

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Tuesday, February 1, 2022 – 4:00PM
Zoom Teleconference**

Roll taken, Quorum present – Meeting called to order at 4:04 p.m.

Members Present: President Davon Barbour, Gregory Curtis, Cleveland Spears, Carla Major, Coleman Adler, Gregory Curtis, Chris Ross, Judy Barrasso, William Bradshaw, Kristi Taglauer, Leanne Moses

Members Absent: Paul Flower, Damon Burns

Staff/Counsel Present: Anthony Carter, Devona Dolliole, Stuart Taylor, Scott Whittaker, Brittany Carnes, Matthew Schoenberg

Other Staff Present: N/A

Members of the Public: Jim Cook

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 December 7, 2021, Board Meeting
- Approval of December 2021 Financial Reports
- Approval of Check Signing Authorization Resolution
- Approval of Letter of Support for Revitalizing Downtown Act
- Approval of Amendment to Stormwater Infrastructure CEA
- Approval of Planned Uses of Funds from Wisner Grant

Adoption of Agenda – Action Item – Commissioner Curtis requested a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from December 7, 2021, Board Meeting– Action Item – Commissioner Curtis requested a motion to approve the December 7, 2021, meeting minutes. Moved by Commissioner Major, second by Commissioner Ross. Motion carried.

Public Comments – Aaron Jordan, a former Public Safety Ranger addressed the Board via letter with concerns and complaints about Anthony Carter, Director of Finance and Administration. After extensive research, Mr. Carter did not misrepresent himself on his employment application. He disclosed his CPA status as ‘inactive’. President Barbour spoke with the Executive Director of the State of LA Department of Public Accountants, that an individual being inactive does not mean he is exempt from financial work. Mr. Carter does not perform complex financial transactions, nor does he audit the DDD financials. DDD financials are audited by an independent firm and reviewed by the state. President Barbour found that this complaint does not have any personnel action.

Introduction and welcome of Captain Hans Ganthier Commander of Eight District – Discussion regarding enhancing safety FQTR and Business District. Questions asked by Commissioner Adler, Commissioner Barasso re the crime in 100 block of Royal, Common and Carondelet, motorcycles, car racing on Canal, Julia, Tchoupitoulas. Captain Ganthier has plans to address the crime in those blocks. He was not aware of the nuisance motorcycle and car racing, which had not been brought to his attention. President Davon Barbour reiterated the DDD looks forward to collaborating with Captain Ganthier, his team and local businesses to enhance safety.

Treasurer’s Report –

Approval of November 2021 Financials Reports by Finance Committee– Action Item – Anthony Carter presented the November financials to the Board. No tax revenues received. Commissioner Curtis called for motion by Commissioner Ross, to approve the November financials. Second by Commissioner Barraso; Motion carried.

Approval of December 2021 Financials – Action Item – Anthony Carter presented the December financials to the Board. Anthony Carter mentioned no monies received from the city. DDD has not received revenues from the City. Collections were not off in what was projected for the year, but they were off in terms of not getting revenues in those two months. City has not sent out the tax bills. Expenses are still in line with what was projected for the year. No overruns. It was noted that this information is unaudited. As soon as the financial statements are audited the board will receive the information. Commissioner Barrasso had questions on the budget and whether we will have to dip into the reserves, Anthony Carter said the reserves will not be used, projecting to add one thousand to the reserve. Commissioner Curtis called for motion to approve the December financials. Motion by Commissioner Ross, Second by Commissioner Bradshaw. Motion carried.

Approval of Check signing authorization – Action Item – Anthony Carter read the check signing resolution. Roll called. Check signing resolved/approved

Status of 2020 Audit – In either June or July 2021, Anthony Carter reached out to Mr. Jules Nunn, Director of the Treasury for the City of New Orleans. Mr. Carter received numbers that were inconsistent with DDD calculations and therefore insufficient to complete the audit. Not hearing from Mr. Nunn, Mr. Carter tried contacting Mr. Nunn. He found out Mr. Nunn is no

longer employed with the City. There is a new Director. He asked for the corrected information; however, he received the same incorrect information, with no added details. DDD auditors reached out to the Director of the Treasury informing them that the same inaccurate report was sent. DDD submitted a sample of previous reports.

Audit is due 3/31/22 – it is nine (9) months late. DDD cannot begin the 2021 audit until 2020 audit is completed. Chairman Curtis offered to reach out to CAO Montaño to resolve. President Davon Barbour would discuss this matter during his meeting with CAO Montaño.

Chair's Report –

Downtown Revitalization Legislation – Action Item - President Davon Barbour presented PPT on Revitalizing Downtowns Act. Motion from the Executive Committee. Motion passed

Approval of Amendment to Stormwater Infrastructure CEA – Action Item – Several questions were asked by Commissioner Barasso about the amendment. DDD is in the process of hiring a company to advocate and represent DDD. Questions were asked whether the RFQ list of qualified persons/businesses were up to date. Anthony Carter assured the board that the list is updated every five (5) years. Chairman Curtis made a request for a motion with the language change in paragraph 7 as suggested by Commissioner Barasso to read as - “..Accept as otherwise provided by this amendment the terms and conditions of the original agreement and its exhibits remain in full force and effect...” Second by Commissioner Ross. Motion passed

Approval of Planned Uses of Funds from Wisher Grant – Action Item – President Davon Barbour presented PPT. Funds to be disbursed between the following:

- Graffiti Removal
- Homeless Outreach
- Façade Improvement
- Public Lighting
- Legacy Park Recreation
- Bio-Medical District Beautification e.g., Signage

Action approved

Marketing Committee – Commissioner Bradshaw, Chairman Curtis, Secretary Spears.

Finance Committee – Vice -Chair Major, Treasurer Ross, Commissioner Moses.

Mardi Gras Clean-up – John Roussell discussed detailed plans to assist the City for clean-up after parades. Concerns were expressed by Vice-Chair Major re overtime costs also whether local staff/temps will be used. Anthony Carter addressed costs which might be a bit higher, also mentioned vendor Block by Block brings in other local services, e.g. Holly Services and Temp to Day, both local hiring firms, to assist the clean-up. Contract will be reviewed.

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President's Report –President Davon Barbour discussed open positions, quarterly reports, technology enhancements, stakeholders' engagement, business outreach, City and DDD cooperation. This was followed by Director of Communications Devona Dolliole discussing the communications report, DDD website and social media. Chairman Curtis mentioned making enhancements to clean and safe.

Public Safety – Have Commander on the next Agenda.

Survey on meeting times: Possible change from 4:00 p.m. to either 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. suggested. President & CEO Davon Barbour will re-submit survey

Old Business – DBE , RFQ, Programs, By-laws

Executive Session – Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss litigation matters. Roll Call was taken by Stuart Taylor, motion passed to move into Executive Session. No decision was made in Executive Session

New Business- N/A

Adjournment – Chairman Gregory Curtis requested a motion to adjourn, which was moved by Commissioner Major; supported by Commissioner Ross. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.