

**Downtown Development District  
Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday August 6, 2019 – 4:00PM**

Meeting was called to order at 4:11 pm

**Members Present:** Carla Major, Cleveland Spears, Judy Barrasso, Bill Hines, Chris Ross, Jade Brown-Russell, Michelle Craig

**Members Absent:** Jim Cook, Joseph Bruno, Jr., Leo Marsh, Allison Tiller

**Staff/Counsel Present:** Kurt Weigle, Devona Dolliole, Leigh Ferguson, Richard McCall, Barbara Waiters, Gretta Bowman, Sabrina Smith, Bill Aaron (Counsel)

**Other Staff Present:** n/a

**Members of the Public:** Kerr Abdalla, Denai Columbus, Joel Bowman, Bo Bowman

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

**Call for Public Input Cards:** Kerr Abdalla, Denai Columbus

**Action Items**

- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2019
- Approval of May 2019 Financials
- Approval of June 2019 Financials
- Approval of Resolution for Check Signing Authorization
- Approval of Resolution to Award Landscape Maintenance Service Contract
- Approval of Resolution for Funding of Legacy Park Development & Construction

**Adoption of Agenda – Action Item** – Commissioner Major requested a motion to adopt the Agenda. Moved by Commissioner Jade Brown-Russell, supported by Commissioner Hines. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2019 – Action Item** - Commissioner Major requested a motion to approve the June 4, 2019 meeting minutes as drafted. Moved by Commissioner Spears supported by Commissioner Barrasso. The motion carried unanimously.

Note: The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Louisiana statute (LA.R.S.42:6; 42:6.1).

**Treasurers Report** – Kurt Weigle summarized provided financials as reflected in report –

**May 31, 2019 Notes**

Line 66: Miscellaneous – Streetcar shelter pressure washing revenue for May not yet received.

Line 70: Advalorem Taxes – Collections are 5,309.19% of the amount budgeted for May, 97.24% of the amount budgeted YTD, and 93.58% of the total amount budgeted for 2019.

Line 93: Landscaping – May expense and spring plantings not yet posted.

Line 94: Sidewalk Tree Maintenance/Replacement – May expense not yet posted.

Line 111: Sidewalk Cleaning - Expenses for the month of May have not yet been invoiced.

Line 139: Private Security Services – Pinnacle Security invoices for May not yet received.

Line 150: Homelessness Outreach – Invoice for May services not yet received and monthly expenses approximately 15% below budget.

Line 176: Façade Incentive – Only one microgrant application submitted yet this year.

Line 195: Communications – Monthly print advertising discontinued.

Line 232: Accounting Services – Initial invoice for 2018 Audit higher than anticipated, due to more work having been completed.

Line 248: Legal Services – Expense for May not yet posted and litigation expenses being below amount budgeted due to delay in trial activity.

Line 261: Professional Services – Planned engagement of database designer not yet accomplished.

**Approval of May 2019 Financials – Action Item** - Commissioner Major requested a motion to approve the May 2019 Financials, Moved by Commissioner Hines; supported by Commissioner Spears. The motion carried unanimously

**June 30, 2019**

Line 66: Miscellaneous – Streetcar shelter pressure washing revenue for June not yet received.

Line 70: Advalorem Taxes – Collections are 19.07% of the amount budgeted for June, 96.67% of the amount budgeted YTD, and 93.72% of the total amount budgeted for 2019.

Line 93: Landscaping – June expense and spring plantings not yet posted.

Line 94: Sidewalk Tree Maintenance/Replacement – June expense not yet posted.

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Line 101: Holiday Lighting – Replacement decorations and lights not yet purchased.

Line 106: Sidewalk Improvements – No improvement grants awarded so far this year.

Line 111: Sidewalk Cleaning - Expenses for the month of June have not yet been invoiced.

Line 132: Personnel Costs Total – Difficulty maintaining staffing levels.

Line 138: Police Detail Services – Higher rate for Detail Officers on Saturdays and Sundays.

Line 139: Private Security Services – Pinnacle Security invoices for June not yet received.

Line 150: Homelessness Outreach – Invoice for June services not yet received.

Line 151: Low Barrier Shelter Operations – May and June invoices not yet received.

