

VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION

LaToya Cantrell
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Bryan Block
DIRECTOR

NOTE: The below minutes are a summary of actions taken. They are not a verbatim transcription of the meeting.

Minutes of the Vieux Carré Commission meeting of Wednesday, March 16, 2022– 1:00 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mamie Gasperecz, Chairperson
Rick Fifield
Toni DiMaggio
Stephen Bergeron
Rodney Villarreal
LaVerne Toombs

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Angela King
Keely Thibodeaux

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Block, Director; Renée Bourgogne, Deputy Director; Nicholas Albrecht, Senior Building Plans Examiner; Erin Vogt, Senior Building Plans Examiner; Melissa Quigley, VCC Legal Representation; Emily Hernandez, Assistant Planning Administrator - New Orleans City Planning Commission

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

OTHERS PRESENT: John Williams, Carrie Hunsicker, Tim Terrell, Karri Maggio, William Foster, Pierre Mouledoux, Mark Graves, Corbett Scott, Brad Williams

ROLL CALL Mr. Block called roll. Ms. Gasperecz, Mr. Fifield, Ms. DiMaggio, Mr. Bergeron, and Mr. Villarreal were present. (Ms. Toombs arrived during the presentation of 917 Decatur.)

REVIEW OF MINUTES Ms. DiMaggio moved to defer the review of minutes until the April meeting. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT Ms. Gasperecz stated that a joint venture between the VCC, Helm Paint, and Benjamin Moore to create a French Quarter paint palette would be revealed on 4/7, and thanked VCCF Director Brook Tesler and VCC Deputy Director Renee Bourgogne for their work on the project.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT Mr. Block informed the Commission that the Governor’s emergency declaration that allowed remote public hearings was ending, and that the next Commission meeting would be held in person in the City Council chambers. He added that everyone would be updated on protocols for meeting in person in advance. He thanked Ms. Bourgogne for working on scheduling conference rooms for the Architectural Committee, and noted that Committee hearings would not be returning to Conference Room D, as it is too small to allow for social distancing.

I. OLD BUSINESS

208 Bienville St: 21-21645-VCGEN; David Maise, applicant; 208 Bienville Street Development LLC, owner; Proposal to construct a new three-story gallery with roof overhang on the N. Front elevation of the building, per application & materials received 07/29/2021 & 02/16/2022, respectively.
<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=895078>

Mr. Albrecht read the staff report with Mr. Terrell present on behalf of the application. Mr. Terrell stated that they had worked closely with the ARC and staff, and they agreed with the staff report.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Fifield made the motion for conceptual approval with detail to be worked out at the Architecture Committee. Ms. DiMaggio seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS

500 St Peter St: 21-04902-VCGEN; Kidder Blake, applicant; El Churasco Chapin LLC, owner;

For recommendation only: Proposal to install mechanical safety equipment including access ladders and service platforms, per application & materials received 02/23/2021 & 01/11/2022.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=873987>

Ms. Vogt read the staff report. There was no one present on behalf of the application. Mr. Block stated that the Commission might want to continue as they were looking for an up or down recommendation.

There was no public comment.

With no discussion needed, Mr. Fifield moved for a non-binding recommendation to support the plans as reviewed and approved by the ARC. Mr. Villareal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

917 Decatur St: 21-28888-VCGEN; William, applicant; Bopp Enterprises#lv LLC, owner;

Proposal to install new skylights, per application & materials received 10/14/2021 & 03/03/2022, respectively.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=902143>

Mr. Albrecht read the staff report with Ms. Maggio and Mr. Foster present on behalf of the application. Ms. Maggio noted that the majority of the work is related to Hurricane Ida related repairs but these skylights were a request of the owner.

There was no public comment.

Ms. DiMaggio made the motion to approve the proposal with any final details at the staff level. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Toombs joined the meeting.

740 Barracks St: 21-32681-VCGEN; Corbett Scott, applicant; Brad Michael Williams Irrevocable Trust, owner; Proposal to renovate building including proposal to enlarge existing camelback, per application & materials received 11/22/2021 & 02/22/2022, respectively.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=908060>

Mr. Albrecht read the staff report with Mr. Scott and Mr. Williams present on behalf of the application. Ms. Gasperecz asked if this would be the full-time residence of Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams replied that no, this would be a second home.

Public Comment:

Nikki Szalwinski, representing French Quarter Citizens, noted that they were happy to see this building renovated but they would like to see the rear balcony restored.

Mr. Bergeron made the motion to approval the proposal with the details at the staff level. Ms. Toombs seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. CHANGE OF USE HEARINGS

226 Bourbon St: 22-02154-VCGEN; John C Williams, applicant; Bourbon Nine LLC, owner; Proposal to install new millwork and mechanical equipment and renovate courtyard in conjunction with a **change of use** from *vacant* to *nightclub*, per application & materials received 01/21/2022 & 02/09/2022,

respectively. <https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=913369>

Ms. Vogt read the staff report with Ms. Hunsicker and Mr. Williams present on behalf of the application. Ms. Hunsicker stated that they were very excited about the project. Ms. Gasperecz asked if they already had a tenant lined up; Ms. Hunsicker responded that they did.

There was no public comment.

Ms. DiMaggio moved to **approve** the proposed work and forward a **positive recommendation** for the **change of use** from *vacant* to *nightclub* to Safety and Permits. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. **APPEALS AND VIOLATIONS**

1208 Bourbon St: 21-33198-VCGEN; W Mouledoux Pierre, applicant; Rex F Jr Toole, owner;

Appeal of Architecture Committee denial of proposal to replace existing fiberglass shingle roof with new Timberline Fiberglass Asphalt Architectural Shingles, per application & materials received 12/01/2021 & 03/11/2022, respectively.

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=909488>

Mr. Albrecht read the staff report with Mr. Mouledoux and the roofer Mr. Graves present on behalf of the application. Mr. Mouledoux asked if this was a violation. Ms. Bourgogne stated yes, "I believe that is how this all started." Mr. Albrecht agree. Ms. Gasperecz noted that the last time this was reviewed there was some question if the entire roof needed to be replaced and that it was now clear that the entire roof indeed needed to be replaced.

Ms. Bourgogne stated that she had emailed the applicant with roofing options noting that it could not be asphalt per Guidelines but it didn't have to be slate but had not heard back. Mr. Mouledoux referenced various legal issues he felt were applicable to this proposal. Ms. Bourgogne asked Ms. Quigley to step in. Ms. Quigley stated that this was not a criminal proceeding, this was a civil proceeding. The Commission agreed.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Bergeron made the motion to defer the application in order to allow the applicant time to consider other materials that were guideline approvable. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion and the motion passed unimously.

- I. **RATIFICATION** of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the February meeting. Mr. Villarreal made the motion for ratification. Ms. Toombs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. DiMaggio moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Villarreal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:53PM.