

**Downtown Development Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 25, 2022**

**Present**

Lloyd Brown  
Tim Huck  
Kathy Malone  
Terry Moore

**Absent**

Drayden Dunn  
Candice Battiste  
Logan Schroeder

**Staff**

Liz Swaine  
Janie Landry  
Stacie Leng  
Lorenzo Lee  
Peggy Hellyer

**Others Present**

Ka'Davien Baylor

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Chairman Tim Huck

**II. ROLL CALL**

Peggy Hellyer called the roll. Drayden Dunn, Logan Schroeder, and Candice Battiste were absent. Ms. Battiste has resigned, but her replacement has not been appointed. Lloyd Brown left the meeting at 4:30 pm – there was no quorum after 4:30 and no official action or votes were taken.

**III. APPROVAL OF ABSENCES**

A motion was made by Tim Huck, seconded by Terry Moore to approve the absences. Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. AMEND AGENDA**

The agenda was amended to move New Business up on the agenda to follow Welcome/ Presentations.

**There was a motion made by Terry Moore, seconded by Tim Huck, to amend the agenda as stated.**

**V. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS/ PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Swaine introduced Ka'Davien Baylor, muralist. Baylor, who is from Shreveport but currently lives in Houston, has created remarkable private and public murals. He will be painting a new mural in honor of Juneteenth on a privately owned building in the 300 block Milam Street (The Office Hub/Post Office).

Mr. Baylor reviewed the components of the new mural for the board. Five artists will be doing the work over a two-week period. There will be eight total panels representing the repeal of slavery, reconstruction, civil rights leaders, and a panel on equality. Poetic X will be providing a poem. The last panel will feature sponsors and the poem. Funding is both public and private and will also involve the local community painting the solid color blocks.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Mural Sponsorship Request**

Drayden Dunn requested that Ms. Swaine ask the board if they would be willing to assist with the lift needed to paint the mural. Ms. Swaine reported that the DDA lift is out of service currently and the use by the artists of the aging lift presents a liability concern according to DDA's insurance carrier. Ms. Swaine reported that the cost to rent a lift is approximately \$2500. Tim Huck reported that he owns a lift that can reach the top of his building on Spring Street, and he would be willing to allow the use of it for the mural for free and will also deliver it to the site. Mr. Baylor and Mr. Huck will work out the details.

**A Motion was made by Terry Moore for DDA to provide funding to lease a lift at the best available terms, if Mr. Huck's lift cannot be used. The motion, seconded by Lloyd Brown, passed unanimously.**

**B. Downtown Council District Map / Redistricting Update**

Ms. Swaine gave a review of the proposed redistricting map which proposes a change to the downtown district. Since 1980, according to demographer Gary Joiner, the whole of downtown has been in District B. The proposed change would carve out the casinos and a portion of the riverfront and move that area into District A. This could cause potential issues for downtown if the district has two different councilmembers. Ms. Swaine spoke with both Councilwoman LeVette Fuller and Councilwoman Tabatha Taylor about the issue. Councilwoman Fuller is not happy about losing part of her district. Councilwoman Taylor told Ms. Swaine that she believes the casinos need more of a voice. Ms. Swaine expressed her opinion to Councilwoman Taylor that splitting downtown into two districts would not be good for downtown. She also pointed out that Ms. Taylor already has a voice to represent the casinos via her vote on the council. Tim Huck stated that there are no residents in the proposed split.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes**

Ms. Swaine asked for a review of the April 27, 2022, regular meeting minutes and for any changes or revisions.

**A motion was made by Terry Moore to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting. Kathy Malone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**April 2022 Budgetary Comparison Financial Statement**

Ms. Swaine reported that not much has changed since last month and revenue and expense is as anticipated. DDA appears on the state's Unclaimed Property list, and the funds are likely insurance premium refunds. She expects the check from the state to be received soon. Streetscape and Parking contracts with the City are paid through May.