Line 176: Façade Incentive – Only one microgrant and one normal grant application submitted yet this year.

Line 195: Communications – Monthly print advertising discontinued. Early procurement of Holiday Events supplies.

Line 232: Accounting Services – Final invoice for 2018 Audit not yet received.

Line 248: Legal Services – Expense for June not yet posted and litigation expenses being below amount budgeted due to delay in trial activity.

Line 261: Professional Services – Planned engagement of database designer not yet accomplished.

**Approval of June 2019 Financials – Action Item** - Commissioner Major requested a motion to approve the June 2019 Financials, Moved by Commissioner Jade Brown-Russell; supported by Commissioner Spears. The motion carried unanimously

### **Chair's Report**

**Approval of Resolution 19-02 Check Signing Authority – Action Item** - Commissioner Major requested a motion to approve the Resolution 19-02 Check Signing Authority. Commissioner Ross questioned necessity. Chair stated necessity due to change of Commissioners. Resolution was read, vote was taken, Resolution Accepted unanimously.

**Approval of Resolution 19-04 Award of Contract for Landscaping Maintenance – Action Item** – Kurt Weigle presented RFP/RFQ for the award of Maintenance Contract to Garden Doctors highlighting the DBE status of Garden Doctors. Commissioner Major requested a motion to approve the Resolution 19-04 Award of contract for Landscaping Maintenance. Resolution was read, vote was taken, Resolution Accepted unanimously.

Note: The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Louisiana statute (LA.R.S.42:6; 42:6.1).

**Approval of Resolution 19-03 Authorizing Funding for Legacy Park -Action Item** – Kurt Weigle presented funding for the project as previously having been approved by the Board in the amount of \$125,00 but requiring additional support, identified additional community financial support of \$95,000, partnership with Groundwork New Orleans. Commissioner Major requested a motion to approve the Resolution 19-03 Award for Legacy Park Funding. Resolution was read, vote was taken, Resolution Accepted with abstention by Commissioner Jade Brown-Russell.

**Presentation by City of New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans** – Ghasson Korban, Executive Director of Sewerage & Water Board, introduced leadership staff, all in attendance. Fair Share Presentation with discussion. Kurt Weigle remarks regarding green drainage success and the opportunity for the DDD potential initiatives to compliment traditional drainage & pump methods. Ghasson Korban stated there is sufficient staff to address the short-term plans, per Commissioner Major’s inquiry. Keith LaGrange presented public works related details. Stated the DDD would receive yearly catch basin cleaning & clarified catch basin to mean everything below 36” to the main. Commissioner Barrasso requested definition of Short-Term, Mid-Term & Long-Term, defined by Ghasson Korban as 1-2 years, 2-3 years & ongoing respectively. Commissioner Barrasso asked for clarification regarding who is on oversight committee/Advisory Board will DDD be represented. Ramsey Green stated DDD would receive monthly reports with online access as to real time status. Commissioner Barrasso expressed concern regarding shifting of funds as historically occurred. Commissioner Hines stated the importance of educating that the tax is a renewal, not a new tax, the necessity of creating small success projects that show immediate alleviation of flooding. Commissioner Hines also conveyed several accounts of corporate businesses dissatisfaction with flooding & considering relocating options. Commissioner Russell stated the importance for the DDD to provide information & educate the stakeholders.

**President’s Report** – Directors provided the attached reports.

**Economic Development** - Leigh Ferguson

**Communications** – Devona Dolliole

**Operations** – Richard McCall

**Public Affairs** – Barbara Waiters

Old Business – No old business

New Business – No new business

Public Comments

Denai Columbus of 816 Baronne Street - detailed 3 recent flooding experiences & damage to property. Request for barricades to stop cars that caused wakes that increased flooding, more notification of Board Meeting agendas to stakeholders & a serious concern for the triple tax to be experienced as a stakeholder in DDD; i.e., increased property values, the possible DDD millage increase & an STR tax.

Kerr Abdalla of 814 Baronne Street - detailed several recent flooding experiences

**Executive Session** – N/A

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**Adjournment** - Commissioner Major requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Commissioner Hines; Supported by Commissioner Ross. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 5:35 pm.

**\*Background documents attached**

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