

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A
REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021.

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

Those absent: Gus Rezende

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

Others present: Pat Trahan, Andre Breaux, Kevin Blanchard, Sam Oliver, Matthew Thibodeaux, Carlee Alm-Labar, Kevin Blanchard, Captain Roy Starring, Brett Mellington, and Denice Skinner

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

June Financials – June Financials were presented for approval. Keaty motioned to approve as presented, Matt seconded, all voted in favor.

July Meeting Minutes - July Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Keaty motioned to approve as amended, Matt seconded, all voted in favor.

Keaty motioned to approve the FY2021 & 2022 audit contract for Kolder Slaven and authorize Greg Walls as Chairman to sign, Thomas seconded, all voted in favor.

Mid-Year Financial Report

Trahan noted that 85% millage assessment has been collected. Trahan also noted that interest on investments is down from budget projections. Trahan noted that interest revenue will be down \$7,000 from budget projections. Trahan also noted that Travel and Meeting expenses are down due to reduced travel from COVID. Trahan noted that this savings will be able to offset the reduction in revenue from interest. Trahan noted that the RHI planning study will likely be pushed into a 2022 project. Trahan noted that maintenance budget line items of pressure washing and landscaping are projected to be spent in full by the end of the year. Trahan noted that Parc de Lafayette maintenance, Gateway sign maintenance, and the Professional Outsource maintenance line items will likely not be spent in full by the end of the year. Trahan noted that Business Development, Marketing & Support budget item of Agora Parcs Study will be spent by the end of the year. Trahan noted the Capital Improvement Budget, trash cans, outdoor dining, and wayfinding will be spent by the end of the year. Trahan further noted that bollards and Parc de Lafayette improvements will likely not be spent by the end of the year. Trahan also noted that all money allocated for public art and grant programs will be spent by the end of the year.

CEO Report

Begnaud noted that surveying continues on Main Street project. Begnaud noted that windows were installed recently, and roof work continues on Old Federal Courthouse development. Begnaud also noted that the Buchanan Parking Garage has been sandblasted which has created a huge visual difference. Begnaud also noted that repairs on Vermilion Parking Garage are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2021. Begnaud noted that June collections of the Downtown EDD were \$55,484 which is the highest month to-date. Begnaud noted that a Wayfinding mock-up is expected by the end of the month. Begnaud noted that the Parc International Capital Improvement Projects List has been completed as part of the Agora Parcs Study. Benaud noted that the LCG Capital Budget and ARPA allocations for downtown infrastructure include \$53,945,390 for drainage, sidewalks, parc improvements, parking, safety, wayfinding, connectivity, lighting, and bollards. Begnaud noted that she would like to call a Special Board Meeting next week to pass a resolution in support of this funding in the proposed LCG budget.

Updates

Director of Planning - No updates.

Operations - Hebert noted Public Works is restriping in the district to create an additional 120 parking spots. Hebert also noted that repairs are in progress on streetscape damaged due to traffic accidents.

LPD update – Captain Roy Starring noted Chief Glover would like to move forward with starting a downtown precinct.

Council update - Not present.

Other Business

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