**LOWER 9th WARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**

**February17, 2025**

**5:30 PM to 7:00 PM**

**Andrew P. Sanchez & Copelin-Byrd Multi-Service Center**

**1616 Fats Domino Ave, New Orleans, LA. 70117**

Call to order by Chairman Waiter at 5:45 p.m

**Roll Call**- Commissioners Present-, Stephen Mosgrove, Otis Tucker, Kendall Parker, Kesha Henry.

 Jean Morris, William Waiters, Leona Tate, Willie Calhoun

 Commissioners Absent - Leon Waters, Yvonne Martin. Randolph Davis,

 (8 present quor is met). Comm’r Martin arrived @ 5:55 p.m.

 **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Tuckers second by commissioner Parker to accept the agenda. 8 yeas no nays agenda accepted.

Chairman noted January minutes were sent out within the prescribed time for review and asked if there are any questions or correction to be made to the January minutes. Motion my comm’r Calhoun second by comm’r Tucker that January minutes be adopted with necessary corrections called for question. No questions. Motion passed. 8 yeas.

**Chairman Report**

The chairman stated his report will lead into old business.

The first item for old business is the ethics training. He gave five minutes for those commissioners who have not sign the ethic training documents (confidentiality, financial disclosure, Conflict of interest), and asked to complete their on line Ethics training when completed send their certificate of completion to Ms. Adams.

**Old Business**

**A. Capital Outlay & Strategic Planning Committee Report**

Our next order of business is Capital Outlay and Strategic Planning committee report.

Chair Tucker of Capital Outlay and Chair Mosgrove of Strategic Planning began their joint report.

A joint meeting was held on Monday, Feb. 17. 2025. Comm’r Tucker identified all committee members that were present at the meeting. He gave handouts to all the commissioners containing the frame work of their report.

He stated, the agenda for that meeting was to discuss the resources for strategic planning priorities.

They had received authority for approval from the commission to further that work at the L9EDD January board meeting. They are asking for more authority, so that, they could continue to work on identifying resources, so they could bring back something tangibles for all instead of this reporting.

He said, they will make a motion at the end of the presentation for full commission authority, with the exception of not entering into an agreement. That concluded his portion of the report.

Chair Mosgrove began his portion of the report. Now we had the support from the full commission to advance certain priorities. There are six, and so in January the full commission provide us affirmation that acceptance, that approval, and that led us to meeting as a joint committee with the capital Outlay to advance the work. Obviously, resources for a plan are particularly important.

Capital Outlay core mission is to find those resources for the commission., and so there is a natural fit for the strategic planning work, that I've led with Jeffrey Whittenbrink, Jr,Betty Perez, Shane Booker and Doron Dusuau. I'm here tonight to announce the work, putting resources on the bone, meat on the bone, if you will.

So I'm just going to briefly outline those priorities again, particularly for folks who hadn't been at the previous meetings, but is that what you're you we good?

Okay. All right. So, so just brief briefly, starting just in July the planning committee, started to meet something that, a framework of thought that I encourage the committee to pursue, including a numbers of things, but two come to mind now, , and that is not to invent a new wheel, to use any strategic planning, resources that already existed. in particular, there was a 2018 Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (RUDAT) plan.

So we we really bounced these priorities off of that RUDAT plan that lower 9th ward community had heavy involvement with. The second thing was to think about priorities that had that were ambitious but had some measure of do ability, feasibility and for us to think about how to get it done and not just put on paper ideas that certainly met the requirement of ambition, and affection even, but but not necessarily do ability. So, but those those key priorities are:

(1) R**evitalization of the lower 9th ward main corridors.** those corridors, as defined here are St. Claude Avenue, North Claiborne, Fats Domino and Tupelo the revitalization notion as a priority for this commission to pursue is comprehensive.

