

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

RONALD E. GARDNER BOARD ROOM

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 3:00 PM
In Person**

Roll taken, Quorum present – Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Damon Burns

Staff/Counsel Present: CEO Davon Barbour, Anthony Carter, Darren Harris, Hunter Hebert, T. Trent Dang, Stuart Taylor, Alexis Kyman, Tyler Correa, Ashley Mills, Francia Barradas, Scott Whittaker, Counsel Brittany Carnes (Stone Pigman)

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

Call for Public Input Cards: N/A

Public Comments: Scott Polakoff spoke about a successful, well-attended Art District Community Walk. He thanked Captain LeJon Roberts and Lt. Palumbo for their presence. He also spoke about FQMD campaign – Hide, Lock, Take - reminding property owners about guns and car break-ins. DDD could benefit from something similar

Captain LeJohn Roberts and Lt. Samuel Palumbo represented the 8th district and provided an update on their on-going fight against violent crime, property damage e.g. car break-ins, car jackings. They do have strategic plans in place and are prepared for the upcoming events this week at Smoothie King. In response to a question posed by Commissioner Flower about staffing, Captain Roberts said more staffing would be beneficial/impactful on the 8th district's ability to fight crime

Action Items:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 7, 2023, Board Meeting – **Action Item***
2. Approval of January 2023 Financial Reports – **Action Item***
3. Approval of Harmony Circle CEA – **Action Item***

Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 7, 2023 Board Meeting

Motion to approve by Commissioner Bradshaw, seconded by Commissioner Barrasso. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report –

Approval of January 2023 Financial Reports – Action Item

- No major variances to the budget
- City collections are at 64.4% of the amount budgeted for January and 64.4% for the amount budgeted YTD, 0.26 % of the total amount budgeted for 2023
- RTA fees are also outstanding
- Expenses are close to budgeted

Motion to approve by Treasurer Ross-Finance Committee, seconded by Commissioner Spears. Motion carried

Chair's Report:

Approval of Harmony Circle CEA with– Action Item

CEO Barbour summarized:

- The DDD's role in the administration of the CEA:
 - Overseeing design/physical planning
 - Participate in fundraising, community engagement
 - Scheduling events at Harmony circle
 - Provide sanitation/security for events
- The City of New Orleans role in the administration of the CEA:
 - Allow the DD to operate Harmony Circle
 - Provide baseline municipal services
 - Ensure participation/responsiveness from applicable city departments
 - Permit the DDD to install movable site furnishings/semi-permanent structures to be used in programing
- CEO Barbour emphasized that the term will be for one year
- DDD will not be obligated for re-development unless sufficient funding has been received
- Both parties may mutually terminate the agreement at any time during the term providing thirty days' notice to the other
- Letters of support have been received from the following: Mayor Cantrell, CM Lesli Harris, and State Representative Royce Duplessis.
- In response to questions from the Board of Commissioners CEO Barbour re-iterated the project is in the beginning stages.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Bradshaw, seconded by Commissioner Spears. Motion carried

President's Report – President & CEO Davon Barbour

- DDD is fully staffed with the addition of Alexis Kyman, Director of Governmental Affairs and Tyler Correa, Economic Development Specialist
- 3/15/23 DDD will convene Canal Street Merchants Association
- Will convene a stakeholder meeting the first week of April, requesting their input in preparation for Sidewalk Cleaning & Public Space Maintenance RFP. Chair Curtis would like Block by Block to report and attend a board meeting as stated in their agreement
- DDD has the Wisner Funds – the funds will be used in part for creative place making e.g. lighting, murals
- Presented an analysis of 2023 Mardi Gras Foot Traffic prepared by Tyler Correa

Economic Development:

- 2022 Q4 Market Report was presented
- Stormwater Management Plan -An agreement has been signed between the City of New Orleans and Wingate Engineers to undertake the design work. Wingate has been conducting survey work and we will meet with Meyer Engineers to discuss their contract with DDD, and their project management services for the project

Communications:

- Newell Normand interviewed CEO Barbour
- DDD continues to advertise grant/facade programs as well as the SafeWalk program
- DDD is a sponsor for New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, Crescent City Classic and Wednesday at the Square
- DDD will alert stakeholders and property owners via mailer about code enforcement, reminding them about their responsibilities, and available grant programs. They will also be told about the dedicated code enforcement personnel. A press conference will be held. Date to be determined

Operations:

- 2/3/23 Rangers attended Crisis Intervention Team training with CIT Coordinator Sgt. Aaron Harrelson
- Strike Team Agreement with the City last day will be 4/3/23. The program was successful and has so far resulted in 4 full-time clean team hires.
- Chair Curtis suggested to CEO Barbour to follow-up with CAO Montano re ARPA funds to continue with the strike team working with the DDD
- DDD with Code enforcement have at least 70 cases reported

Governmental Affairs:

- Focus is on cultivating relationships with the state and city hall
- In the process of arranging regular meetings with city hall
- Meeting with Representatives and Senators organized by IDA Government Relations Staff during the upcoming IDA 2023 IDA Capitol Hill Washington, DC trip

Old Business – N/A

New Business – N/A

Executive Session – Roll Call, Quorum – Entered Executive Session. Exit Executive Session -Roll Call, Quorum. No action took place during the executive session.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Barrasso, seconded by Commissioner Moses. Motion carried.