

VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION

LaToya Cantrell
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Bryan Block
DIRECTOR

Minutes of Public Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021

1:00 PM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1300 PERDIDO ST, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112

Minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of Wednesday, June 30th, 2021– 1:00 pm.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Keely Thibodeaux, Rodney Villarreal

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Chuck Berg, Cheryl Kirby, Phil Piediscalzo, Dale Wood, Nicole Weber, Laura Barth

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

REVIEW OF MINUTES The Commissioners reviewed the March and April minutes and staff actions submitted for ratification in advance of the meeting. Mr. Fifield moved to approve the materials as submitted. Ms. King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT Ms. Gasperecz welcomed everyone back to the first in-person meeting since prior to the start of the pandemic, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She thanked the VCCF for allowing staff to use their office space to meet with the public. She also announced that the VCCF would be doing a “Meet the Commission” social media series to promote transparency and access.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT Mr. Block stated that new guidelines were being created for meeting with the public during the pandemic, noting that staff was available by appointment on site or at various facilities. He stated that the VCC was excited to be back in City Hall, and asked for patience as everyone adjusted to the evolving situation surrounding covid-19.

NEW BUSINESS

921-25 Burgundy St: 20-43443-VCGEN; Charles Berg, applicant; Cheryl Lynn Kirby, owner; Proposal to construct two-story rear dependency, per application & materials received 10/12/2020 & 05/11/2021, respectively.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=861358>

Ms. Vogt presented the staff report with Mr. Berg present on behalf of the application. Mr. Fifield noted that the applicant had responded to Committee recommendations. Ms. Gasperecz commented that the best project development takes place at the Committee level. With no further discussion needed, Ms. DiMaggio moved to **conceptually approve** the proposed new construction, with further development to take place at the Committee level. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHANGE OF USE HEARINGS

541 Chartres St: 21-13118-VCSGN; Pro Signs & Graphics, applicant; And Leila Williams Foundation Kemper, owner; Proposal to install two (2) double-sided signs in conjunction with a **change of use** from *bank* to *retail*, per application received 05/06/2021.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=884102>

Ms. Vogt presented the staff report with Mr. Piediscalzo present on behalf of the application. Ms. Gaspercz asked if he had any information on the ATM; Mr. Piediscalzo responded that he was the tenant, and it was not related to his application. Mr. Fifield moved to forward a **positive recommendation** for the change of use to the City Planning Commission and **approve** the signs with provisos as noted in the staff report. Ms. King seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

632 St Peter St: 21-13308-VCGEN; Dale Wood, applicant; 632 St Peter Street LLC, 632 St Peter Street LLC, owner; Proposal to install rooftop mechanical equipment in conjunction with **change of use** from *retail* to *restaurant*, per application & materials received 05/07/2021 & 05/24/2021, respectively.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=884293>

Ms. Vogt presented the staff report with Mr. Wood present on behalf of the application. Dr. Reeves asked the applicant if the work would be visible from any public right of way; Mr. Wood responded that it would not be. Mr. Bergeron moved to **approve** the HVAC and forward a **positive recommendation** of the change of use to the City Planning Commission. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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]**

Prior to the presentation of the staff report, Ms. Vogt noted that the applicant provided new information immediately prior to the meeting that may affect the staff recommendation. Ms. Vogt requested that the Commission defer their review or return the application to the Architectural Committee. Ms. Weber thanked the Commission for their time and said she found it valuable to be able to meet in person.

Mr. Fifield moved to **defer** the appeal and forward it to the Committee for further review as requested by staff to allow for review of the information provided immediately prior to the meeting. Dr. Reeves seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

Ratification was included in the Commission's previous motion to approve the meeting minutes [see above].

With no remaining items to discuss, Mr. Bergeron moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:27pm. Dr. Reeves seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.