

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021.

Those present: Jim Keaty, Gus Rezende, Lisa Thomas, Ross Fontenot, Miles Matt, Michael Delcambre, and Gregory Walls

Those absent: None

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

DLU Staff present: Jamie Hebert and Cali Comeaux

Others present: Philip Gould, Missy Theriot, Landon Leblanc, Jessica Hauerwas, Captain Joseph Lange, Justin Cormier, Rev. Max Zehner, Lydia Romero, Michael Lunsford, Andre Breaux, Jason Matt, Trey Ware, William Labar, David D'Aquin, Carlee Alm-Labar, Kevin Blanchard, 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.

Downtown Parking Rates & Hours, Parking Benefit District

Begnaud noted that this special meeting was called to generate feedback from Downtown stakeholders. Begnaud noted that DLU members were attending the meeting representing residents, business owners, and property owners. Begnaud noted that feedback from this meeting would be taken to the Lafayette City Council meeting taken place immediately following this meeting. Matt asked Begnaud if anyone from the Administration or Parking Department at LCG reached out to the DDA prior to the changes being made. Begnaud noted that LCG notified the DDA one day prior to public notice of the impending changes to parking policy and requested a comment for the press release. Begnaud noted that the decision was already made when DDA was notified. Rezende noted that business owners were caught off guard with this decision. Matt noted a desire to work with the Parking Department and the Administration to garner feedback from stakeholders. Walls noted that currently parking meter revenue go to the General Fund. Walls noted the need for parking revenue in the district to directly to maintaining parking infrastructure in the district. Rezende noted the need for competitive market rate parking pricing as well as reinvestment of those funds into infrastructure in the district. Matt suggested asking the Council and the Administration for a 30-day suspension of changes to get more feedback from stakeholders. All board members on the call agreed with Matt to bring a suggestion of a 30-day suspension of changes to the council-meeting. Thomas noted her desire that LCG communicate with DDA and stakeholders on changes affecting the district prior to decisions being made. Discussions continued.

Public Comments

Heather Guidroz noted that guest experience in retail and hospitality establishments were impacted by the rollout of these parking changes. Guidroz further noted that employees of downtown businesses are already burdened with COVID guidelines.

Philip Gould inquired whether these changes were due to on going problems in the district. Begnaud noted that she was not aware of the reasoning behind the changes.

Michel Lunsford noted that he spoke directly to Mayor-President Guillory. Lunsford noted that Guillory suggested that parking enforcement results in a decrease in crime. Rezende noted that monthly police updates indicate that crime has been down.

Landon Leblanc noted that the decision seemed to overlook residents. Leblanc noted that downtown residents should be included in discussion for future downtown related ordinances.

Missy Theriot noted that she is a downtown resident, downtown worker, and DLU board member. Theriot noted parking rates in Lafayette are low when compared to Baton Rouge and New Orleans, so she doesn't have a problem with the rate increase or new hours. Theriot further noted that parking fees should be reinvested in parking infrastructure in the district.

#### Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.