

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Tuesday April 6, 2021 – 4:00PM
Zoom Teleconference**

Roll taken, Quorum present – Meeting called to order at 4:12

Members Present: Leo Marsh, Cleveland Spears, Carla Major, Coleman Adler, Jim Cook, Gregory Curtis, Chris Ross, Jade Brown-Russell

Members Absent: Michelle Craig, Judy Barrasso, Damon Burns

Staff/Counsel Present: Richard McCall, Anthony Carter, Leigh Ferguson, Shantel McCormick, Devona Dolliole, Ryan Bordenave, Bill Aaron (Counsel)

Other Staff Present: N/A

Members of the Public: Sunae Villavaso, Josh Hartley Deputy Director DPW, Peter Bowen Deputy CAO, David Piscola, Aaron Jordan

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

Call for Public Input Cards: N/A

Action Items

- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from March 2, 2021 Board Meeting
- Approval of January 2021 Financial Reports
- Approval of February 2021 Financial Reports

Adoption of Agenda – Action Item – Commissioner Ross requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Moved by commissioner Curtis; supported by Commissioner Marsh. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from March 2, 2021 Board Meeting– Action Item – Commissioner Ross requested a motion to approve the March 2, 2021 meeting minutes. Moved by Commissioner Spears; supported by Commissioner Marsh. The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Peter Bowen, Deputy CAO, City of New Orleans Office of Business and External Services – After a brief introduction, Richard McCall handed things over to Peter Bowen. Bowen a former general manager of major short-term rental operator Sonder is now the city’s new Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Land Use. In his position he will manage and oversee major departments including the Department of Code Enforcement and the Department

of Safety and Permits. This will be an attempt to blend the city's land use regulation departments with its economic development initiatives. This newly created office will present major change in how the city enforces land use regulations and will move several city departments to the leased offices in Orleans Tower on Poydras. This will include Department of Safety and Permits, The City Planning Commission and the Historic District Landmark Commission. Overall, OBES is an opportunity to centralize and streamline public-facing departments to ensure the city is providing first-rate customer service.

Update on Stormwater Infrastructure Project – After a brief introduction, Richard McCall handed over the presentation to Josh Hartley, Deputy Director DPW. Josh Hartley informed the Board that DPW has been reviewing locations and blocks on where to start the work in Phase 1. Considering all factors to determine where to start, DPW came up with 6 blocks. The 100 block of Royal street, the 100 block of Roosevelt Way, the 100 block of Baronne and then the 800-1000 blocks of Common. The DPW plans to have minimum impacts on traffic as this process starts. They plan to implement the program by preparing bid specifications and some design details with an outside AE consultant. It should be ready for bid in the next 30 days or so which aligns with the bond funding that will be releasing in June which is needed to start the program. Once it is out for bid and the bond funding is available all will be in align for DPW to issue the work for this summer for the first 6 blocks.

Treasurer's Report –

Approval of January 2021 Financials – Action Item – Anthony Carter presented the January financials to the Board. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Ross called for motion to approve the January financials. Moved by Commissioner Curtis; supported by Commissioner Cook; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of February 2021 Financials – Action Item – Anthony Carter presented the February financials to the Board. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Ross called for motion to approve the February financials. Moved by Commissioner Marsh; supported by Commissioner Curtis; motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Report –

Duncan Plaza Update – Leigh Ferguson, Director of Economic Development presented to the Board a presentation on the upcoming plans regarding Duncan Plaza. A timeline of events was given starting with the development of DPP and fundraising for above ground improvements. The goal is to have the DPP and the park fully operational by 2024.

President's Report – PowerPoint Presentation done by Director of Economic Development Leigh Ferguson, followed by Director of Communications Devona Dolliole and ending with Interim President Richard McCall presenting the Operations department.

Old Business – Update on Executive Search Committee- Commissioner Major informed the Board that there will be an Executive Search Committee meeting within the next week to decide

if they will move with the 2 vendors that have responded or have a new RFP issued to attract proposals from additional vendors.

Executive Session – N/A

New Business- N/A

Public Comments – Aaron Jordan a former Public Safety Ranger addressed the Board with concerns and complaints about the DDD not mentioning the Ranger Program and Clean Team more frequently on the Board agenda.

Adjournment – Commissioner Ross requested a motion to adjourn; moved by Commissioner Major; supported by Commissioner Cook. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm.