

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A
REGULAR MEETING ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020.

Those present: Miles Matt, Mike Delcambre, Lisa Thomas, Ross Fontenot, Gus Rezende and Greg Walls

Those absent: Jim Keaty

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

DLU Staff present: Maureen Dugas Foster and Matthew Holland

Others present: Brad Robin, Emily Shute, Corey Jack, Brad Mellington, AB Rubin, and Pat Trahan

The meeting was called to order by Matt.

Public comment cards were available on table in the back of room for anyone who wished to speak regarding items on the agenda.

Administrative Approvals/Reports

January Minutes – The January Minutes were presented for approval. Walls motioned to approve as presented, Rezende seconded, all voted in favor.

November & December 2019 Financials - The November & December Financials was presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Rezende seconded, all voted in favor.

Strategic Plan – The Strategic Plan was presented for approval. Delcambre motioned to approve as presented, Fontenot seconded, all voted in favor.

CEO Update

Begnaud noted that she has met with EJ Krampe, Stephen Ortego, and Johnny Blancher to discuss development opportunities in the Jefferson, Johnston, and Vermilion street node of Downtown. Begnaud noted that discussions included infrastructure needs such as the need for structured parking, mid-block connections, and long-term lease opportunities.

Begnaud noted there was a pre-bid conference held for the Evangeline Hotel RFP on February 5. Begnaud noted that the RFP responses are due on April 30. Developer selection and negotiations are projected to take place in August 2020. Discussions continued.

Begnaud noted that a meeting is being scheduled with Public Works Interim Director, Chad Neveaux and LCG CFO Lori Toups to discuss the Public Works employee contract. Begnaud also noted that she met with Hollis Conway the Director of Community Development and City Council Member Glenn Lazard to discuss several issues including Parc Leasing fees being dedicated to maintenance of the Parcs. Begnaud noted that both Hollis and Lazard would like to see the Parc Maintenance Study prior to deciding on the dedication for funds to the Parcs.

Begnaud noted that a meeting is being scheduled with DDA, LPTFA, LCG, LUS, and AT&T to discuss lighting and sidewalk improvements on Cypress Street.

Begnaud noted that in 2019 14 businesses opened Downtown. DLU hosted over 60 events with over 100,000 people attending those events and added over 100 new members. Begnaud also noted that new housing developments started or were in the works to add 190 units downtown. Begnaud also noted that Downtown was featured in over 150 new stories.

Begnaud noted that 2020 was off to a great start with many new businesses opening or moving to Downtown such as LCVC, Wild Child Wines, Fly Guys, Golfballs.com, and many more. Begnaud noted that there are several business development projects in the works as well as interest in new parklets.

CUP - Begnaud noted there is an application for a Conditional Use Permit for 417 Jefferson Street for The Grouse Room. Begnaud noted that the application will be on the Zoning Commission agenda the following week. Begnaud also noted that this permit application will be introduced at the first March City Council meeting and voted on at the second City Council meeting. Begnaud noted that she has met with The Grouse Room's business owners and CFO to help them compile their business plan. Begnaud noted that she facilitated meetings with LPD, LCG Alcohol and Noise, City Council Member Glenn Lazard, Mark Mouton with LEDA, Phillip with the Small Business Development Center and The Grouse Room owner and CFO. Begnaud noted the CUP Committee is recommending the approval of the Conditional Use Permit for The Grouse Room to the DDA Board. Begnaud noted that the Zoning Commission looks to three organizations for recommendations for approval of the Conditional Use Permits to include DDA, LCG Alcohol and Noise Department, and Lafayette Police Department. Matt asked Walls for perspective on the business and its application. Discussions continued.

Conditional Use Permit – Grouse Room Conditional Use Permit was presented for approval. Walls motioned to approve as presented, Fontenot seconded, all voted in favor.

Reports/Updates

Business Development – Mellington invited all to attend the LEDA networking luncheon on February 12 at noon at the Petroleum Club. Mellington noted that the Opportunity Machine will be hosting their Small Business Bootcamp.

Councilman Update – Rubin noted the need for increased lighting downtown. Rubin also noted that current I-49 proposals do not include any off ramps into the downtown area. Rubin noted that current crime rates for underage juveniles is high. Rubin noted that he is spearheading a program to get teenagers under the age of 18 summer jobs within the community. Rubin invited all business owners to participate if possible.

PD Security Update – Robin noted that daytime patrol hours have been increased. Robin noted that both Segways are now operational and on patrol. Horse patrols have been postponed. Graffiti issues have been referred to Hunter Hebert for removal. Robin noted that the Downtown Nightlife meeting was held to discuss challenges and opportunities. Robin noted that the group has decided to meet on a monthly basis to continue to improve nighttime safety and security in the downtown area. Robin noted he has been receiving several calls from business owners and downtown patrons regarding the homeless population downtown. Robin discussed coordinating with local homeless support agencies to help the downtown homeless population.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.