

**LEGAL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Lakefront Management Authority**  
**Thursday, September 15, 2022 – 2:30 P.M.**

Lakefront Airport Terminal Building, 2nd Floor Conference Center  
6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Robert Drouant – Chair  
Commissioner Jennifer W. Herbert- Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Adonis Expose'  
Commissioner Michelle White  
Commissioner Carlos Williams (Arrived at 2:34 PM)

**OTHER  
ATTENDING**

**COMMISSIONERS:** Commissioner Dawn Hebert  
Commissioner Renee Lapeyrolerie  
Commissioner Wilma Heaton  
Commissioner Esmond Carr

**STAFF:** Louis Capo – Executive Director  
Vanessa McKee – Assistant to the Executive Director  
Adam Gulino – Director of Operations and Engineering

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Al Pappalardo – Real Estate Consultant  
Kristi Trail- E.D., Ponchartrain Conservancy  
Stephen Conroy- Attorney, Ponchartrain Conservancy  
Dana Bix  
Ben Myers - Reporter, Times-Picayune  
Harold Matherne - Lake Oaks Resident  
Elaine Watters - Lake Oaks Resident  
Darryl Boykins - Lake Oaks Resident  
Katy Sinor - Lakeshore Resident  
Howard Sinor - Lakeshore Resident  
Tom Fierke  
Jennifer A. Quezergue - Lake Oaks  
Anne Duffy - Lake Oaks  
John Skinner - Lake Oaks  
Ashley Haspel - President, LTPOA  
Akeam M. Johnson - CMG, LLC  
Ray Landeche - President, LPOA

Phalon Cornist - President, LOCA  
Rarda Raynard - Lake Oaks  
Renee Cornist - Lake Oaks

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The Legal Committee of the Lakefront Management Authority on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 2:30 PM at 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

- I. Called to Order by Chair Drouant at 2:30 PM.**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Drouant**
- III. Roll Called by Mr. Capo. (4) members were present. A quorum was established.**
- IV. Opening Comments – Chair Drouant/Commissioners**  
**Chair Drouant** thanked everyone for coming and called for a motion to adopt.  
**Commissioner Williams arrived at 2:34 PM.**
- V. Motion to Adopt Agenda**  
**A motion was offered by Commissioner Expose; seconded by Commissioner White.**
- VI. Public Comments (Limited to two minutes per person) - None**
- VII. Legal Counsel’s Update**
- VIII. Old Business - None**
- IX. New Business**
  - 1) Motion to recommend approval of an amendment of the flood insurance provision of the Lease with the Pontchartrain Conservancy (formerly named The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation) for the New Basin Canal Lighthouse Museum and Education Center.  
**A motion was offered by Commissioner Herbert; seconded by Commissioner Expose.**

**Steve Conroy**, General Counsel for Ponchartrain Conservancy appeared before the committee to request that the insurance provision in the lease be waived and deleted from the lease.

**Chair Drouant** informed the committee of his understanding of the request and suggested that this request be forwarded to the full board for discussion and decision.

**Gerry Metzger**, Counsel for LMA informed the chair that he could amend the motion on the floor to refer it to the full board without recommendation.

**Chair Drouant** offered a motion to refer this matter to to the full board without recommendation. Commissioner J. Herbert seconded the motion.

**Chair Drouant** called for discussion; hearing none called for a vote. All were in favor. he motion passed.

2) **Discussion on the LMA Complaint on Open Meeting Law Violation to the Attorney General's Office.**

**Chair Drouant** gave a preface of this discussion item and deferred to Commissioner Lapeyrolerie who requested this item be placed on the agenda.

**Commissioner Lapeyrolerie** addressed the committee with the following questions

- a. At whose request did Attorney Dye file the “Open Meetings Law Violation” complaint?
- b. Did the individual/individuals who requested the complaint to be filed have the authority to do so? Or, should said action come from the Legal Committee?
- c. Did Mr. Dye act without conflict of interest as his firm represents the Lakefront Management Authority?

**Chair Drouant** deferred to legal counsel for responses to Commissioner Lapeyrolerie's questions.

**Mr. Dye** prefaced his response by stating that a complaint has been filed with the Attorney General's Office to request an investigation take place. His caveat to this discussion was that he felt it was inappropriate for Lakefront Management to discuss this matter in a public forum.

He stated the complaint was filed on behalf of my client who is the Lakefront Management Authority; not an individual. Chair Anthony Richard has the authority under the bylaws and the obligation to faithfully execute the laws of the State of Louisiana. Based on the facts that were presented and the appropriate protocol under the open meetings law was to notify the Attorney General's office

which has jurisdiction over this type of complaint. Mr. Dye referenced Article 4, paragraph 2 of the LMA Bylaws, Duties of the Chair.

**Mr. Dye** addressed the conflict-of-interest question by his firm. Section 1.13 of the Rules of Professional Conduct for lawyers is very specific about what a lawyer's obligations are when an organization is its client.

**Commissioner Lapeyrolerie** discussed more specific information from the letter in greater detail and requested that members of the legal committee weigh in on the discussion.

**Chair Drouant** stated that he had no information other than what he read in the complaint letter. He suggested at this juncture, that we defer to the Attorney General's office for an opinion.

**Commissioner Lapeyrolerie** stated for the record that she did not think that there was a violation. She also felt that there were misrepresentations in the letter.

**Commissioner Carr** expressed that he felt over the past year that he and others have been intimidated and bullied by other members of the board and staff. He requested that the legal committee consider revising the bylaws to have legal actions go through the committee to protect the full representation of the community and the board.

**Chair Drouant** requested additional time to review Mr. Dye's citations in conjunction with the letter submitted to the AG's office.

**Commissioner J. Herbert** concurred with Chair Drouant and said would have more information by the next committee meeting; if the timeline holds true.

**Anne Duffy** commented that, as a Lake Oaks resident she likes Commissioner Carr's work on the board.

Commissioner Lapeyrolerie and Chair Drouant discussed Open Meeting Law and the process if they have no opinion.

**Chair Drouant** announced the next committee meeting and called for adjournment.

**X. Announcement of the next Legal Committee**

- 1) Thursday, October 20, 2022 – 2:30 P.M.

**XI. Adjourned at 3:10 P.M.**

**A motion to adjourn was offered by Chair Drouant; seconded by Commissioner J. Herbert.**