

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A
SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

Those present: Miles Matt, Mike Delcambre, Ross Fontenot, Gus Rezende, Lisa Thomas and Greg Walls.

Those absent: Jim Keaty.

Staff present: Anita Begnaud, Jolene Harris and Hunter Hebert.

Others present: None.

The meeting was called to order by Matt.

Public comment cards were available on table in the back of room for anyone who wished to speak in regards to items on the agenda.

Main Street Discussion – A meeting was held of the Downtown Development Authority to review and discuss a draft letter dated April 11 in regards to the Main Street project. Miles Matt, DDA Chair and Anita Begnaud, CEO, had been involved in research regarding the application for a federal grant that had been submitted by former CEO, Geoff Dyer. Matt and Begnaud met with various departments within LCG in order to gain information on the full procedures to apply for the grant and have the grant materialize. In their research, Dyer having applied for the grant, DDA was the functioning agent for LCG back in 2015. Having met with APC, the manager of the funding allocated by the government, they were informed that the funding was for a roadway improvement and the only people that could have an interest in that improvement was the roadway owner, which was LCG. It was further noted that in 2014, the NPO had worked directly with DDA staff where Dyer was the original responsible charge person for the project until 2017 where it was appointed to Cathie Gilbert and again in 2018, Alison Lognion, Project Coordinator for LCG Public Works. There had been a transition of the NPO/APC and a new Administration of LCG that took office where Dyer could no longer have been the responsible charge as there were procedural steps required with one being that the owner/LCG had to appoint a responsible charge person for the project. Copies of the April 11 confidential draft letter, written by Matt, DDA Board Chair to Melanie Bordelon, Director of Transportation in regards to the Dormant Project Notice/Main St. Redevelopment was handed out to all board members for review. Matt noted that Robideaux planned to back off of the million dollar request of the funds as Robideaux had informed Matt that he would modify his January 15 project funding transfer request to accommodate the DDA efforts to secure those funds. Matt noted that the intent was for the DDA board to move forward to get all of the engineering done for the project which was basically \$1 million. \$800k of this would be federal grant funds and a matching \$200k. The formal request would be to preserve use of \$1 million in combined funding with the Main Street Project funds currently classified as dormant and the 20% government match. It would then be the intent of the board to dedicate those funds for a complete engineering to a level to secure construction of the project. Discussions followed. Matt entertained a resolution to adopt the draft letter dated April 11, 2019 that would be hand-delivered to the Acadiana Planning Commission with regards to the Main Street Redevelopment Dormant Project Notice. Walls motioned to approve the letter dated April 11, 2019 as presented, Rezende seconded, all voted in favor. Matt further noted that the letter would be hand-delivered and dated April 12 with an added CC of all the board members.

Parc Maintenance Expenditure

Begnaud noted that Hebert had been doing a lot of research on maintenance projects for downtown and have discussed funds for different projects recently with the board. In speaking with an arborist regarding trimming the trees in the Parcs prior to Festival International, had received a quote for \$3,250. In contacting Chad Nepveux, LCG Street Superintendent with Public Works, to let him know the plans for the tree trimming, Nepveux noted that he could send arborist from LCG out to trim the trees where it would not have to come out of DDA funds as well as other smaller items that they would tend to that needed to be done prior to festival. In preparing downtown for Festival International, Begnaud also proposed to the board funding of up to \$1k to have the wall behind the fountain painted since there was already work being done on the front part of the fountain with the ledge being built. Discussions followed. Delcambre motioned to allow staff to spend up to \$1,000 to paint the wall on the backside of the fountain, Thomas seconded, all voted in favor.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.