

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A  
REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 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: Pat Trahan, Maggi Bienvenu, Carlee Alm-Labar, Kevin Blanchard, Sam Oliver, Matthew Thibodeaux, Brett Mellington, William Labar, and Officer John Domingue.

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

January Financials - January Financials were presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Keaty seconded. Miles Matt abstained from voting. All others voted in favor.

February Meeting Minutes - February Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented. Miles Matt abstained from voting. All others voted in favor.

Agenda - Keaty motioned to attach the March meeting agenda to the March minutes, Fontenot seconded. Miles Matt abstained from voting. All others voted in favor.

Agora Partners

Begnaud noted that Agora performed a public space market analysis across local markets to include River Ranch, Moncus Park, UL Campus, and other nearby locales. Begnaud further noted that Agora presented a high-level financial and management strategy for the Downtown Parc Network. Begnaud noted the key takeaway from the study was that leveraging the Downtown Parc Network was DDA/DLU's best opportunity facilitating for economic development. Begnaud noted that the proposed Phase II work will include assembling a marketing document to advocate to the city for capital improvements into the parks, planning a phased capital improvement strategy, building a management and operations strategy, and educating the community on the importance of urban parks to drive development downtown. Discussions continued.

Phase II Agora Scope and Board Vote

Keaty motioned to approve the scope of the Agora Phase II study, Rezende seconded. Miles Matt abstained from voting. All others voted in favor.

## CEO Report

Begnaud noted construction has begun at the Old Federal Courthouse development. Begnaud further noted that Phase 1 repairs to the Buchanan Parking Garage will begin in the next month while a Phase II bid package is being put together. Begnaud also noted that the Buchanan Redevelopment Site is on hold until garage is reopened. Begnaud noted that LCVC has agreed to match the \$55,000 in wayfinding implementation money. Begnaud noted that EDD collections for December were \$34,856. Begnaud also noted that the EDD board meet and voted to hire Fishman Haygood as attorney and to open a bank account to receive EDD collections. Begnaud also noted that the Protect the City Committee will meet on March 16 at City Hall. Begnaud noted that Councilwoman Liz Hebert is working on ordinances that address panhandling and camping. Begnaud also noted that DDA is working with LCG directors to address repairs to the splashpad in Parc San Souci. Begnaud also noted that scooters may be returning to Lafayette in May with 2 vendors and 100 devices each. Begnaud noted that new business to the district to include Root Floral Design.

## Updates

Director of Planning - Holland noted the 2021 DDA Grant Programs are not finalized and available on the website.

Operations – Hebert noted his continuing work with graffiti removal. Hebert further noted the planter beds near the Science Museum, Dwyer’s, and Parc San Souci have been replanted. Hebert also noted that overseeding is taking place at Parc San Souci in anticipation of increased activation over the Summer and Fall. Hebert also noted that barricades will be going up around the district over the weekend due to the Zydeco Marathon.

LPD update – Dominique noted the two Downtown police officers have been reassigned to focus on a broader area than exclusively patrolling downtown. Rezende noted that due to the lack of police presence Downtown trouble with transients and homeless populations have significantly increased. Rezende further noted that downtown is under-policed during the daytime and over-policed during nightlife hours. Rezende noted the need for a proper balance and strategy with policing. Thomas noted that police turnover is a problem within the city. Discussions continued.

Council update – Not present.

## Other Business

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.



- F. Wayfinding
- G. Downtown EDD
- H. City and Parish Council updates
- I. New business announcements

**8:05**

**Updates**

**Walls**

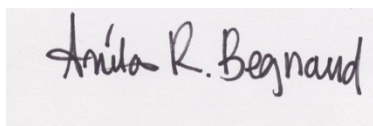
- A. Director of Development & Planning
- B. Manager of Operations
- C. Lafayette Police Department
- D. Councilmember(s)

**8:30**

**Adjournment**

**Walls**

Pursuant to Proclamation No. 30 JBE2020, Sect. 4 of the Executive Department of the State of Louisiana, 17 March, 2020, as amended, supplemented and extended, 26 March, 2020, I hereby certify that as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Downtown Development Authority is unable to operate due to physical quorum requirements. Therefore, the meeting requirement is changed for the meeting to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021 beginning at 7:30 a.m., to provide for attendance of board members, staff and the public via teleconference by use of the procedure outlined at the top of the agenda.



3/9/21

Anita R. Begnaud, Chief  
Executive Officer

Date

**ACCESSING DDA BOARD MEETINGS & PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES**

Join Zoom Meeting

**Public Comment Procedures:**

If you DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK, but wish to state your support for or opposition to an item:

- Submit your comments via email to [amy@downtownlafayette.org](mailto:amy@downtownlafayette.org)
- You must email your request to speak prior to the calling of the agenda item to be recognized
- In your email message, you must include the agenda item, your name and your position (for or against)

If you DO WISH TO SPEAK:

- Public comments will be received via email to [amy@downtownlafayette.org](mailto:amy@downtownlafayette.org)
- You must email your request to speak prior to the calling of the agenda item to be recognized

- In your email message, you must include the agenda item, your name and your position (for or against)
- Once the applicable agenda item is read during the meeting, you will be called to speak, in the order that your request was received
- The 3-minute rule will apply

*Please be advised that while social distancing and other requirements are in place, some matters have been suspended to focus on essential business. While holding public meetings, safety guidelines will be implemented.*