

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday July 28, 2021 – 4:00 PM
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

Roll taken, Quorum present - Meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm

Members Present: Leo Marsh, Gregory Curtis, Chris Ross, Michelle Craig

Members Absent: Cleveland Spears

Other Board Members Present: Carla Major

Staff/Counsel Present: Richard McCall, Anthony Carter, Sabrina Smith, Devona Dolliole, Leigh Ferguson, William Aaron

Members of the Public: Jennifer Schecter of Trahan Architects

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

Call for Public Input Cards: N/A

Action Items

- Approval of April 28, 2021 Joint Finance & Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approval of May 26, 2021 Joint Finance & Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approval of Contract for Installation and Removal of Holiday Decoration

Public Comments – N/A

Approval of Joint Committee Meeting Minutes from April 28, 2021 – Action Item* - Commissioner Marsh requested a motion to approve the April 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Moved by Commissioner Ross; Supported by Commissioner Curtis; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Joint Committee Meeting Minutes from May 26, 2021 – Action Item* - Commissioner Marsh requested a motion to approve the May 26, 2021 meeting minutes. Moved by Commissioner Ross; supported by Commissioner Curtis; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Contract for Installation & Removal of Holiday Decorations -

Two proposals were submitted by Ramelli Janitorial and Garden Doctors for this RFP. The proposals were scored by Richard McCall, Anthony Carter, and John Roussell. Chair Marsh requested a motion approve the contract recommendation from staff. Moved by Commissioner Curtis, supported by Commissioner Ross. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Updates

Richard McCall

Infrastructure Plan – Memo from City regarding their recommendation for the plan and implementation of phase one of the stormwater effort was presented. Indicating the 19 blocks that are proposed to be done under our existing agreement. Management supports the plan and the proposed approach to plan implementation. We asked Waggonner and Ball to provide their opinion on the effectiveness on the plan. The schedule and timeline show it may take longer than previously anticipated to get the construction under way. Their approach in hiring a design firm, and having them do the actual design work, bidding the work and then starting construction in early 2022 we believe is the proper way to go.

Commissioner Marsh inquired as to whether or not each time the street is dug up to the dirt that they are committed to replacing it with something permeable? There was a statement made that whatever sidewalk material is removed should be replaced with the original material. Richard was asked to check into whether this is the intent and get back to the Committee.

Public Safety – Productive meeting was held with various stakeholders. Staff met with some of the business owners and hotel operators in the Warehouse District on July 13. They have come together to improve their communication and coordination. They have committed that if they see something that does not look right or if they begin to see antisocial behavior that they will assure that it gets reported to the proper authorities, which includes the DDD. There is a general interest in supporting additional surveillance cameras in the Warehouse District that are tied to the real time crime center.

Cameras are being installed on Exchange Alley in conjunction with the New Orleans Police Justice Foundation (NOPJF) They will be located between Iberville and Canal Street just behind the Popeye's property.

The Committee was informed that Melanie Talia of the New Orleans Police & Justice Foundation and Josh Cox of the City of New Orleans would be presenting at the upcoming board meeting.

Finance

Anthony Carter

It was reported DDD budget reforecast is set to go to the Board at the September 7 Board meeting. As of the end of June we are about \$380,000 ahead of what we had budgeted in tax

revenues for the entire year. Management recommends that these funds be utilized in the following areas:

1. Public Safety – Police Detail & Private Security
2. Economic Development – Lighting on the 100 Blocks
3. Communications –Marketing plan and some of the holiday events

The final 2022 Work Plan and Budget is scheduled to be presented at the October 5 Board meeting.

Bond Issuance – Process is moving forward and the Board of Liquidation (BOL) has given preliminary approval. It has been submitted to the State Bond Commission and is set to go before the City Council on August 5.

Stormwater Infrastructure – Currently, we have funds that we want to place in the escrow account to fund the first year of the stormwater infrastructure project at an amount of \$2.5 million. The action would show we are prepared to meet our funding obligation and will allow us to answer any questions about building up excess reserves that are not currently being used.

Old Business – Executive Search Committee – A meeting was requested to finalize the brochure for the executive search firm and present it to the full Board on August 3. The meeting has been set for Friday, July 30, 2021 at 2:00 pm to approve the brochure. Anthony is to give the Executive Search Committee a list of those stakeholders that have been contacted by Winner Partners and those yet to be called.

Also, the Committee was informed Winner Partners would be speaking with staff, minus the Directors, on this Friday morning.

New Business – Commissioner Curtis requested that the NOPD 8th District Commander have a standing invite to our monthly board meetings.

Commissioner Major asked if the DDD staff had returned back to the office. Anthony stated that we were back in the office and that a new mask mandate was in place requiring that masks to be worn in the office. Keeping a close eye on the advice being given by the CDC and other public health authorities and making decisions accordingly.

Executive Session – No executive session

Adjournment – Chair Marsh requested a motion to adjourn; moved by Commissioner Craig, supported by Commissioner Ross. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.