

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Tuesday, June 7, 2022 – 4:04 PM – 6:35 p.m.
In Person**

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

Members Present: Gregory Curtis, Chris Ross, William Bradshaw, Kristi Taglauer, Leann Moses, Paul Flower, Judy Barrasso,

Members Absent: Carla Major, Cleveland Spears, Coleman Adler, Damon Burns

Staff/Counsel Present: President Davon Barbour, Anthony Carter, Darren Harris, Hunter Hebert, T Trent Dang, Stuart Taylor, Francia Barradas, Scott Whittaker (Counsel, Stone Pigman), Brittany Carnes (Stone Pigman) John Myles, Stone Pigman, Amelie Zimmer, Stone Pigman, Liz Roussel, Adams & Reese, LLP,

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 June 7, 2022, from Aaron J. Jordan was read into the record. Board Chair indicated that information contained in the letter was inaccurate.

Approval of Agenda: Chair Curtis called for a vote to amend the agenda to allow DPW to present first. Motion by Commissioner Ross, second by Commissioner Bradshaw to amend the agenda passed unanimously. Motion to approve the amended agenda by Commissioner Ross, second by Commissioner Bradshaw approved unanimously.

Presentation by Megan Williams, P.E. Stormwater Program Manager, City of N.O. DPW

There is a CEA agreement between the DDD and DPW to install infrastructure to minimize flooding in the downtown area. The \$5,000,000 funding from the DDD is in escrow. DPW plans to contract an engineering firm in the coming week with a request for proposal for the project. A timeline was included in the presentation, showing construction to begin January 2023. Copies of the presentation will be sent to the board members. In answer to Commissioner Barasso, Ms. Williams assured her that the plan is to work on 3-4 blocks, complete the work before moving on to other blocks. Commissioner Taglauer expressed concern about flooding during hurricane season. Mr. Josh Hartley will have more information on the city's hurricane plan. President Barbour will reach out to Mr. Hartley. Commissioner Flowers asked how comfortable DPW is with the budget – Ms. Williams says it is too early to tell.

Action Items

- Approval of Minutes from May 3, 2022, Board Meeting

- Approval of 60-Day Extension of Sidewalk Cleaning and Maintenance Services Contract – **Action Item**

Approval of Minutes from May 3, 2022, Board Meeting– Action Item – Motion requested by Chair Curtis, motioned by Commissioner Flowers and seconded by Commissioner Taglauer. The motion was approved

Public Comments – Concerns were shared by several members of the public. Crime, homelessness, flooding. Appreciation expressed for Captain Ganthier and the Eight District. Captain Ganthier, spoke about aggressive enforcement and arrests by his team. Chair Curtis and President Barbour spoke about the DDD effort to combat homelessness via new future funding and the DDD Rangers daily interaction with the homeless

Approval of 60-Day Extension of Sidewalk Cleaning and Maintenance Services Contract – Action Item: This motion was fully vetted by the Finance Committee and Executive Committee. The Finance Committee will put together the procurement that will go out for the 2023 contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Ross on behalf of the Finance Committee. The motion was approved.

Update by Captain Hans Ganthier, NOPD 8th District Commander:

Gave assessment on crime in the DDD. The city has seen successful events - from Mardi Gras to JazzFest. There is constant monitoring by NOPD of the 100 Block of Carondelet, Bourbon Street and the 800 block of Canal Street. Arrests have been made in several instances, including the doughnut incident at Julia and Tchoupitoulas. No arrests made and homicide is handling, in response to Commissioner Barasso question about the shooting on Baronne. Lt. Palumbo mentioned the weekend shifts have been filled. However, the shifts during the week are a problem possibly due to the pay rate. DDD Finance Committee will address.

