

**Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
May 24, 2023**

Present

Michael Corbin
Drayden Dunn
Chelette Holden
Kathy Malone
Kyle Southard (arrived 3:37)

Absent

Tim Huck
Terry Moore

Staff

Liz Swaine
Janie Landry
Stacie Leng
Peggy Hellyer

Others Present

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm by Chairman Michael Corbin.

B. ROLL CALL

Peggy Hellyer called the roll. Tim Huck and Terry Moore were absent.

C. APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Kathy Malone made a motion to accept the absence of Tim Huck and Terry Moore. Drayden Dunn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. AMEND AGENDA

The agenda was not amended.

E. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS/ PRESENTATIONS

There were no welcomes, introductions, or presentations.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Ms. Swaine asked for a review of April 23, 2023, regular meeting minutes and for any revisions.

A motion was made by Drayden Dun to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2023, meeting minutes. Kathy Malone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

April 2023 Budgetary Comparison Financial Statement

Ms. Swaine reviewed the April 2023 Budgetary Comparison Financial Statement. The City is being diligent in forwarding property tax revenue to DDA. The income is currently ahead of the budgeted amount, but 2024 is a reassessment year and projections are being made by CAO Tom Dark that assessment will decrease. A decrease would negatively affect DDA's revenue, and the millage rate would need to be adjusted. The Streetscape and Parking contracts with the City are paid through May. Additional revenue of \$12,000 has been received from an insurance distribution from Worker's Comp and will be shown on the May statement.

Expenses are as expected at this time. Ms. Swaine reported that approximately \$65,000 has been expended on trees and infrastructure to date. This expense is from money previously designated to DDA from the City for tree replacement, wayfinding signage, and UV coating for the Millenium Mural. SRAC is assisting on the UV coating.

A Motion was made by Kathy Malone to approve the April 2023 Budgetary Comparison Financial Statement as presented. Chelette Holden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Director's Report

1. Ordinance 46, Approved 4-2

- 25% of gaming space to remain non-smoking
- All pavilions, restaurants, hotels, bars, event space to remain non-smoking
- Possible veto
- Review of graph provided by LA gaming commission
- The casinos did not plead their cases very well. Councilmembers Brooks and Taylor have had meetings with the management of both casinos. The Mayor also plans to meet with them.
- This was a difficult no-win situation, but a good compromise.

2. 50 Cent Agreement with City, former Millennium Studio & Expo Hall

- 'Non' Binding Letter of Intent
- \$2400 per year lease for each property
- Permitted uses, etc.

Chelette Holden commented that she was in a group that met with 50 Cent in New York City three weeks ago. She says the plans for Shreveport are very impressive. He will spend no less than a million dollars on security for the downtown project. Ms. Swaine stated she would like to meet with his local management when appropriate.

3. Street Dreams Louisiana

- Second Location, 1253 Texas Ave.
- Opening mid/late summer
- Dillon Breithaupt

4. Butterfly Medical Care, 400 Texas Street., Ste. 901

- Primary care
- Not a walk-in
- Insurance not taken

5. Shreveport-Bossier Advocate

- 12-person newsroom
- Locating downtown - Louisiana Tower
- July timeline

6. Shreve Memorial Library, 424 Texas Street – still having issues from water

- Looking for best location option until problems resolved

7. Uneeda Biscuit Lofts, 711 Milam Street

- Punch list and final work
- Would like to have a grand opening and tour
- DDA has offered assistance on the Grand Opening event

8. The Glass Hat, 423 Crockett Street
 - FB page, please 'Like'
 - Closer to opening
 - The cooler is broken; management hoping for June 5th opening
9. Riverwalk Café at the Aquarium
 - Open now. Good food, great view
 - 7 Days/week, 11:30 am- 4 pm
10. Refine Design, 616 Texas Street
 - Open Monday - Saturday, 10 am- 6 pm
 - Shop local.
11. SBCTB Brand and Destination Master Plan Launch
 - Thursday 11 am
 - New brand - Visit Shreveport-Bossier
12. Art in Unexpected Places
 - Louisiana Cultural District Grant
 - Saturday, May 20 @ Dripp Donuts
13. "Art Cart"
 - May have found a sponsor for one!
 - T-Mobile would like to partner more with DDA
14. UPCOMING EVENTS!
 - Caddo Common Jazz/Big Band Concert- Thursday night
 - Mudbug Madness
 - Lake Street Bar- 315 Lake Street- 6th anniversary

Drayden Dunn gave an update on the upcoming Juneteenth celebration. There will be a press conference on the 12th. It will be a week-long event. Versified-Rated Poetry will be at the Robinson Film Center. The festival begins on Friday, and a parade and bike ride will be held Saturday. The Artish Art Show will be presented at Riverview Hall. Words over Lattes will have an event on actual Juneteenth. The Juneteenth Coalition planned the festival. A new mural will be painted on the side of Riverview Hall. Ka'Davien Baylor is the project manager.

B. Parking Report

Lorenzo Lee reported that ticket revenue is down from last month but still averaging better than during Covid. Revenue is back to 2019 levels. Two vehicles were booted last month. The outstanding amount owed for one vehicle was \$840. Additionally, there was an increase in the number of bagged meters due to construction downtown.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. DDA Sponsorship Requirements

Ms. Swaine asked board members to review the existing DDA sponsorship guidelines and make suggestions for updates and revisions.

B. Downtown Security Issues

Ms. Swaine reported that the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office is using the mobile command unit downtown for a few weeks. Conversations continue on the need for full-time officers downtown, especially on weekends. The East Bank District in Bossier is assigned a seven-person unit, seven days a week the District to the Boardwalk. Ms. Swaine also said that there will likely never be the number of officers needed city-wide, but noted there must be another way to police and to think outside the box using cameras, drones, and technology to assist. Policing must be more creative, efficient and effective. Drayden Dunn suggested that DDA be proactive around known dates that could be problematic and assist in some manner.

C. Vacant Property Ordinance

The ordinance has been updated by DDA Counsel Jerry Jones and has been forwarded to the Mayor. The new City Attorney started work yesterday at the city council meeting.

D. Downtown Amenity Fund / Lighting Grant

Ms. Swaine reported that a few trees have died. One tree was hit by a car, and another was lost after a water main break flooded the tree. The library flooding also ruined a tree. She stated she is working on plans for downtown planters, which would be deployed in the fall.

E. Louisiana Historic Tax Credit Program

Legislation regarding the HTC program is moving into the Senate Committee on May 29th. It was noted that there is no local representation on that committee. Mr. Corbin suggested sending e-mails or making contact with the legislators to thank them for their support

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 46- To amend Section 50-212 of Article V of the Code of Ordinances relative to Smokefree Air Act

Ms. Swaine requested that the board memorialize the e-vote that was taken recently regarding supporting the amendment to the Smokefree Air Act.

A Motion was made by Drayden Dunn to support amending Section 50-212 of Article V of the Code of Ordinances relative to the Smokefree Air Act to allow smoking on some gaming floors of the Shreveport casinos. The motion was seconded by Kyle Southard and passed unanimously.

Michael Corbin stated his opinion that meetings with both casinos are needed to make certain they follow up on property improvements,

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

There were no public comments.

XIII. ADJOURN

With no further business to address, the meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm