

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025, at 7:30 AM.

Roll Call, Present: Denice Skinner, Kim Ledet, and Marie Centanni

Roll Call, Absent: Jaci Russo

The meeting was called to order by Centanni who told the meeting that because of the timing of City Council ratification of DLU appointees to the DDA Board, those two new members (Rex Moroux and Melinda Taylor) would not be able to be seated until the next meeting. As such, the board would not have a quorum that would allow for votes, so the remainder of the meeting would be discussion only.

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 the discussion of the item. Individuals are allowed three minutes for comments.

Administrative Approvals/Reports

Action deferred until the next meeting; updated budget-to-actual report was provided to board.

CEO Report

Blanchard gave a presentation to the DDA Board regarding the flash flood event of April 24, 2025. Several business owners and residents were in attendance. A good discussion ensued about the various options forward to a solution to better storm water management in the city. A copy of the presentation will be made available on the internet. Blanchard reviewed with the Board a list of the projects on which the DDA is proposing to coordinate on the LCG Capital Budget, which will be introduced this summer. The proposal would be revenue neutral in that the DDA is requesting that the funding from certain stalled and low-priority projects be shifted to higher-priority projects.

Directors Report

Holland announced that the DDA has organized a monthly operations meeting to coordinate the many activities that occur during each month, as well as ongoing maintenance issues. Downtown Ambassador Operations Manager gave the Board some statistics about activities in the first month of the program.

DLU update

Jessica Hauerwas updated the board on an upcoming Meet and Greet with the Downtown Ambassadors to be hosted at the Acadiana Center for the Arts. Jessica said that preparations for Fete & Feast are well underway.

Police Update

Capt. David LeBlanc announced that he was taking a new position with the Police Department and would be leaving his post next week after helping establish the Downtown Police Precinct. The board all thanked Capt. LeBlanc for being a great partner for downtown over the years.

Public Comment

LPTFA Executive Director invited the DDA to play a role in the continued development of public finance tools that can generate community projects.

Other Business

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