

MINUTES  
VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008  
1:30 P.M. CONFERENCE ROOM  
334 ROYAL STREET, 2ND FLOOR

MEMBERS PRESENT: E. Ralph Lupin, M.D., Chairman  
Dodie Smith, Vice Chairman  
Tom Bissell  
Pat Denechaud (arrived late after quorum established)  
Betty H. Norris  
Carol B. Wise  
Fred Lawson

MEMBERS ABSENT: S. Stewart Farnet  
Raymond R. Young, Sr.,

STAFF PRESENT: Lary P. Hesdorffer, Director; Hilary Somerville Irvin, Principal  
Architectural Historian; Arthur Pittari, Building Inspector Stephen  
McNair and Lily McNee, Preservation Assistant.

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Schneider (Office of City Attorney), Robert Vanlangandonck,  
Irving G. Rosen, Bruce Egger, Will Adams, Jill Adams, Tarah Doggett,  
D. David Dietrich and Jenny Braman.

I. ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with Dr. Lupin, Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Wise, Ms. Smith and Messrs. Bissell and Lawson present. Mrs. Denechaud, Mr. Farnet and Mr. Young were absent.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES from meeting of December 18, 2007

Mr. Bissell moved, Mrs. Norris seconded, to **approve** the minutes as drafted. The motion passed unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1120-22 Decatur/27-29 French Market Place: Eljaouhari, LLC, owner; Julie Little, architect/ applicant. Architectural modifications for **change of use** from *vacant* to *restaurant*, per application received 12/04/07 & drawings received 01/03/08.

[Mrs. Denechaud arrived around 2PM during discussion of this application.]

Following the staff presentation of the application summary, Mr. Bissell moved, Mrs. Wise seconded, to **approve** the **change of use** from *vacant* to *restaurant* with the following provisos, as recommended by the Architectural Committee:

- the applicant shall further revise the exhaust and supply fan details, so that the unnecessary horizontal run of ductwork is deleted, with staff review and approval of details; and
- the size of the signs for both the Decatur and French Market Place facades shall be revised not to exceed 750 square inches in order to conform to zoning requirements.

The motion of approval passed unanimously.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Inspections/Violations Report

Chairman Lupin reiterated his interest in fine-tuning the inspection and violation process that is employed by Staff. The Director, along with Staff members Pittari, McNair and McNee, discussed the current process that is underway that will hopefully begin to effectively correct or resolve such violations. Staff briefly explained the process for inspecting properties and documenting violations (both by notes and photographs), proceeding with letters of notice to the property owners and/or lessees, followed by the notification to the City's to move the violations into the Administrative Adjudication process. The current process allows violators up to 30 days in which to comply with VCC policies and to resolve outstanding violations. If no correction takes place or move is made to resolve the violation(s), Staff then will move beyond the notification process into seeking corrections through the Administrative Adjudication process.

Chairman Lupin further requested that staff produce a written process outlining steps taken for violations and adjudication. Finally he requested to review the template used by staff to inform

property owners of violations. All of the requested items were to be discussed at a special VCC meeting called to meet the following Tuesday.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Lupin reiterated the importance he sees in the correction of outstanding violations and stressed that the violation process must be reinstated. He went on to request that a special meeting be organized to announce to the public and to the press that the violation of VCC policies and regulations will be cited and that property owners will be fined. He stressed that people will respond when they are taken through the legal process.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director noted that there has been some progress in filling another VCC staff position, that of a Building Plans Examiner. He suggested that by the next monthly meeting of the Commission, more information would be available about the staff composition.

In reference to the Friends of the VCC and its request to have an official representative named to the Friends' Board of Directors from the VCC, the Director requested that the Chairman entertain that topic so that a name could be forwarded to the Friends. Dr. Lupin then appointed Raymond Young to be the VCC's designated representative to the Board of Directors of the Friends of the VCC.

VII. RATIFICATION of Architectural Committee and Staff Actions

Mrs. Norris moved, and Mr. Farnet seconded, to **ratify** the Architectural Committee and Staff Actions taken since the last Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Raymond R. Young, Sr., Secretary

Note: These minutes are a summary of actions taken and are not a verbatim transcription of the meeting.