**A Motion was made by Tim Huck to approve the April 2022 Budgetary Comparison Financial Statement as presented. Lloyd Brown seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**IX. REPORTS**

**A. Director's Report**

1. \$170,000 has been received for trees, wayfinding signage and art maintenance. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement has been signed. Trees will be removed first and then replanted in the fall. The Once in a Millennium Moon mural will be recoated with UV protective coating, and the wayfinding signage will be updated and replaced.
2. The Confederate monument at the Courthouse is currently being disassembled to be relocated to Desoto Parish.
3. The Blind Tiger celebrates 30 years in business this week.
4. Northern Louisiana Comfort Food and Catering, 830 Louisiana Ave., recently opened.
5. Harvard Field Immersion Study - First year Harvard MBA students came to Shreveport for ten days to participate in a Field Immersion Study. The Red River District team consisted of five students. They gave a stellar presentation detailing revitalization and specific suggestions for the

District. Mayor Perkins, Councilperson LeVette Fuller, Board Chair Tim Huck and board member Drayden Dunn were present at the meeting. There will be follow up meetings with the city to see if they are willing to implement some of the ideas. Tim Huck reported that the students got input from a variety of stakeholders. Revitalization will take time but having recommendations in one document will be helpful. Tim Huck reported that he and Chase Boytim have also recently met with City Economic Development Director Drew Mouton to discuss the Red River District.

Ms. Swaine reported that the students targeted two groups that would be a good fit for the Red River District: The students dubbed one group the Party Paula's: The eating, drinking, and having fun evening crowd. The second group was named the Family Franks. This group, interested in daytime events, will tie in nicely with the new sports facility at the former Expo Hall. They would want lunchtime dining and alcohol. The City must be prudent when selecting tenants for the district.

Tim Huck stated his belief the revitalization of the district requires a yes-we-can attitude from the City and consumer friendly leases to improve the properties. Terry Moore remarked that there are major hurdles for business people getting business licenses currently and asked if it were possible to streamline that process for the Red River District. Ms. Swaine stated her opinion that there are ways to improve the process and that the City Council and Mayor's office would need to be involved. She also stated her belief that having one person in charge would be necessary to be successful. Everyone agrees that having a plan in place now to begin the process will be beneficial.

6. Mudbug Madness returns this weekend.

**B. Parking Report**

Mr. Lee reported ticket revenue in the amount of \$30,000. Meter revenue increased this month. A few vehicles were booted at \$255 each, and one vehicle was recently towed. Tim Huck asked about removal of taxi signs adjacent to Phoenix 2.0 and when curb repainting would begin. Mr. Lee answered that the painting should begin soon.

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Downtown Security and Homeless**

Ms. Swaine reported this is week eight of having off duty SPD officers patrolling and that they are having a very positive impact downtown. Tim Huck asked if there could be adjustments in weekend hours to address panhandlers in the Travis and Texas Street area. He said there are approximately 35 panhandlers currently. Ms. Swaine responded that hours can be adjusted. Mr. Huck said that 10:30 pm – 4 am is the timeframe that the panhandlers hit. Ms. Swaine asked if the clubs would be willing to help pay the officers. Mr. Huck said he believed they would be willing to do so

Security cameras: The city is close to deploying 30 cameras downtown very soon, according to Keith Hanson, IT chief for the city.

**B. State Offices – Downtown Location**

Ms. Swaine reported that HB773, sponsored by Rep. Cedric Glover, is the companion piece of legislation to the state offices plan to move to downtown. The bill addresses the current state office building on Fairfield Avenue and gives the SIRA (Shreveport Implementation and Redevelopment Authority) control over putting out RFQs and RFPs and vetting potential new uses and owners.

**C. Vacancy Ordinance**

Ms. Swaine reported that she recently met with the two judges from the Environmental Court to discuss the idea of the vacancy ordinance. Judge Shanericka Flemings believes enforcement could be left up to the MPC since the City's Property Standards department may not have the staffing to do so. Ms. Swaine was told that plans and proposals regarding the ordinance can be developed but no action would be taken until after the upcoming elections for Mayor/Council.

**D. Second Saturday Downtown**

Ms. Swaine recently met with downtown art partners regarding the concept of a Second Saturday that highlights downtown's arts and art-related venues. All were excited about the idea. Downtown has reached critical mass now and there are enough galleries, shops, restaurants, etc. to hold an art immersion day. Marketing is about to begin.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Terry Moore asked why Sheriff's deputies were writing tickets on Sunday on the Clyde Fant Parkway. Tim Huck reported that they may have gotten a grant to put officers on traffic patrol. He will research and report back.

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

There were no public comments.

**XIII. ADJOURN**

With no further business to address, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

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Lloyd Brown, Secretary