

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Tuesday, August 2, 2022 – 4:00 PM – 6:26 p.m.
In Person**

Roll taken, Quorum present – Meeting called to order at 4:04 p.m. ended at 6:26 p.m.

Members Present: Gregory Curtis, Carla Major, Chris Ross, William Bradshaw, Kristi Taglauer, Leann Moses, Paul Flower, Judy Barrasso, Coleman Adler, Damon Burns

Members Absent: Cleveland Spears,

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

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 Monday, August 1, 2022, from Aaron J. Jordan was read into the record. Board Chair indicated the information contained in the letter is inaccurate, this lawsuit is being handled by the DDD insurance carrier, there is no line item in the finances for this lawsuit, also, it is news to the chair that Mr. Carter is named in the initial lawsuit

Public Comments: Scott Polakoff, United4NOLA.

- Safety is the number one concern of the taxpayer - what is the DDD doing?
- Low Barrier Shelter and homelessness – 146 beds vacant problem with staffing. Mr. Polakoff expressed concern about the funding from the DDD expiring
- Increase lighting in the Calliope area
- Department of Health can only clean the Calliope area once a month – problem with staffing
- Calliope area is state ground, and the state is willing to lease it out – Is the DDD interested in doing this?
- Kudos to Davon Barbour. He is a breath of fresh air and a great representative of the DDD. Stakeholders appreciate Mr. Barbour attending meetings and reaching out to the community
- Mr. Polakoff pointed out there was lot of discussion in this meeting about parades and monies spent on holiday events, when there are more pressing and immediate concerns e.g. homelessness and crime

Action Items

- Approval of Minutes from June 7, 2022, Board Meeting
- Approval of Code Enforcement Inspections and Title Search CEA
- Approval of May 2022 Financial Reports
- Approval of June 2022 Financial Reports

Approval of Minutes from June 7, 2022, Board Meeting

Commissioner Moses motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Flower

Approval of Code Enforcement Inspections and Title Search CEA-Action Item:

Thomas Mulligan, Director of Code Enforcement attended to answer questions as needed.

Several commissioners expressed the following concerns:

- Oversight of the city personnel (inspector/title researcher)
- Unused funds (Note: the CEA addresses the question of the funds – unused funds will be returned to the DDD)
- Clarification on when the city personnel have completed DDD work what other areas will they be working
- Why is the DDD indemnifying the city workers when the employees work for the city?
- Training for the rangers
- Timeline for implementation of the CEA

The commissioners would like the CEA to be amended to include performance metrics in the quarterly and monthly reports. Commissioner Bradshaw requested motion to approve with pending revisions. Commissioner Flower motion to approve, second by Commissioner Major. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report –Anthony Carter

Approval of Financials from May 31, 2022, Board Meeting- Action Item:

Commissioner Ross motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Major. Motion carried

Approval of June 2022 Financial Reports– Action Item

- Commissioner Barrasso was concerned that beds are not being used at the Lower Barrier shelter due to staffing issues. President Barbour will contact the Lower Barrier Shelter and initiate a meeting to discuss how the DDD may best assist them
- Commissioner Ross questioned big variance on Line 175. President Davon Barbour explained the monies were used for staff travel/lodging to the ICSC business event. By attending this event the DDD / ICSC will hold a local small business event in November. Mr. Carter will address the allocation of funds in the re-forecast

Commissioner Ross motioned to approve June 2022 financials. Seconded by Commissioner Bradshaw. Motion carried

Status of 2021 Audit –

- No progress getting information from the city. DDD has an extension to September 30, 2022

Chair's Report – Gregory Curtis

Chair Curtis asked that the Nomination Committee be added to the agenda. Commissioner Bradshaw made a motion to keep the current officers:

Chair Gregory Curtis

Vice Chair – Carla Major
Treasurer – Chris Ross
Secretary Cleveland Ross

Moved by Commissioner Bradshaw and seconded by Commissioner Taglauer.

Chair Curtis noted the By-laws allows the chair to nominate to the Executive Committee Chair Curtis did not put forward a nominee at this time

President’s Report – Davon Barbour

- 1. Economic Development – Darren Harris** – documents were sent to the board
- 2. Communications – Joshua Vairin** - documents were sent to the board
- 3. Operations – Hunter Hebert**
 - a. After review of the two companies who submitted RFPs, the staff recommended Vets for America
 - b. This company is not local, they do not have a presence downtown, however, there is a downtown office. They service several areas in the state e.g. East and West Baton Rouge, Lafourche Parish, Caddo Parish.
 - c. They received positive references; have a strong financial position and are trying to obtain a certified DBE partnership.
 - d. Their officers will work 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.
 - e. In response to questions from the commissioners Anthony Carter will provide costs. He reassured the commissioners this company will provide the same service in the district as Pinnacle does in the CBD.
 - f. Commissioners would like to amend the contract to reflect the use of local staffing e.g. local vets
 - g. The board would like to see a higher DBE participation than 15%.

Commissioner Flower motioned to accept the RFP with the amendments requested. Second by Commissioner Major. Motion carried

Old Business – N/A

New Business- Kern Studios presentation by Fitz Kern. Sponsorship Funding request of 150K for the Christmas Parade. Commissioner Ross asked why did they not submit an RFP when the requests for RFP was sent in June? Chairman Curtis wondered if it was possible for both NOCCI and Kern Studios to work together.

Clarification needed:

- Parade route
- Costs to DDD, will there be other financial contributions
- Is there a contribution from Children’s hospital
- Costs Kern Studios will cover

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- Because of time constraints would they be ready for a parade
- Will the local community e.g. dance troupes, floats, bands be included

Commissioner Bradshaw motioned to table the decision. Commissioner Adler is concerned the city is not equipped to provide a clean safe environment. Commissioner Burns would like Kern Studios to use and submit the DDD standard RFP. Scanned blank RFP, the two submitted proposals, recommendation form, will be sent to the board for review. Commissioner Flower motioned to defer the decision to a special meeting for the staff to review. Second by Commissioner Major. Motion carried

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

Adjournment – Commissioner Major requested a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Bradshaw. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.