

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, June 22, 2022– 1:00 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Keely Thibodeaux, Toni DiMaggio, Stephen Bergeron, Rick Fifield, LaVerne Toombs, Heather Veneziano, Angela King

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Julio Guichard

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Block, Director; Renee Bourgogne, Deputy Director; Erin Vogt, Senior Building Plans Examiner; Melissa Quigley, City Attorney’s Office

STAFF ABSENT: Nicholas Albrecht, Senior Building Plans Examiner; Anthony Whitfield, Inspector; Marguerite Roberts, Inspector

OTHERS PRESENT: John Williams

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Block called the roll at 1pm. Ms. Thibodeaux, Ms. DiMaggio, Mr. Bergeron, Mr. Fifield, Ms. Toombs, Ms. King and Ms. Veneziano were present.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Fifield moved to defer the minutes at the staff’s request. Ms. Toombs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

As Acting Chair, Mr. Bergeron stated: “First, I’d like to take this opportunity to urge tenants and property owners of the French Quarter to continue to protect our shared architectural heritage with regular care and maintenance. We’ve seen recently a handful of applications where historic materials have been damaged, defaced, or demolished without adequate communication with the VCC staff. While many historic details can be replicated with new material, there is no true substitute for historic fabric in its original configuration- once it’s gone, it’s lost forever. Please reach out to the staff with your questions, concerns, and plans before performing any work.

Finally, I’d like to spotlight the “Colors of the French Quarter” color palette that debuted this past April. This palette is the result of a year-long collaboration among the VCC Foundation, Benjamin Moore, and Helm Paint. Ask your favorite staff member for more details on how this color palette might inspire your upcoming paint application.”

IV. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Block reported that Ms. Bourgogne and VCC Foundation Executive Director Brook Tesler had prepared a storm preparedness flyer, following Ms. Toombs suggestion at a previous hearing. A draft has been sent to the Commissioners and will be available on the VCC website once it is finalized. It will also be hosted on the VCC Foundation website in case City of New Orleans resources are down in the event of an emergency, and will provide instructions for immediate storm aftermath, as well. Ms. Toombs thanked Mr. Block and the staff for providing this resource for the public.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

1039 Burgundy St: Review of Staff and Committee recommendation to upgrade attached service ell building from “unrated” to “Orange rated,” per 06/16/2022 Committee review.

Ms. Vogt presented the staff report. Mr. Williams also addressed the Commission and provided some photos from the early 1960s that were not in the VCC records, showing that the service ell did not exist at that time. Mr. Bergeron noted for the Commission that they were only considering the building’s rating and not any proposed work.

Mr. Fifield moved to adopt the staff and Committee recommendation that the building be officially rated Orange. Ms. Thibodeaux seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. CHANGE OF USE HEARINGS

410 Bourbon St: 21-31193-VCGEN; Loretta Harmon, applicant; 410 Bourbon Street LLC, 410 Bourbon Street LLC, owner; Proposal to correct demolition by neglect violations in conjunction with a **change of use** from *vacant* to *bar*, per application & materials received 11/05/2021 & 05/27/2022, respectively. **[Notices of Violation sent 10/23/2019, 11/30/2020, & 04/20/2021]**

<https://onestopapp.nola.gov/Documents.aspx?ObjLabel=Permit&ID=906362>

Ms. Vogt presented the staff report. There was no one present on behalf of the application. With no discussion needed and with no public comment, Ms. DiMaggio moved to forward a positive recommendation of the change of use to the Director of Safety and Permits. Ms. Toombs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VII. RATIFICATION of Architectural Committee and Staff actions since the Wednesday, May 18, 2022 VCC meeting.

Mr. Fifield noted that he had reviewed the materials for ratification and was overwhelmed by the amount of work completed by the staff, and thanked them for their efforts. He moved to approve the materials as distributed. Ms. Thibodeaux seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 pm.