Houma Restoration District

Board Meeting

May 2, 2023

Commissioners Present:

Noah Lirette Jason Underwood-absent Kevin Champagne

Daniel Babin Tom Hassell-absent Sondra Corbitt

Nick Hebert Kevin Faulk Bryan Bunn

Others Present:

Brian Marceaux Cohen Guidry Jason Bergeron

Taylor Gravois -via phone

1. Meeting call to order: N. Lirette called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: N. Lirette led the board in the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call: Quorum was present.
4. Public to be Heard: None
5. Approval of Minutes: B. Bunn motioned to approve April’s minutes. Seconded by: N. Lirette Motion passed. N. Hebert motioned to approve April’s special meeting minutes. Seconded by: K. Champagne. Motion passed.

New Business:

1. N. Lirette reviewed the CEA’s goals and performance measures. Discussion followed: agreement deadlines, quarterly reporting, requesting an extension on the CEA’s agreement, current business plan, forging partnerships with w/non-profits, cultural events, downtown music concerts, paddle launches, creation of a sponsorship program/application, Houma Heights’ cameras, big scale vs. small scale projects, board’s budget, property owner’s letter, board projects/bidding process, bridge maintenance, light fixtures repairs, advisory services to the parish regarding light fixtures, road lighting funding, downtown maps, recreational features, pedestrian-friendly roads, street closures, South Central Planning funding avenues, and downtown walkthrough ranking priorities.
2. Weyl’s Jewelry Sign – N. Lirette led the discussion about refurbishing and erection of the sign. Discussion followed: potential location, sign ordinance, jewelry store history, bayou boardwalk placement, historical markers, obtaining owner’s permission, and downtown walking tour revamp.
3. Opelousas Ordinance discussion – N. Lirette provided an overview of the Opelousas Ordinance. Discussion followed: registration requirements, non-compliance fines, council approvement requirements, condemnation, nuisance abatement, penalties, and forging a special commitment to spearhead this initiative. K. Faulk motioned to form a special committee to draft an ordinance for the downtown area. Seconded by: B. Bunn. Motion passed. Committee members include Chris Pulaski, Jessica Domangue, Noah Lirette, Kevin Champagne, and Bryan Bunn.

Old Business:

1. Downtown Safety discussion: B. Bunn discussed the newly installed security cameras near Lumiere Restaurant and the extra police presence downtown.
2. Landry Furniture Building discussion includes environmental study, Brown Field’s grant, selling parking lot with the building, public parking options, new courthouse building, forging a CEA with Rouses, future grant funding, obtaining an appraisal, site survey, and property remediation. K. Champagne read Tom Hassell’s letter regarding his opinion on purchasing the Landry Furniture building. B. Bunn motioned to authorize Jules Hebert to start the Phase 1 Environmental Study with Earl Eues. Seconded by: N. Hebert. Motion passed. K. Faulk left the meeting at 12:37 p.m.
3. CSRS Update: T. Gravois provided an update to the board via telephone. Discussion included: draft master plan proposal submission, public/stakeholders’ feedback, public hearing, highlighting potential projects, housing, streetscapes, CDBG funding, and council approval.
4. Financial Updates: N. Hebert presented the banking options with B1 Bank. Discussion followed: checking account options, money market accounts, waived penalties, staff member hiring, future funding, accounting software, current account payables due, internal controls procedures, and authorized signatures. S. Corbitt motioned to approve Nick Hebert to open an account with B1 Bank as presented. Seconded by: K. Champagne. Motion passed. N. Lirette motioned to approve Nick Hebert to process all outstanding bills. Seconded by: S. Corbitt. Motion passed.
5. Restoration District letter to property owners: N. Lirette presented the proposed introductory letter to be mailed to the district’s property owners.
6. B. Bunn moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by N. Hebert. Motion passed; meeting ended at 1:21 p.m.

Chair:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_