

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
RONALD E. GARDNER BOARD ROOM
Tuesday, August 1, 2023– 3:00 PM
In Person

Roll taken, Quorum present – Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Gregory Curtis, Leann Moses, Kristi Taglauer, Damon Burns, Chris Ross, Carla Major, Coleman Adler, Eric Jones, Edwin Murray (called in via phone)

Members Absent: Judy Barrasso, William Bradshaw,

Staff/Counsel Present: CEO Davon Barbour, Bianca Brown, Hunter Hebert, Alexis Kyman, Stuart Taylor, Ashley Mills, Scott Whittaker, Counsel, Brittany Carnes (Stone Pigman)

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

Captain LeJon Roberts gave an update:

- NOPD will continue to implement the strategy to curtail property crime especially at special events
- Two repeat offenders, one of them a juvenile, were arrested. These individuals are accused of many burglaries in the French Quarter and Central Business District. They are also accused of stealing guns and assault with a gun
- There was a meeting held with CEO Barbour and Donald Clouse to discuss the collaboration between DDD and NOPD including detail deployment and recruitment
- Lt. Travis Ward will oversee the police detail in the district
- David Piscola, GM Hilton Riverside asked what more can be done to curtail the car break-ins at the surfaces lots in his area. He was assured that the NOPD will continue to maintain their vigilance

Call for Public Input Cards: N/A

Public Comments:

- Mr. and Mrs. Terence Rice of Fulcrum Enterprises, a vendor that submitted a proposal for Sidewalk Cleaning and Public Space Maintenance, voiced their frustration and disapproval of the scoring process.
- Via Zoom: Mr. Patin reiterated his frustration with the inability of smaller DBE companies to compete with the larger companies who are able to bid on large contracts.

Action Items:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2023, Board Meeting – **Action Item***

I. Treasurer's Report

- a. Approval of May 2023 Financial Reports – **Action Item***
- b. Approval of June 2023 Financial Reports – **Action Item***
- c. Approval of Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Downtown Development District Check Signing Authority – **Action Item***
- d. Approval of Stormwater Funds Escrow Agent – **Action Item***
- e. Approval of Sidewalk Cleaning & Public Space Maintenance Services Vendor – **Action Item***

II. Chair's Report

- a. Approval of CEA for BioDistrict Strategic Planning – **Action Item***
- b. Approval of 2023 Holiday Parade Sponsorship Agreement – **Action Item***

Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2023, Board Meeting – Action Item*

Motion to approve by Treasurer Chris Ross, seconded by Secretary Kristi Taglauer. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report:**Approval of May 2023 Financial Reports – Action Item***

- Interest on Bond Proceeds for May 2023 received
- Ad Valorem tax collections are 98.63% of the amount budgeted for June and 107.35% of the amount budgeted YTD and 97.43% of the total amount budgeted for 2023.
- Expenses are running close to expected

Motion to approve by Finance Committee, seconded by Secretary Kristi Taglauer. Motion carried

Approval of June 2023 Financial Reports- Action Item*

- Received both the Bank Interest revenue and the interest on Bond Proceeds for June
- Ad Valorem tax collections are 86.08% of the amount budgeted for June and 106.83% of the amount budgeted YTD and 101.18 % of the total amount budgeted for 2023

Motion to approve by Finance Committee, seconded by Secretary Kristi Taglauer. Motion carried

Approval of Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Downtown Development District Check Signing Authority – Action Item*

DDD President & CEO Davon Barbour read the resolution, which was adopted by the Board of Commissioners

Approval of Stormwater Funds Escrow Agent – Action Item*

CEO Barbour explained that JPMorgan Chase declined to provide escrow services to the DDD because of a possible conflict with handling both the City of New Orleans account and the Downtown Development District account and after review of the agreement. CEO Barbour indicated that the remaining bidders, Hancock Whitney and Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP) provided updated proposals with

administrative fees and 1-day and 7-day yields. Upon staff recommendation, Finance committee recommends that LAMP serve as escrow agent.

