

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A
REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019

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

Those absent: None

Staff present: Anita Begnaud, Hunter Hebert, Amy Trahan

Others present: Tim Skinner, Kim Boudreaux, Ben Broussard, Dorian Brabham, Bruce Conque, Corey Jack, and Blake Douet

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 regard to items on the agenda.

Administrative Approvals/Reports

September Minutes – The September Minutes were presented for approval. Ross motioned to approve, Walls seconded, all voted in favor.

August Financial Statements – The August Financials were presented for approval. Keaty motioned to approve the August Financial Statements as presented, Ross seconded, all voted in favor.

Millage Rate - Matt asked for a motion from the board on the millage rate. Matt read the Resolution into the record. Ross made a motion for the DDA board to maintain current millage rate of 12.75 mills. Keaty seconded, all voted in favor.

Catholic Charities

Kim Boudreaux, CEO of Catholic Charities provided the board with a presentation on how Catholic Charities is addressing homelessness in Downtown Lafayette and the greater community. Boudreaux noted that Catholic Charities is addressing homelessness through sheltering, hygiene centers, feeding centers, and diversion. Boudreaux noted the diversion program enables homeless people from outside this area to return home to their natural support system. Boudreaux noted that this may include family counseling, bus tickets, and logistical planning. Boudreaux noted that program has been unfunded for last year and a half. Boudreaux noted that \$55,000 would fully fund the program for one year. Boudreaux asked the board to consider providing funding for the diversion program. Discussion continued.

CEO Update

Begnaud updated the board on the Programs Budget for 2019. Begnaud noted that several façade improvement grants are in the works.

Begnaud noted that she attended Buchanan Redevelopment site meeting. Begnaud noted she hopes to have more information in the future.

Begnaud that Main Street Stage 0 meetings are moving forward. Begnaud noted that the Scope of Work is nearing completion. Begnaud noted that this study will provide insight in the underground utilities in the area. Begnaud noted that this will help with future projects.

Chairman Update

Board will move to elect officers in November. Matt noted that an email request will be sent requesting submissions of names for board seats. Matt also noted that a proposed budget will be submitted at the November board meeting. Matt noted for the record the retirement of Jolene Harris who has been with the organization for 14 years.

Program Update

Hebert gave a presentation to the board on the 2019 Façade Improvement Program. Hebert noted that program included graffiti removal, sign improvements, crosswalk improvements, façade painting, and new awning.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.