PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 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: Emily Hamner, Melinda Taylor.

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 Ledet second, to approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2026 Board Meeting and to accept the Financial Report through February 2026 for review. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagement

Chief Executive Officer Kevin Blanchard provided context on the resolution, explaining that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire is a standard form that every public entity must complete prior to engaging its auditor for the annual audit. He noted that the questionnaire enumerates the statutes applicable to the operations of the DDA and requires the entity to attest, item by item, as to its compliance with each applicable provision during the prior fiscal year. He confirmed that the DDA had answered affirmatively to all applicable items for the 2025 fiscal year. He noted that the Chair and Secretary would execute the completed questionnaire and that the Chief Executive Officer would execute a separate attestation as to the truthfulness of the responses.

Skinner moved, with a second by Ledet, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagement. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing the Initiation of a Fiscal Agent Selection Process

Blanchard provided context on the broader administrative environment in which the DDA operates, noting that the existing intergovernmental arrangement with Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) for purchasing, payroll, bookkeeping, and accounting services was developed for an organization of substantially greater scale than the DDA. He noted that the DDA has been engaged in ongoing discussions with its auditor and internal accountant. He explained that the selection of a fiscal agent is a statutory prerequisite to the DDA opening its own bank account, which in turn is a prerequisite to the DDA conducting independent banking and disbursement functions. He noted that Louisiana law requires a political subdivision to conduct a public selection process for its fiscal agent, including publication of notice and use of standard forms prescribed by the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Legislative Auditor, and the State Treasurer. He confirmed that the resolution before the board authorizes the initiation of that selection process and that subsequent board action will be required as the process advances. He further explained that the timing of the process is being managed to align with the DDA's fiscal year and audit schedule, with a target completion date prior to January 1, 2027.

The board discussed the practical implications of the proposed administrative transition, including operational efficiency, segregation of duties, ongoing oversight responsibilities, and anticipated cost relative to the DDA's prior administrative support arrangement.

A motion was made by Moroux, second by Skinner, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Initiation of a Fiscal Agent Selection Process. The motion passed unanimously.

CEO Update

Blanchard reported that on April 7, 2026, the Lafayette City Council approved an agreement with the DDA related to the Downtown Urban Core Redevelopment Plan, providing initial funding to advance the effort. He noted that the next step is consideration of the funding request by the downtown Economic Development District (EDD) board, which is expected to occur immediately following the City Council meeting the following week, and that the public benefit analysis prepared by Dr. Jim Richardson is expected to be presented at that meeting. He reported on a recent City Council matter concerning a conditional use permit application for a daiquiri establishment on Jefferson Street, noting that the matter was deferred following discussions and that the experience has prompted broader conversations about potential amendments to the conditional use permit ordinance. He emphasized the DDA's view that the conditional use permit process is intended to result in operator-specific and site-specific conditions, rather than a standardized checklist applied without operator-specific review. He also reported on emerging discussions at LCG concerning a potential ordinance addressing sleeping and camping in public space, noting that the DDA has not yet seen draft language but supports providing the City with appropriate tools, recognizing the limited capacity of regional shelter services.

Director Update

Director of Development and Planning Rachel Holland reported that the DDA's new office space at 207 Vermilion Street is anticipated to be delivered by the landlord on May 1, 2026, with a phased relocation to follow. She reported that the Ambassador Program at the Catholic Charities of Acadiana campus has been operational since April 1, 2026, and that the Lafayette Police Department has assumed primary security responsibility for the campus from the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office. She reported that construction of the Hotel Lafayette project commenced the previous week, following resolution of a public utility issue that had delayed the project, and noted that the experience underscores the rationale for public-side participation in infrastructure due diligence in older parts of the city. She updated the board on the deployment of new trash receptacles along Jefferson Street, noting that the rollout has been paced to avoid disruption ahead of Festival International. She also reported that the Downtown Ambassadors have entered into an agreement with Festival International to install banners for the 2026 festival, and that the DDA continues to coordinate with festival organizers on public space matters. James Earehart provided an update on Parish Proud Day, scheduled for May 16, 2026, noting that activities will include weeding, debris removal, and planter maintenance along Jefferson Street, as well as cleanup work in Parc Sans Souci.

DLU Update

Downtown Lafayette Unlimited Executive Director Jessica Hauerwas reported on the Rooftop Crawfish Boil scheduled for the evening of the meeting, with approximately 500 attendees expected. She reported on a pilot programming event, Bach Brunch, held the prior Sunday, which drew strong

attendance from families with young children and is being considered for additional iterations. She noted that programming during the prior weekend, including Going to Acadiana, Art Walk, and the Bach Brunch pilot on Sunday, drew strong visitor traffic to downtown, with feedback from downtown merchants indicating one of the strongest Art Walk days in recent months.

Updates

Acadiana Center for the Arts: A representative of the Acadiana Center for the Arts reported that Placer.ai data for the recent Student Arts Expo indicated approximately 13,000 visitors within the expo footprint, exclusive of attendance at Patty in the Park and the Celtic Bayou Festival.

One Acadiana: A representative of One Acadiana previewed upcoming One Acadiana events, including the Impact Series lunch with Paige Carter of Louisiana Economic Development, an open house at One Acadiana scheduled for May 29, 2026, the “Lessons from the Corner Office” series in June, and the leadership exchange to Chattanooga, Tennessee, later in the year.

Public Comment

No public comment cards were submitted.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.