Motion by Finance Committee to accept and to move forward with LAMP, seconded by Secretary Taglauer. Motion carried.

Approval of Sidewalk Cleaning and Public Space Maintenance Contract – Action Item*

Block by Block gave a presentation outlining

Extensive discussion took place regarding awarding the contract to Block by Block because of local economic impact including DBE participating and New Paths Hiring. Chair Curtis was very concerned that New Paths Hiring program had not been successful. Furthermore, he emphasized his expectation that the selected vendor fully complies with the contract obligations and support DDD's effort to provide employment and wrap around services for vulnerable citizens. Following presentation by Block by Block and its thorough written responses to additional New Paths hiring practices, Chair Curtis indicated that Block by Block's strategy satisfied his concerns. Due to a technicality related to the scoring of DBE participation, it became necessary to cancel the RFP.

Commissioners after much discussion suggested the following options:

- Extend contract with block by block for three months
- Rewrite/Reissue RFP to include long range sustainability goals
- Add a board member to the review process – It was suggested that both Treasurer Ross and Commissioner Burns be on this committee

Motion by Finance Committee Treasurer Chris Ross to authorize the President & CEO to extend the current contract for three (3) months and to cancel the existing RFP and issue a new one. Seconded by Commissioner Jones

Chair's Report:

Approval of CEA for BioDistrict Strategic Planning – Action Item*

Motion to table made by Secretary Taglauer, seconded by Vic-Chair Major. Motion carried.

Approval of 2023 Holiday Parade Sponsorship Agreement – Action Item*

The agreement is similar to the 2022 agreement with the addition of stronger language which includes some of the following:

- Recognition of DDD as second billing sponsor behind Childrens Hospital
- One float will be themed 'Downtown for the Holidays'
- Kern to refrain from providing sponsorship opportunities to entities that discriminate
- Kern to provide bi-weekly oral and written updates
- Kern to apply for all special event and parade permits
- Kern to provide bi-weekly oral and written updates to DDD staff
- Kern must submit a written report regarding DBE participation

Motion to approve by Secretary Taglauer, seconded by Vice-Chair Major. Motion carried.

President's Report:

President and CEO Barbour gave an overview of the following:

Economic Inclusion (full reports were sent to board of commissioners):

- DDD was the presenting sponsor with Urban Land Institute Reals Estate Diversity Initiative
- DDD sponsored the Legacy Park Comedy Showcase
- DDD sponsored and event with NOLAVATE - Black Tech Meetup

Creative Placemaking:

- Held stakeholders' meetings for feedback
- Local collaboration with SCAPE

Downtown Public spaces:**Crown Park:**

- Park design completed by DBE firm, Dana Brown & Associates
- DDD to issue RFP for construction in August 2023

Harmony Circle:

- HB2 passed and signed giving the DDD \$4.5M to restore the circle
- DDD was also granted \$250K for beautification and enforcement

Communications: Reports were sent out to board members

Operations: Reports were sent out to board members

Governmental Affairs: Reports were sent out to board members

Old Business – N/A

New Business: Approval of Resolution to Designate A Representative To Act On Behalf Of The Downtown Development District For State Of Louisiana Capital Outlay Funding For Harmony Circle

DDD received its CEA from the State for Capital Outlay Funding (\$4.5M) for the revitalization of Harmony Circle. A prerequisite of the State funds is that Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution designating an individual to represent the project and act on behalf of the DDD.

DDD President & CEO Davon Barbour read the resolution to authorize President & CEO Barbour as DDD representative. The Board of Commissioners adopted the resolution.

Executive Session: Motion to enter into Executive Session by Commissioner Moses, seconded by Secretary Taglauer. Motion carried. Roll call to enter into session. Quorum. Motion to come out of Executive Session Commissioner Moses, seconded by Secretary Taglauer. Motion carried. Roll call to exit session. Quorum.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Vice-Chair Major, second by Commissioner Moses. Motion carried.