PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026, AT 7:30 AM, AT THE LAFAYETTE PARISH ASSESSOR CONFERENCE ROOM, 213 W. VERMILION STREET, LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

Present: Kim Ledet, Rex Moroux, Jaci Russo, Denice Skinner, and Jeremiah Supple.

Absent: Melinda Taylor and Emily Hamner.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM by Chair Jaci Russo. The Chair reminded attendees that there would be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting regarding any DDA-related topic or any specific action item on the agenda. Public comment cards were made available, and comments were limited to three minutes per item.

Board Materials for Approval

Skinner moved, with a second from Ledet, to approve the Minutes of the April 15, 2026 Board Meeting and to accept the Financial Report through March 2026 for review. The motion passed unanimously.

CEO Update

Chief Executive Officer Kevin Blanchard reported that the 2025 audit is approximately 95 percent complete and that he anticipates one recommended procedural item rather than a formal finding. He advised that, upon finalization of the audited 2025 figures, he intends to bring a mid-year budget amendment for the board's consideration the following month to true up reserves and to recognize new revenue from Catholic Charities for the Ambassador program, which is to be paid quarterly in advance, together with formal discussion of the audit.

He updated the board on the Downtown Urban Core Redevelopment Plan, reporting that, at the administration's request, Lafayette Consolidated Government will prepare the initial draft of the cooperative endeavor agreement based on a scope of work provided by the DDA and included in the board packet. He noted that the revised scope limits the geographic scope of work to downtown and clarifies that the funds are dedicated to pre-construction due diligence rather than construction, with a defined pre-construction threshold. He reported that the scope had been transmitted to the City as a draft, with a response anticipated.

He further reported that construction of the Hotel Lafayette project had resumed; that the Zoning Commission had voted five to zero to recommend against a conditional use permit for a proposed establishment on Buchanan Street; and that a wall failure had occurred at the Coburn's building, for which the Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority has engaged design professionals to assess feasibility and the DDA has offered Economic Development District support for temporary stabilization.

Director Update

Director of Development and Planning Rachel Holland, recently returned from travel, deferred to staff for updates. The board was advised that new trash receptacles are being installed throughout

downtown; a third-party installation quote of approximately $35,000 was received for proper placement within the brick pavers, and the City has agreed to install the receptacles incrementally over the summer, with approximately a dozen already placed along Jefferson Street. Staff also reported that the Parish Proud volunteer day held the prior Saturday drew approximately 50 volunteers, who planted and hung baskets along Jefferson Street with assistance from Burning Stick and the Lafayette Fire Department, removed litter, and mulched beds in Parc Sans Souci.

DLU Update

Downtown Lafayette Unlimited Executive Director Jessica Hauerwas reported that the prior weekend's events, including Parish Proud, Wing Wars, Park International, and Rock the Block at the Acadiana Center for the Arts, drew an estimated 15,000 visitors downtown, well above a typical weekend. She reported that Rock the Block served as a public kickoff for the Music Museum capital campaign. She previewed summer programming, including promotion of World Cup viewing at downtown businesses, a DLU membership drive, and a pilot downtown food tour developed with several downtown restaurants, and noted continued planning for fall events.

Updates

Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority: An LPTFA Board Member reported that a special meeting would be held later that day to certify the wall failure at the Coburn's building as an emergency and to authorize emergency procurement procedures to allow stabilization to proceed.

One Acadiana: A representative reported that One Acadiana had recommended the downtown census tract for redesignation under the Opportunity Zone program, with final certification anticipated by year-end, and previewed the leadership exchange trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee, scheduled for September 16 through 18, 2026.

Opportunity Machine: A representative reported that more than 300 people attended the Innovate South event in April, that the summer internship program will host between 17 and 25 interns downtown, and that an open call for the Builder program is underway with a June 1 deadline.

Lafayette Police Department: A representative reported that crime downtown is generally down, with continued attention to nightlife establishments, and noted ongoing coordination with the City regarding nightclub permitting and enforcement, including review of multi-year call data.

Public Comment

No public comment cards were submitted.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.