

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, at 7:30 AM. LAFAYETTE PARISH ASSESSOR OFFICE, 213 VERMILION STREET

Roll Call. Present: Jaci Russo, Rex Moroux, Denice Skinner, Kim Ledet, Dave Domingue, Emily Hamner, Melinda Taylor.

The meeting was called to order by Russo. 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

Motion by Skinner to approve minutes from the August 20, 2025 board meeting, and to acknowledge receipt and review of 2025 YTD budget-to-actual report. Second by Ledet. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing Due Diligence for Office Relocation

After a presentation by Blanchard, the Board approved a resolution authorizing up the expenditure of up to \$10,000 for preparatory and due diligence actions related to potential DDA office relocation or acquisition to accommodate program growth. Motion by Skinner, second by Moroux, unanimously approved.

CEO Report

Blanchard provided updates on ongoing infrastructure, redevelopment, and beautification projects. Highlights included the LCG's downtown drainage improvement plan for Johnston Street, progress on the Hotel Lafayette development, and \$500,000 in funding for public bathroom renovations. Blanchard noted that the Downtown Redevelopment Plan has secured \$1 million in public, plus nearly \$500,000 in private funds over three years, allowing hiring of specialized consultants for parking studies, cultural venue planning, and site development.

The Board received updates on downtown beautification efforts, including completion of funding for the Children's Museum mural, installation of new trash cans, and ongoing repainting of benches and poles. The Downtown Ambassador team's data-driven cleaning approach was praised for improving overall district cleanliness. Blanchard thanked Assessor Justin Centanni and his staff for accommodating the DDA at the assessor's public conference room, which has up-to-date audio-visual capabilities and the capacity to accommodate more public attendees.

DLU Report

Jessica Hauerwas reported strong attendance at Downtown Alive! events, with 11,000 people downtown during the most recent event. DLU partnered with other organizations in town to secure a three-year grant that will help fund free live music around town, including Parc Sans Souci. Also, DLU will take over Gulf Brew from ACA starting in 2026.

Other Updates

Lt. Rummel provided updates on plans to reintroduce the bike patrol downtown, with officers getting lined up for bicycle certification training. The department is also upgrading its downtown office for public engagement. Magnolia Pantry has opened successfully and saw strong attendance during recent Art Walk events.

Sam Oliver with the AcA reported that construction documents for the Louisiana Music Museum would be delivered October 1st.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Other Business

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