

**Downtown Development Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 26, 2025**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
Michael Corbin		Cedric Glover	
Mario Chavez		Janie Landry	
Drayden Dunn		Stacie Leng	
Chelette Holden		Lauren Davidson	
Kathy Malone		Peggy Hellyer	
Terry Moore		Lorenzo Lee	
Ed Taylor			

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 pm by Chair Michael Corbin. A quorum was present.

**II. ROLL CALL**

No one was absent.

**III. AMEND AGENDA**

The agenda was amended to add History of Sponsorships under Old Business.

**A motion was made by Mario Chavez and seconded by Chelette Holden to add History of Sponsorships under Old Business. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**IV. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS/ PRESENTATIONS**

There were no introductions or presentations.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items).**

There were no public comments.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes**

Mr. Corbin asked for approval of the January 29, 2025, regular meeting minutes.

**A motion was made by Terry Moore to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2025, regular meeting minutes, the January 2025 Budgetary Comparison Financial Statement and the February 2025 Budgetary Comparison Financial Statement. Drayden Dunn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**B. January 2025 Budgetary Comparison Financial Statement and February 2025 Budgetary Comparison Financial Statement**

The financial statements were emailed to the board for review before the meeting.

**VII. REPORTS**

**A. Director's Report**

- The Petroleum Lofts team project has been officially confirmed and announced, with construction expected to begin within the next three months.
- Thanks to the efforts of Lorenzo Lee and the COS Traffic Engineering team, the turn lane

adjacent to the former SporTran location on Crockett Street has been turned back into parking spaces. There are 10 app-based spaces, 2 motorcycle spaces, and a fire lane.

- Met with the new COS Public Works Director – Jarvis Morgan – to introduce him to the staff and to continue to build a strong relationship with the City.
- Met with Visit Shreveport-Bossier VP David Bailey to explore strategies for enhancing downtown’s benefits from tourism-related activities. Currently developing a new program, “Show Me Your Badge,” designed to encourage event participants to extend their stay and explore downtown by offering incentives at local restaurants, businesses, and attractions.
- 14 locations are scheduled to participate in the Downtown Tour of Homes and currently 167 people have registered to attend.
- Met with Caddo Parish Commissioner to discuss increased partnerships between the DDA and Parish. Discussion specifically focused on parking and commercial to residential conversion opportunities.
- Formed a Holiday Committee with SRAC, DSU, and volunteers to create an umbrella marketing campaign with coordinated events including Santa Calls with Bill Joyce.
- Met with COS administration to assist with legislative agenda, discussed potential DDA role with the RRD and future of land-based gaming in Shreveport.
- Had meeting with Congressman Fields and his team to detail the Revitalizing Downtowns and Main Streets Act. Secured his co-sponsorship of the legislation. Also, thanked him for locating his regional congressional office downtown and outlined the recent history of the former Allen Building and its contribution to the revitalization of the 600 block of Texas Street.
- Counseled and advised with the leadership of Antioch Baptist Church regarding advancing their capital outlay allocation and strategies for securing their needs matching local funding.
- Addressed the monthly meeting of the Building Owners and Managers Association.
- Conferred with Patrick Furlong, representative of the A Frame Truss Bridge cohort for an update on their initial consultation.
- Met with new state building construction manager to be updated on the project’s status and to assist with locating a downtown location for their support operations during construction.
- Met with HUB/Lovewell management team to discuss issues impacting the future viability of downtown.
- Met with Brian Davis, Executive Director of Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation to discuss options for the Bridges-McKellar-Alford mansion, other downtown development opportunities, and the upcoming annual State Historic Preservation Conference scheduled here in downtown Shreveport.
- At the request of the local chapter of Jack and Jill of America, developed bus tour and presentation on “The Little and Unknown History of Downtown Shreveport” for their Black

History Month observation. The inaugural tour was conducted on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and was attended by more than 50 youths and adults.

- Established a relationship with the Northwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association and its leadership. Discussions have centered around opportunities to elevate the benefits of the season in downtown.

## **B. Parking Report**

Lorenzo Lee reported that January and February had comparable income, and it was consistent with the year end of 2024. Two vehicles were booted in February and the largest amount was \$350.00.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Downtown Security and Homeless**

No discussion.

### **B. History of Sponsorships Provided by DDA**

Ms. Landry called the board's attention to a spreadsheet listing all the DDA grants and event sponsorships from 2007 through the current date. A total of \$321,000 has been funded to date. Film Prize is the largest beneficiary, while the Red River Revel and Robinson Film Center have also received significant sponsorships.

Kathy Malone said she would like for the spreadsheet to remain in the board books for future reference.

Mario Chavez inquired about the support for Artspace. Ms. Landry said that DDA owns the buildings at 708 and 710 Texas Street and maintains the roof and building integrity.

Mr. Corbin stated that SRACs lease states they are responsible for the systems, but DDA has helped with some of the expense in the past to make the building useable. SRAC could not afford the entire amount of the needed HVAC repairs.

Mr. Glover said that Artspace and Robinson Film Center were established before the Lofts at 624 Texas was developed. Public investments brought in private dollars to renovate that property.

Ms. Holden asked if it would be possible to bring back Neon Saturday nights. Ms. Landry reported that Neon was so successful that SRAC was ultimately unable to continue making the financial investment and manpower to continue it.

Mr. Glover said that in June, Byrd High School will be blocking off Market Street to Common Street for its Friday night centennial celebration. All the downtown restaurants will be involved for each decade of the school. The City – through SPAR – is facilitating a task force planning the event, similar to what was done for Humor and Harmony.

Mario Chavez said that many people in town for PrizeFest got parking tickets. He asked if there is a parking solution for people setting up block parties. Mr. Glover will ask the Byrd folks what their plans are for parking. Mr. Corbin said it may take city council action to change the rules for event parking.

There was a review and discussion of the process of hiring officers to patrol the area in front of Haze last weekend. Chelette Holden asked if there had been an incident elsewhere, would the officers she paid for have had to leave to respond. The answer is yes, they would.

Mr. Glover gave his opinion that having the officers downtown last weekend served as an excellent deterrent.

Ms. Landry said that in the past, the bar owners contributed funds to pay for officers to patrol in the club area. DDA then hired the officers who rotated in their patrols around the clubs. The Chief of Police in a former administration did not want to continue the practice. The club owners were upset when the practice was discontinued.

Mr. Glover said that a shared amount would be the best option, and the example that Ms. Holden is setting will make it easier to open that discussion.

It was stated that ABO requires the use of cameras in the bars and that allowing the RTCC to connect to whatever cameras the club owners would allow would be even more effective.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ratification of Approval to Waive 180-Day Permit – 1309 Texas Avenue – Demolition Requested by City of Shreveport**

**B. Ratification of Approval to Waive 180-Day Permit - 1223 Milam Street – Demolition Requested by City of Shreveport**

**C. Ratification of Sponsorship Request – Downtown Shreveport Unlimited – Paddy in the Plaza Event – March 15, 2025.**

**A motion was made by Mario Chavez to approve the waiver of the 180-day demolition delay permits for 1309 Texas Ave., and 1223 Milam Street and to also approve the sponsorship request for \$1,500 for Paddy in the Plaza. The motion was seconded by Kathy Malone and passed unanimously.**

## **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Glover reported that the National Preservation for Historic Trust will be held in Shreveport this year, and that he has requested a session on the repurposing of bank buildings. He also said the owner of the McKeller Mansion at 1324 Oakland Street lives in Shreveport and wants to see what can be done to restore the distressed building.

## **XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

There were no comments.

## **XII. ADJOURN**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.

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Michael Corbin, Chair