

**Downtown Development District  
Joint Finance & Executive Committees Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 25, 2015**

The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:47 p.m.

**Finance Members Present:** Troy Carter & Karyn Kearney

**Members Absent:** Joseph Bruno & Judy Barrasso

**Other Commissioners Present:** None

**Staff/Counsel Present:** Kurt Weigle, Anthony Carter, Stacey Weaver & Rose Hagar

**Staff Absent:** None

**Public Present:** Michelle Conway & Tara Brown of City of New Orleans

**Notice:** The time, location, and agenda had been adequately and publicly noticed.

**Action items:**

- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of February 2015 Financial Statements

**Agenda Items:**

**Adoption of Agenda – Action Item** – Commissioner Kearney requested a motion to approve the agenda as drafted. Moved by Commissioner Carter; supported by Commissioner Kearney. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of February 2015 Financial Statements – Action Item** – Mr. Carter briefly highlighted the items of importance.

Line 70: Advalorem Taxes – Collections are 571.33% of the amount budgeted for February and 458.83% of the amount budgeted YTD, and 36.16% of the total amount budgeted for 2015.

Commissioner Kearney to approve the February 2015 Financial Statements and recommend it be forwarded to the Board for adoption. Moved by Commissioner Carter; supported by Commissioner Kearney. The motion carried unanimously.

**Status of Discussions with City of New Orleans Regarding Ad Valorem Taxes Used for Pension Funds** – Mr. Carter stated that there is no update. Legal Counsel reached out to the City Attorney, but has not heard back. Deputy Mayor Kopplin is now aware of the situation.

Mr. Weigle informed the Committee that revisions were made to the Disadvantage Businesses

Enterprises (DBE) compliance requirements. The Committee discussed various ways to attract more DBE participation.

Mr. Weigle also introduced the New Paths Program which would award points to the contractors who establishes a program that successfully hires and supports ex-offenders and the homeless. He added that a name change was welcomed. The Committee briefly discussed and Commissioner Carter proposed the name “Home Start”.

**Adjournment** – Commissioner Kearney requested a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 4:05 p.m. Moved by Commissioner Carter; supported by Commissioner Kearney. The motion carried unanimously.

**The Executive Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.**

**Executive Members Present:** Allison Tiller, Tod Chambers & Troy Carter

**Members Absent:** Joseph Bruno & Judy Barrasso

**Other Commissioners Present:** None

**Staff/Counsel Present:** Kurt Weigle, Anthony Carter, Stacey Weaver & Rose Hagar

**Staff Absent:** None

**Public Present:** Michelle Conway & Tara Brown of City of New Orleans

**Low Barrier Outdoor Shelter Status Report** – Mr. Weigle introduced Ms. Tara Brown of the Office of Community Development. He thanked Ms. Charlotte Parent for representing the City in this initiative. Ms. Brown thanked the Committee and stated that there are several locations in mind for a low barrier shelter site. Another meeting will be rescheduled soon. Mr. Weigle informed the Committee that he is awaiting the numbers for capital cost. The Committee discussed.

**Parks & Open Space Initiative Status & Discussion** – Mr. Weigle stated that progress is being made. There were questions forwarded to the DDD from Deputy Mayor Cedric Grant. The DDD is hoping to gain support from the Mayor.

**Project Reports:** Mr. Weigle briefly discussed the various project reports.

**Economic Development Projects**

Downtown NOLA Arts-Based Business Pitch – Mr. Weigle thanked Commissioners Barrasso & Chambers for their attendance. He added that the sessions and panel discussions were very good. Wild Life Reserve won the pitch. Commissioner Kearney asked that they be invited to speak at an upcoming Board meeting.

400 Block of Canal Street and 744 St. Charles Ave. have both withdrawn their proposals.

400 Block of Rampart Street – The Meraux Foundation will limit the project and lease on a smaller scale. The DDD will help in any capacity needed.

**Public Space & Public Safety Reports** – Commissioner Carter asked if there was an update with the skating parks. Mr. Weigle stated that during a monthly meeting with Councilmember

Cantrell she stated that she would revisit the conversation once the smoking ordinance was complete. Legislation has been drafted and will continue conversations soon.

Police Detail – Mr. Weigle stated that police detail and secondary employee turnover was a difficult situation for the DDD. The Committee discussed various alternative DDD patrol options. Mr. Weigle asked if it was ok that the DDD put out an RFP for armed security. Commissioner Carter stated that he thought it was a great idea.

Commissioner Chambers briefly discussed the French Quarters press conference announcing State Police Officers to patrol the area for the next five years. Commissioner Carter asked of the possibility that the DDD could fund State Troopers as the French Quarter did. The Committee briefly discussed.

**Public Policy Reports** – Mr. Weigle mentioned his trip to Washington, D.C. to present to the Vice President’s Economic Advisor on the value of Historic Tax Credits. The Committee briefly discussed.

**Updates** – No updates

**Public Comments** – No public comment

**Old Business** – No old business.

**New Business** – No new business

**Adjournment** – Commissioner Tiller requested a motion to adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting. Moved by Commissioner Carter; supported by Commissioner Chambers. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.