

Downtown Development District Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Ronald E. Gardner Board Room  
Tuesday, May 7, 2024– 3:00 PM  
**In Person**

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

**Members Present:** Chair Gregory Curtis, Vice-Chair Carla Major, Treasurer Chris Ross, Secretary Kristi Taglauer, Commissioner Alex Glaser, Commissioner Leann Moses, Commissioner Damon Burns, Commissioner Coleman Adler, Commissioner William Bradshaw

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Edwin Murray

**Staff/Counsel Present:** President & CEO Davon Barbour, Bianka Brown, CFO, Christopher Kane, Legal Counsel Adams & Reese, and Erika Sensenbrenner, Adams & Reese

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

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

**Public Comments:** N/A

**Note:** Chair would like to add to the agenda:

- Report from the Nominating Committee on selecting/maintaining the same slate of officers in their roles on the Nominating Committee
- Request that the chair be granted authorization to discuss/revise the goals of the President & CEO with the President & CEO

**Action Items:**

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2024, Board Meeting – **Action Item\***

Approval of March 2024 Financial Reports – **Action Item\***

Chair’s Report – Resolution for the Award of Contract for the Redesign of the Harmony Circle Project, Rene Pastorek, DDD Chief Economic Officer- **Action Item\***

**Guest:** Christina De Giulio, Director HR&A Advisors elaborated via a presentation the BioDistrict Strategic Plan- See below for some of the subjects she touched upon:

- Support for the redevelopment of Charity Hospital
- Prioritization of Tulane Avenue
- Public space improvement and activation under Claiborne Ave/I-10
- Economic Development Opportunities
- Placemaking and activation opportunities
- Develop a research strategy for the district with partners.
- Promote safety and security.
- Funding, branding, communications, timeline for the project

A link to the detailed presentation was sent to the board members via email on April 26, 2024.

Captain LeJon Roberts attended with Officer Doucette.

- NOPD continues to prioritize violent crime, carjacking, and car break-ins.
- Quality of Life Officer Doucette continues to focus on homelessness.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2024, Board Meeting – Action Item\***

Motion to approve by Treasurer Ross, second Commissioner Moses. Motion carried.

**Approval of March 2024 Financial Reports – Action Item\***

- **Revenue:**
  - YTD totaled \$4,009,338, and the YTD budget totaled \$2,505,450, reflecting a positive variance of \$1,503,888. The revenue variance is mainly attributed to the ongoing collection of Ad Valorem Taxes by the City of New Orleans
- **Expenses:**
  - Overall Operating Expenses YTD totaled \$1,778,025. YTD's budget totaled \$2,867,620, which reflects a positive variance of \$1,089,595.

Motion to approve by Finance Committee, second Secretary Taglauer. Motion carried.

**Chair's Report:**

Resolution for the Award of Contract for the Redesign of the Harmony Circle -**Action Item\***

- After a brief introduction by the President & CEO Davon Barbour, Rene Pastorek, Chief of Economic Development presented a PowerPoint outlining the process taken to arrive at staff's recommendation. A Request for Qualifications for the project was advertised consistent with DDD Procurement Policies and Procedures. Four (4) proposals were submitted. Upon review and scoring of the four (4) proposals submitted, the scoring committee made a recommendation to the President & CEO that the Board move forward with the award of this contract for RFQ No. 2024-20-02 for the Harmony Circle Redesign project to Manning, APC.

The Resolution was read, a vote was taken; the Resolution was adopted.

**Nominating Committee**–The Chair would like the board to approve the existing slate of officers until pending legislation is enacted. The Board Commissioners held a discussion regarding the board leadership nominations process. The Chair indicated he is willing to accept nominees to the Nominating Committee. There were further concerns about the following:

- By-laws
- Term dates for the Board of Commissioners – are they current?
- Residency Requirements

**Authorization to revise and discuss goals with the President & CEO** – The Chair requested the Board's authorization to meet with the President & CEO to discuss and revise his goals. The chair would also like to delay the board retreat until Q4 pending the upcoming legislation.

**President's Report:**

President & CEO commented on the following:

- The President & CEO participates in weekly meeting with the SuperBowl/SuperGras meetings. He will send updates to the DDD Board of Commissioners.
- Infrastructure- The City of New Orleans has begun the process of sending out invitations for quotes to be submitted for repair to lights, paving, sidewalks.
- DDD presented at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council in Austin, TX. A grant application was submitted to restore the NOLA Strike Team.

- ULI in partnership with DDD will hold an Affordable Housing Summit on Friday, June 28, 2024.
- President & CEO Davon Barbour with the Director of Public Policy, Jared Brossett were in Washington DC to advocate for programs to end homelessness, improve public safety and expand affordable housing for the City of New Orleans. They met with Senators Bill Cassidy, John Kennedy, Majority Leader Steve Scalise and Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr.
- President & CEO gave a run down on Office Occupancy Statistics; Xavier/ Ochsner Partnership creating a College of Medicine; Q1 2024 Market Report; President & CEO invited the Board of Commissioners to join the DDD staff at Legacy Park to celebrate Public Service recognition week.

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:** N/A

**Executive Session:** N/A

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Treasurer Ross, seconded by Commissioner Moses. Motion carried.