

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
Tuesday, May 3, 2022 – 4:00 PM  
Ronald E. Gardner Board Room  
(In-person)**

Roll taken, Quorum present – Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Gregory Curtis, Chris Ross, Cleveland Spears, William Bradshaw, Kristi Taglauer, Leann Moses,

**Members Absent:** Carla Major, Judy Barrasso, Paul Flower, Damon Burns, Coleman Adler

**Staff/Counsel Present:** President Davon Barbour, Anthony Carter, Hunter Hebert, Stuart Taylor, Scott Whittaker (Counsel, Stone Pigman), Brittany Carnes (Stone Pigman), Darren Harris

**Other Staff Present:** N/A

**Notice:** The time, location, and agenda were adequately and publicly noticed.

**Call for Public Input Cards:** N/A

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2022 – Action Item**

Chair Curtis requested a motion to approve the March 8, 2022, minutes. Motion by Commissioner Bradshaw, second by Commissioner Moses. Motion Carried.

**Action Items**

Motion for Approval of February 2022 Financial Reports by Finance Committee – **Action Item\***

Motion for Approval of March 2022 Financial Reports by Finance Committee – **Action Item\***

Approval of 2021 DBE Compliance Report – **Action Item\***

Approval of 2020 Audit Report – **Action Item\***

Approval of the 2021 Audit Compliance Questionnaire – **Action Item\***

**Public Comments** – N/A

**Presentation by John Koch, Block-by-Block Regional Vice-President:**

Updated the DDD on New Path and Second Chance programs. Mr. Koch shared statistics on permanent staffing, including formerly incarcerated (average tenure for formerly incarcerated is 2.9 yrs.) and homeless employees (average tenure for homeless is 4.9 yrs.). Also discussed his partnership with Ozanam Inn (they moved out of the district-presently BBB is working to re-establish the partnership which closed due to Covid) and CEO works (this program did not work because it was cost prohibitive and they are not classified as a DBE in New Orleans).

In response to Commissioner Moses question about the high turnover he assured her that his company is looking for ways to hire, train, and retain associates. Mr. Koch addressed the questions from Chair Curtis and Commissioner Spears regarding partnership with local temp agencies and using local DBE vendors. Block by Block has a list of DBE vendors which is updated frequently. President Barbour also shared with the board, his conversation with Block-by-Block about a collaboration with the Office of Supply & Diversity

**Treasurer's Report:**

As of March 31, 2022, in terms of our internal revenues very little has come in. We are having some minor administrative issues with RTA in terms of getting them to pay on their billing because they have had changes in accounts payable section, however, we have been assured that they will be making payments within the next week or so on their four months of streetcar shelter cleaning. The city sources, happy to report that in March collections are back up to near where we expected them to be for that month, so we are about 93% of the amount budgeted for March which put us at about 83% of the amount budgeted for the amount budgeted for the year to date and about 21% of the amount budgeted for the amount the entire year. Just as a back up to that, in April we received enough ad valorem taxes that were easily at the projected amounts that we had going into the budget. City seems to have caught up on collections and on forwarding the receipts to the DDD. Expenses are in line with the budget. In response to a question about the Public Safety expense by Commissioner Spears, Anthony Carter explained that the Sheriff's department is now filling shifts that the NOPD is unable to because of staff shortage

**Approval of February 2022 Financials Reports– Action Item –**

Request by Chair Curtis to approve, seconded by Commissioner Spears, motion passed

**Motion for Approval of March 2022 Financial Reports by Finance Committee – Action Item\***

Request by Chair Curtis to approve, seconded by Commissioner Spears, motion passed

**DBE Compliance Report – Action Item\***

Request by Chair Curtis to approve, second by Commissioner Bradshaw, motion passed

**Approval of 2020 Audit – Action Item**

Luther Speight and Company CPA and Consultants completed the audit. The auditor presented to the Finance Committee. The audit was submitted to the state. If the board wishes, the auditor will be invited to report at the next board meeting. Motion by Commissioner Ross, Second by Commissioner Taglauer, motion passed

**Approval of the 2021 Audit Compliance Questionnaire – Action Item\***

In response to Commissioner Moses question regarding the compliance questionnaire and the ethics portion of the questionnaire. Due to the amendments, President Barbour explained as a requirement of the 2021 audit, all staff at the DDD are required to review the updated compliance document regarding ethics then sign and return the certificate to the DDD

**Chair’s Report –**

**Wisner Grant CEA:** CEA to be executed between the City and DDU before being presented to the Board

The nominating Committee for Officers will include Commissioner Burns and Commissioner Bradshaw

**President’s Report –**

President introduced the key new hires – Director of Economics – Darren Harris and T. Trent Dang, Director of Communications (jury duty). President Barbour will circulate to the board, positions the DDD expect to fill e.g. Director of Public Affairs, Economic Specialist.

President Barbour extended his appreciation to New Orleans and Company - Walt Leger, and Kevin Ferguson for partnering with the DDD to clean up downtown

**Old Business – N/A**

**Executive Session – N/A**

**New Business-** Commissioner Spears congratulated and praised Anthony Carter for displaying fortitude and professionalism during the State Board of CPA investigation. For the record, the LA State Board of CPA, after its investigation did not find evidence of a violation of the accountancy act or a violation of the rules of professional conduct, therefore, it was determined that there was no cause for action and consequently the Louisiana State Board of CPA closed the file

Councilwoman Harris requested volunteers for May 21<sup>st</sup> for District ‘B’ clean-up day

**Adjournment –** Chairman Gregory Curtis requested a motion to adjourn, moved by Commissioner Bradshaw; supported by Commissioner Taglauer, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.