It includes actual retail business development throughout those corridors with an emphasis on everyday deeds for lower 9th ward residents. and it's in goods as services that the residents need. There's a particular desire and emphasis on that. Other aspects of corridor redevelopment would include beautification, infrastructure improvements, infrastructure redesigned. if necessary. A full view of the corridors is something that the strategic planning committee and Capital Outlay committee are looking towards.

(2) **Investment in a market analysis,**

These priority are in no particular order, by the way, but so but in terms of our listing, it's number two here, investment in market analysis. we are looking to rely on some work that Nora and Bobby Boone are doing and as well as a a possible feasibility study for North Claiborne. that one of our strategic planning committee members is working on as he does his due diligence for his own business and his desire to invest in the lower 9th ward with that business.

**(3) Investment** **in the maritime industry job training**. This priority is rooted in the knowledge that the port of New Orleans will be expanding tens of thousands of jobs over the next 20 years for the metro area, particularly with the new terminal in in Saint Bernard parish, we want lower 9th ward residents to be able to benefit from that, and to be trained up and prepared for that and we look to do work, providing access to lower 9th ward forward residents interested in those industries, which pay starting out $65,500 to $75,000 a year, rebuild the middle middle class components, the probably middle class components of lower 9 board homeownership, et cetera, through that do those opportunities.

**(4), A Marketing Program**

There's a particular interest investing in a marketing program.

This would basically promote good things about the lower 9th ward board, change the image, to rebrand it, and hopefully that inspires attraction of residents, and improves the likelihood of the small businesses in particular of investing in the lower 9th ward because there's a growing population, as we march towards a population numbers closer to the pre Katrina population as opposed to the existing depletion of population after Katrina. so there are a numbers of things that the marketing program could entail. We are sensitive as a group not to over promise and under deliver the good things about lower 9th ward, so we're gonna figure out the tone, or we're looking to figure out the tone of a marketing program, but there are there are certain positives in lower 9th ward that can be talked about, and use as positive attractions to increase residence and business development that result from population growth and vice versa sometimes you bring business, and then residents followed because those businesses as someone looks around, they buy a house, they're looking forward to having services relativity nearby if they see that happen. Then that provides the same growth that the lower 9th ward was looking for. One of our aspect of the marketing program would certainly be residents and commissioners being a part of real estate groups and chamber of commerce groups, just constantly talking about lower 9th ward as a place to live, investment business, et cetera.,

**(5) Invest in assets**

That engage lower nine in meaningful ways. The summary of this, is basically our commission, doing work to invest in youth enrichment. and so that could be, under ten as well as young people in their teens. It could mean a little bit of job training, soft skill development, it could mean opportunities to learn languages, and other skills to play chess, to learn history and culture.

Sometimes we know it, but we don't know it. you feel that you've experienced it and maybe know some of the details about it. and just all forms of youth enrichment that strengthen our young people and make them prepared for a full and balanced adult life, by education, emotional maturity, and some of the practical skills that get them paid later, but also enrich them as human beings. So that's a broad category,

a little less economic development focus, but very important economic development in the health of the Lower.

**(6) Investment in cultural and historical assets.**

The strategic planning and capital outlay appreciation for the lower 9th Ward's history, as we've indicated in prior meetings, it's history, arts, culture, and music in particular the proud presence of Fats Domino as an example, to the history and civil rights, as an example of that right here.and to take advantage, not with any negative connotation there, it will take advantage, from a strengthening of the social fabric of the lower 9th ward board. from there, you have a stronger opportunity for economic development, as well as as use of the tourism industry and the opportunity that tourists might provide.

Our work or our focus on numbers six is to create authentic or revitalize to create a renaissance in authentic culture. So that's supporting history and culture that still exist and strengthening that make it authentic and so anyone who wants to experience it that by living in lower 9th ward or visiting the lower 9th ward that's seeing the real deal and and that the people who create that culture feel like they are they're living truly the culture and not some tourist version of it.

So that's six.

Comm’r Tucker said some of the investments have been enabled and other consolidated into one under the investing in a marketing program.

