

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A
REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021.

Those present: Lisa Thomas, Ross Fontenot, Miles Matt, Michael Delcambre, and Gregory Walls

Those absent: Jim Keaty and Gus Rezende

DDA Staff present: Anita Begnaud, Rachel Holland, Hunter Hebert, and Amy Trahan

DLU Staff present: Jamie Hebert and Cali Comeaux

Others present: Carlee Alm-Labar, Keven Blanchard, Sam Oliver, Ryan Duplechain, Tim Skinner, Matthew Thibodeaux, Brett Mellington and Andre Breaux

The meeting was called to order by Walls.

Public comment process is attached to the end of the agenda for individuals wishing to address the Board on agenda items. Request to speak must be submitted prior to discussion of the item. Individuals are allowed three minutes for comments.

Administrative Approvals/Reports

October Financials - October Financials were presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Delcambre seconded, all voted in favor. Lisa Thomas voted by roll call on Zoom.

November Financials - November Financials were presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Delcambre seconded, all voted in favor. Lisa Thomas voted by roll call on Zoom.

December Regular Meeting Minutes - December Regular Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Matt seconded, all voted in favor. Lisa Thomas voted by roll call on Zoom.

December Special Meeting Minutes - December Special Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Delcambre seconded, all voted in favor. Lisa Thomas voted by roll call on Zoom.

Agenda – Fontenot motioned to attach the January Meeting Agenda to the January minutes, Matt seconded, all voted in favor. Lisa Thomas voted by roll call on Zoom.

CEO Report

Begnaud noted Planning and Zoning has approved the revised plans for the Old Federal Courthouse Project. Begnaud further noted that the developer is awaiting approval from the Mayor-President before finalizing a contract with a contractor. Begnaud also noted that renovations to the Buchanan Street Parking Garage will go out for bid in February. Begnaud noted that the Buchanan site redevelopment has received 2 RFP submissions. Begnaud noted that the Vermilion Street Parking Garage bids to replace the elevator are due today. Begnaud noted that DDA staff and Downtown stakeholders met to discuss the proposed Nightlife Ordinance.

Begnaud noted that the consensus among those attending was to not pass ordinances at this time, as business owners are focusing on staying in business due to Covid restrictions in place. Begnaud noted that stakeholders would like to encourage enforcement of current laws. Begnaud also noted bids are being packaged to go out in the next couple of months on Wayfinding implementation.

Updates

Director of Planning - Holland presented the 2021 Blade Sign Program policy, 2021 Storefront Awning Program policy, 2021 Façade Rehabilitation Reimbursement Program policy, and the new 2021 Retail Tenant Improvement Program policy. Matt suggested some language clarifications on the policies. Discussions continued.

2021 Program policies – Matt motioned to approve the 2021 Program policies as amended, Fontenot seconded, all voted in favor. Lisa Thomas voted by roll call on Zoom.

Operations – Hebert noted that he is working with Public Works to better maintain Parc Putnam. Hebert also noted that new bistro tables will be placed in Parc de Lafayette this week. Hebert further noted that he will be working on graffiti removal in the district due to increase in graffiti.

LPD update – Duplechain noted that there were no updates at this time.

Council update – Not present

Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.