

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 4:04 PM
Zoom Teleconference**

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

Members Present: Gregory Curtis, Carla Major, Chris Ross, William Bradshaw, Kristi Taglauer, Leanne Moses, Paul Flower, Damon Burns

Members Absent: Judy Barrasso, Cleveland Spears, Coleman Adler

Staff/Counsel Present: President Davon Barbour, Anthony Carter, Hunter Hebert, Stuart Taylor, Joshua Vairin, John Roussell, Scott Whittaker (Counsel, Stone Pigman), Brittany Carnes (Stone Pigman) Captain Hans Ganthier, Eight District

Other Staff Present: N/A

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

Call for Public Input Cards: Letter submitted on 3/7/22 from Aaron J. Jordan

Action Items

- Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2022, Board Meeting
- Approval of January 2022 Financial Reports
- Approval of Resolution to Authorize and Ratify Extensions to Agreement for Sidewalk Cleaning and Public Space Maintenance Services

Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2022, Board Meeting– Action Item – Commissioner Curtis requested a motion to approve the February 1, 2022, meeting minutes. Moved by Commissioner Taglauer, second by Commissioner Bradshaw. Motion carried.

Public Comments – Aaron Jordan, a member of the public addressed the Board via letter with concerns and complaints about Anthony Carter, Director of Finance and Administration. Chair Curtis addressed his concerns and acknowledged that there is an ongoing investigation. The DDD does take these allegations seriously. It was reiterated that Mr. Carter is not required to possess a CPA designation to perform his role at the DDD. The chair also noted that the audit is unavailable at this time, and therefore unable to comment on its validity. DDD has certified CPAs who conduct the audit.

Davon Barbour:

In preparation for remarks by Captain Hans Ganthier, Commander of the Eighth District, Davon share images of vehicles struck by theft.

Captain Hans Ganthier Commander of Eighth District – Mardi Gras was a success despite staff shortage. He stressed public safety is a priority and agreed installing more cameras, and lighting would be a deterrent. Lieutenant Palumbo is presently looking into areas to install additional cameras. There has been some success in clearing at least 32 auto burglaries and apprehending at least one of the leaders. He mentioned that some of these repeat offenders are linked to other crimes. President Davon Barbour reiterated the DDD looks forward to collaborating with Captain Ganthier, his team, and local businesses to enhance safety. It was agreed that lighting, cameras, and citizen engagement help with solving these crimes. Regarding the concern about car racing and speeding, it was expressed that the NOPD can only work within the policies, a chase would present a danger to the public. He explained that the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) provides information in real time which assists with criminal activity and/or quality of life concerns. He will invite the traffic commander and the RTCC to the next meeting to address many of the issues brought up at this meeting. President Barbour mentioned that the DDD has a lighting grant program available. A member of the public suggested that installing speed bumps and stop signs could act as a deterrent. Chair Curtis says he will pass on the public comments to the appropriate city departments.

Treasurer's Report –

Approval of January 2022 Financials Reports– Action Item – Anthony Carter presented the January financials to the Board. Because of a delay by the city to send out tax bill, DDD has not received tax revenues. It is anticipated that this issue will be resolved by the following week. It was also noted that operations are not impacted. Reminder financial reports are based upon a cash basis so the expenses, revenue only shown when paid or received. Commissioner Curtis called for motion. Moved by Commissioner Ross, second by Commissioner Bradshaw. Motion carried.

Status of 2020 Audit – DDD awaits information from the city concerning the ad valorem taxes, receipts, and receivables for 2020. Some information from the city has been forwarded to the auditors. The auditors are awaiting some clarification on this information from the city. As soon as this information is received, the DDD will forward to the auditors for review. There may be a need to have a special finance meeting to receive/review the audit report before filing with the State of Louisiana. The deadline is 3/31/22

Chair's Report –

Chair addressed the closure of the sidewalk on Julia and the building unsightly conditions. Discussions with the city are ongoing for resolution.

Approval of Resolution to Authorize and Ratify Extensions to Agreement for Sidewalk Cleaning and Public Space Maintenance Services – Action Item –

Presented PowerPoint on Sidewalk Cleaning & Public Space Maintenance Services:

- Sweeping/Vacuuming
- Hot water high pressure washing/scrubbing
- Streetcar shelter cleaning services
- Special Services
- Special Events

There was concern about how DDD contracts are executed. Commissioner Major also questioned the cost of the extension. President Barbour responded \$1.6. million, which exceeded the authority of staff and president. Commissioner Taglauer asked about the expiration of the contract – it expires July 31, 2022. Chair Curtis will discuss further with President Barbour and the Finance committee how best to proceed with future contracts, amendments. Chair Curtis asked that the proposal and the original contract be sent to the board members for further discussion with the Finance committee. A motion was moved by Commissioner Moses, seconded by Commissioner Bradshaw. Resolution read. Roll Called. Resolution adopted

President’s Report –

- Welcomed/introduced Hunter Hebert, Director of Operations
- Continuing to build the management team
- Discussed the implementation of various software platforms
- Touched on economic development e.g. the update on recent visitor activity during Mardi Gras which is up 92% compared to 2020
- Draft CEA with the City for Code Enforcement will be discussed at the next meeting. This CEA is for the rangers to issue citations to delinquent owners
- Renewed, laser focus on clean and safe, we must restore civility in the public realm

Communications:

- **Joshua Vairin – Communications Power Point**
 - Discussed the ongoing marketing plan with Octagon Media
 - DDD website launched on February 2, 2022
 - ICSC publication interview by Joe Gose featuring President & CEO Davon Barbour.
 - President & CEO, DDD will be featured in an upcoming article in *Preservation in Print*
 - DDD staff and Davon presented to the City Council Quality of Life Committee. The link was shared via various media channels
 - Market survey will be conducted by MDRG mid-March. Results will be received June
 - DDD will promote the NCAA Final Four activities
 - Social Media numbers continue to grow

Operations:

- **Hunter Hebert – Operations Power Point**
 - Mardi Gras cleanup ongoing
 - Tree maintenance e.g. removing beads, trimming
 - Landscape maintenance e.g. temporary fencing installed for protection of shrubs on Canal St. and St. Charles Ave.
 - Frequent pressure washing 100 block of Carondelet
 - Rangers doing service request blitz to document damages, repairs needed

Old Business – N/A

Executive Session – None

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.