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Mamie Gasperecz, Chairperson  
Rick Fifield  
Toni DiMaggio  
Stephen Bergeron  
William Reeves [arrived during the presentation of 429 Decatur]  
Rodney Villarreal  
Angela King

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Keely Thibodeaux

**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:** Mark Latter, Rebecca Hurst, Ashley Davis Kelso, Harry Jenkins, Dave Minsky,  
Erin Holmes, Jeff Adelson, Brook Tesler

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**ROLL CALL** Mr. Block called roll. Ms. Gasperecz, Mr. Fifield, Ms. DiMaggio, Mr. Bergeron, Mr. Villarreal and Ms. King were present. [Dr. Reeves arrived during the presentation of 429 Decatur]

**REVIEW OF MINUTES** Ms. Gasperecz noted that staff requested deferral of the minutes and ratification of staff and Committee actions prior to the meeting. Mr. Villarreal noted that the meeting minutes for the March VCC meeting noted him as absent and that he had attended the meeting but had technical difficulties and was unable to speak.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** Ms. Gasperecz noted the increased size of recent meeting agendas and took the opportunity to thank the Architectural Committee and VCC staff.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** Mr. Block announced that the VCC staff had moved back into City Hall following vaccination for Covid-19. He stated that meetings with staff would still be by appointment only for the immediate future.

**Mr. Block explained the format for today's meeting. He stated that each plans examiner would read their respective reports and the floor would be opened for public comment prior to motions by the Commission. Any public comment received by email during the 30-minute recess would be read into the record.**

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

**429 Decatur St: 21-05094-VCSGN;** Michael Barr, applicant; Kara Farms LLC, owner;  
Commission review of application for Classic Sign designation, per application & materials received 02/23/2021.  
<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=873972>

Ms. Vogt read the staff report with Ms. Hurst and Mr. Latter present on behalf of the application. Mr. Latter stated that the sign company was working on revising the drawings following Architecture

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Committee review. Ms. DiMaggio noted that the installed location would be different than the historic sign since it was on a different building, asking if this would be a problem. Mr. Block stated that the designation was more about the replicated sign, not the position of the installation, noting that he believed the regulations allowed some leeway in this area. Mr. Bergeron asked the applicant if they had access to the historic sign to be able to faithfully reproduce it; Mr. Latter responded yes, that they had measured the sign and had access to it until the end of the month. Mr. Block noted that the drawings would be reviewed by the Committee, and the Commission was only reviewing the proposed classic sign designation. Dr. Reeves stated that he wished they could relocate the original sign; Mr. Latter agreed, regretting that the matter was complication and relocation was not an option. With nothing left to discuss, the Commission moved on to the next agenda item.

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## II. APPEALS AND VIOLATIONS

**528 St Louis St: 19-36579-VCGEN;** Nicole Webre, applicant; L John Arbizzani, Haydee D Manual, Louis J Arbizzani, 46 Avenida Menendez Inc, Mary R Beamer, Cody Childress, Theodore W Nass, owner; Appeal to retain doors and iron bars installed without benefit of VCC review and approval, per application & materials received 12/09/19. **[Notice of Violation sent 10/28/19]**  
<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Redirect.aspx?SearchString=19-36579-VCGEN>

Ms. Vogt read the staff report with Ms. Kelso present on behalf of the application. Ms. Kelso requested a deferral as Ms. Weber, the applicant, had a medical emergency. With no discussion needed at this hearing, the Commission moved to the next item on the agenda.

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**727 St Ann St:** SES Enterprises LLC, applicant; Saint Ann Management LLC, owner; Appeal to retain five (5) new sets of French doors installed without benefit of VCC review or approval, per application & materials received 10/14/2020 & 04/29/2021, respectively.  
<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=861624>

Mr. Albrecht read the staff report with Mr. Jenkins present on behalf of the application. Mr. Jenkins stated that he had misunderstood the original ARC motion of conceptual approval and thought this meant full approval. He went on to say at that point they had the doors made and installed them. Mr. Jenkins then explained that the proportions on the inside were different than the outside. He went on to say that if they had to change the doors, they would have to be rebuilt from scratch, so they had come to the Commission with a hardship claim. Ms. Gasperecz asked if there were any comments or questions on the part of the Commission. With no questions or comments, the Commission went to a 30-minute recess for public comment.

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Mr. Bergeron made the motion for a 30-minute recess for public comment. Dr. Reeves seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The Commission was to reconvene at 1:52PM.

Following the 30-minute recess, Mr. Fifield moved to resume the meeting. Dr. Reeves seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to resume at approximately 1:53PM.

## I. NEW BUSINESS

**429 Decatur St: 21-05094-VCSGN;** Michael Barr, applicant; Kara Farms LLC, owner; Commission review of application for Classic Sign designation, per application & materials received 02/23/2021.  
<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=873972>

### Public Comment:

VCPORA shares the Commission's sentiments of the unfortunate reality that this iconic sign cannot be moved to the new restaurant location. For clarification, is the Commission seeking Classic Sign designation for both the existing sign and the replication?

Erin Holmes

VCPORA

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**Discussion and Motion:**

Mr. Latter stated that he was unsure if the other property owner would seek classic sign designation but that they could not retain the name on the sign. For clarification, Ms. Vogt stated that the original sign at 823 Decatur was not on the agenda and would not meet the criteria for a classic sign if altered. Mr. Fifield made the motion for **approval** of the classic sign designation in accordance with Section 24.15.A(2)(a). of the CZO. Ms. DiMaggio seconded the motion. Dr. Reeves stated that the motion needed to specify that the new sign would match existing exactly; Mr. Block stated that this was implied, as the new sign would be non-conforming and could not be built without being an exact replica per the CZO. The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

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<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Redirect.aspx?SearchString=19-36579-VCGEN>

**No Public Comment**

**Discussion and Motion:**

Ms. DiMaggio made the motion to **defer** the applicant to the next meeting in June 2021. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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**There was no Public Comment.**

**Discussion and Motion:**

Mr. Fifield stated that the hardship presented here did not make him reconsider his original motion at the ARC level. Ms. Gasperecz stated that it was important to be clear and transparent and that both the Commission and the ARC are very clear. She went on to say that the rules are in place and are real and that this matter concerned her greatly. Mr. Fifield made the motion to **deny** the application for the retention of the doors. Mr. Reeves seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**III. RATIFICATION** of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the Wednesday, March 17, 2021 VCC meeting.

Mr. Fifield moved to **defer** the meeting minutes and ratification until the next meeting. Dr. Reeves seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. King made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bergeron seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:06 PM.