

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - February 14, 2020

VCPORA <info@vcpora.org>
Reply-To: info@vcpora.org
To: "info@vcpora.org OFFICE" <info@vcpora.org>

Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 3:13 PM



VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, February 14, 2020

In This Issue:

Willie's Chicken Shack Update
Beauregard-Keyes House Restoration
French Quarter Walking Parades
Coffee with Kristin



Willie's Chicken Shack Update

Regretfully, our efforts to [appeal](#) the Willie's Chicken Shack at [601 Chartres](#) as a Standard Restaurant were unsuccessful. Following three consecutive deferrals, the Board of Zoning Adjustments argued that the defining criteria for Fast Food Restaurants are insufficient in differentiating them from Standard Restaurants. They decided this murky language allowed for multiple interpretations, giving the Director of Safety and Permits wide latitude in his determinations, ultimately upholding his decision.

You can watch the discussion [here](#).

Representatives from French Quarter Citizens, Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association, and Preservation Resource Center spoke in favor of the appeal, as did numerous neighborhood residents. Over [100 letters](#) were submitted in support of this effort to protect the diversity and vibrancy of the neighborhood. **Thank you for that support!**

Our arguments included how the operations, design, and signage of the [601 Chartres](#) location closely mirror those of the eight other downtown Willie's Chicken Shacks. Furthermore, ordering at a counter and having a cashier drop off a disposable basket of food does not constitute "table service."

Just to remind you, here is the **definition of a Fast Food Restaurant** from the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO):

An establishment, which may be part of a chain of fast food outlets, that is oriented around the quick-service of meals for on-premise or off-premise consumption. Typically, a fast-food restaurant's design or principal method of operation includes three (3) or more of the following characteristics:

- 1) a permanent menu board is provided from which to select and order food;*
- 2) standardized floor plans, architecture and/or sign design are used over several locations;*
- 3) customers pay for food before consuming it;*

- 4) a self-service condiment bar is provided;
- 5) trash receptacles are provided for self-service bussing;
- 6) furnishing plan indicates hard-finished, stationary seating arrangements;
- 7) drive-through service is offered;
- 8) most main course food items are prepackaged rather than made to order.

Fast food restaurants may not offer alcoholic beverages for sale. Table service by restaurant employees is not provided.

The CZO is the result of thousands of hours of community input. Ignoring this language undermines its intent and use as a guiding framework for community priorities. Monday's BZA decision is particularly alarming because their readiness to point to, rather than challenge, imprecise language will open the door to other Fast Food and Bar operations in areas where neither are permitted. We stand firm that this business meets this definition, both as it is written and in its intent.

Though the outcome was unfortunate, we know that the effort was not made in vain. We will be pursuing new strategies to firm up the language in the CZO so that it can appropriately guide development in our communities. We hope you will continue to support us as we move forward in the fight for clear, enforceable regulations that uphold the French Quarter as an international historic treasure, valued by all, for its authenticity and integrity.



Beauregard-Keyes House Restoration

Wondering what's going on at [the Beauregard-Keyes House](#)? Large-scale restoration is underway! The stucco on the ground floor has already been removed to repoint the brickwork. Plaster on the second floor will be replaced. Ironwork railings will be repaired and repainted. Eventually, the house will be repainted, and not in the same sunflower yellow. Learn more about the restoration efforts in the [French Quarter Journal](#). In the meantime, the Beauregard-Keyes House is still open for tours and events. Find out more on their [website](#).



Photo of Barkus 2019 via Michael DeMocker, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

French Quarter Walking Parades

Carnival continues with two French Quarter walking parades this weekend. Expect street closures, parking restrictions, and lots of revelry.

Today at 3:00 p.m., [Krewe of Cork](#) will take to the streets in celebration of wine, food, and fun. Be on the lookout for their grape-related throws and costumes. The parade will along down Bourbon, St. Ann, Chartres, St. Peter, Royal, and Bienville.

This Sunday, February 17 at 2:00 p.m., join the only puppy parade, [Krewe of Barkus](#), as our furry friends strut to the 80s revivalism theme "Bark to the Future." The fun begins at Armstrong Park and pads through the French Quarter to return to Congo Square.



Coffee with Kristin

Monday, February 17
3070 Holiday Drive
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

District "C" Councilmember [Kristin Gisleson Palmer](#) will host her monthly "Coffee with Kristin" meet and greet at the PJ's Coffee in Algiers next Monday morning. All residents of District "C" are encouraged to come by and discuss issues in the community.

VCPORA | [816 N. Rampart St. | New Orleans, LA 70116](#)
[504-581-7200](#) | [www.vcpora.org](#)



Do not want to receive email updates? [Unsubscribe here](#)