Treasurer’s Report – Approval of April 2022 Financials Reports– Action Item – Anthony Carter

- In terms of DDD revenues, the ad valorem tax collection for April was a little over 179% of the amount budgeted for April which puts us at 141% of the amount budgeted to date and at 90% of the amount budgeted for the entire year. In terms of our internal sources, DDD’s bank interest revenue has been low. DDD awaits payment for transit shelter cleaning from the beginning of the year. Our expenses are as projected. Some funding is allocated to improving DDD technology. Additionally, 2-years of the stormwater project is fully funded with \$5M in escrow.
- Chair Curtis asked about monies for Public Safety –Mr. Carter informed the chair that the DDD reports expenses as they are actually paid, not as they are incurred. Therefore, at the time of the financials for April, DDD had \$293K as budgeted year to date in public safety that has not been spent. This includes one month of private security and one-half month of NOPD detail, some spending on the Low Barrier Shelter and on Homelessness

outreach. DDD projects spending shortfall at \$140K as opposed to \$293K not spent. The difference is attributed to the challenge in filling both NOPD and Ranger shifts. Chairman Curtis asked how many detail shifts (addressed in Executive Committee Meeting) are not filled per week. Hunter Hebert said the lack of filled shifts varies week by week. He estimates 10 or so shifts weekly. Finance will review the pay rate for weekday NOPD shifts. The sheriff's department has been unable to fill their shifts because of insurance liability. The DDD is researching working with FQMD and its private security firm who manages the sheriff detail. A request for proposals from private security firms will be advertised. Motion by Ross to approve April 2022 financial reports, second by Commissioner Taglauer. Motion approved.

Status of 2021 Audit –

- Auditors are expecting verifiable numbers from the city concerning ad valorem tax receipts and receivables from last year. The DDD was advised by the auditor to seek an extension from the legislative auditor as a precaution in case there is a delay receiving information from the city

Chair's Report – Gregory Curtis

- Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Bradshaw are added to the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee meeting to be scheduled.
- Discussion of Wisner fund CEA –
 - Commissioner Barasso disclosed her firm is representing city council regarding the Wisner Fund
 - DDD has provided all required supporting documents to the city for review.
 - President Davon stressed the funds will be used for improving public safety, façade & sidewalk improvements, installing safety measures, homelessness etc.

President's Report – Davon Barbour

- Positive feedback from city council quality of life committee after DDD presentation on May 23, 2022
- Touched on the upcoming New Orleans delegation trip to Orlando the purpose of which is to observe best practices to bolster development in Downtown New Orleans. Expected to join the DDD on this trip is Mayor Cantrell and some of her team members, representatives from NOLABA, BioInnovation Center and the BCNO. Board members would like to see the Itinerary for this trip.
- President Barbour gave an update on the trip to ICSC Las Vegas, where DDD/NOLABA team connected with several prospective investors. DDD is presently working on hosting an ICSC small business event in the fall.
- He also responded to Commissioner Barasso question on worker occupancy in office buildings. The new program implemented by the DDD is a location based analytic software, Staff regularly run reports looking at visitation within the district. The program can segment residents, visitors as well as workers. President Barbour will send these reports to the Board

- He distributed the April 2022 DDD Homeless Outreach Report

1. Economic Development – Darren Harris

- Recruiting for the department – 6 interviews set up
- Discussed city council approval of CEA for Stormwater Management
- Met with Tulane University’s real estate department to discuss plan initiatives
- Monthly meetings are scheduled
- Talked about integrating DDD’s work program to align with the city’s goals
- Touched on IDEA village demo day
- ICSC Las Vegas – several business connections made
- Met with RTA leadership about their projects

2. Communications – T. Trent Dang

- DDD has been receiving favorable publicity
- DDD is in dispute with Octagon Media over the status of their engagement. An outside firm has been hired to analyze Octagon’s plan
- Looking at venues to host DDD annual luncheon
- Positive response to the DDD’s improvements by Councilmembers Harris, Giarusso and Thomas
- President Barbour’s photoshoot and interviews with BIZ Nola, Fox 8 News
- Code Enforcement campaign

3. Operations – Hunter Hebert

- Clean team staff has expanded to use members from the City of New Orleans strike team with a positive outcome
- Tree Maintenance Services – ongoing
- Landscape Maintenance – ongoing
- Graffiti removal – ongoing

Old Business – N/A

New Business- N/A

Executive Session – Roll taken. Moved by Commissioner Bradshaw. Legal Matters discussed. No vote was taken

Adjournment – Chairman Gregory Curtis requested a motion to adjourn, moved by Commissioner Ross. Seconded by Commissioner Taglauer. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.