So, we're down to four items, three items at that point, and then be table one. market analysis.. And so I do want to say, I've been reminded by a trusted commissioner, which is true that we are mandated by the state of Louisiana two incorporate a strategic plan, which we have one. and that will be added to the work.

I know the RUDAT has been mentioned a few times in writing and by commissioner Morris, but I'm going to bring that capital outlay, making sure we we're on track with the state requirement. I will stop and pause for a second for any commissioners and I'm not sure if the chair is open for some questions. We still got a little bit more to go.

Chairman Waiters, any questions from the commissioners?

Comm’r Morris, I have a question as it relates to there was a gentleman that was doing a strategic plan or a marketing analysis just recently is he involved in this. Comm’r Mosgrove responded, Yes, he is involved in the marketing analysis.

You are referring to Bobby Boone. he's been hired by the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority to do a market analysis with a particular emphasis on analyzing whether or not there's a viability for a grocery store in lower 9th ward, his work is mainly focused on Saint Claud Avenue. when I first met him and some others first met him, we asked him, whether or not his work would have some value and impact on the rest of lower 9th ward work, he said yes, the NORA people also said yes.

This is one of the reasons we've de emphasized one of our priorities. we emphasize one of our points of emphasis is that some of that work is already being done. and so, you know, it's already being done, we've engaged them, he knows we exist, we would like to benefit from what he finds, what his findings are, as well as community member Booker, who is on a strategic planning committee as a volunteer. He’s a great asset there. He and his private work as a business owner, he's he's working on a feasibility study for North Claiborne for the Claiborne side. Comm’r Morris, asked who is that in the audience?

Comm’r Mosgrove responded, Lower 9th ward resident S Booker and so I'm sure we will glean some some value out of that. So it's just been the emphasize if we feel like we need something that just targets different information or answers different questions, then we'll reemphasize that and finally do our work.

Comm’r Tucker publicly, thanked community member Booker for his work. He volunteered to create the structured outline of a marketing plan for us.

Comm’r Tucker continued, we were thinking about maybe engaging a firm that's an expert. We must identify the funds, obviously. bringing on a firm that can do this work in the spirit of this outline, but some of the things we talked about during discussion, relative to marketing, be blunt.

That's not much here to market. If we do drive tourism and drive residence here, then it come and discover some blight, some lots of potential. But one thing we did not mention was TEP center, we got a walking legend, serving here on our commission.

We got two or three Mardi Grass Indian tribes down here. I think that's more than any other ward in the city.

We have six tribes here., we have 2 2nd line, Bush Park, we got Sankofa.

So, with that we thought about the people, that's our strength, that our huge strength. we discussed maybe a festival or not if not a festival, something that brings everybody together annually. and perhaps for all people to meet the people opposed to a structure an asset. Strategic planning has identified the need for promoting the lower 9th board at the recent joint committee meeting, we discussed a little further what that would look like, right?

with additional ideas, some initial ideas were, you know, becoming members of Chambers of Commerce, real estate groups, you know, being a positive birdie in people’s ears, of course, a marketing program.

but again, recently we threw out more ideas of the community member Perez talked about festivals, cultural activities that could could draw, bring cohesion for the for the residents, bring folks from the metro area throughout into the area and so just something positive, something that in the process of promoting that event, you're promoting the lower 9th ward. So it's just one example of how to promote a lower 9th ward.

I think we want to find tune, advance more ideas and find tune existing ideas. so, I feel like I missed something there. I would add if you and my and Steve and just for don't think dollars if Jeffrey mentioned to us some changes that may come from some large controversy project that skilled back their approach to the industrial canal. And with with that, there may be some mitigation money, large dollars.

Comm’r Morris interjected one of the things that is missing, but we just maybe haven't thought about it yet, is we need to secure a grant writer or a research group to identify funds be it federal, state, local, some of that money you're talking about, mitigation money, and have the sole focus of that adhoc committee is to research for funding. And I would like to check to head that committee as treasurer to be and anybody else in the community that you know, would like to work with us to do that.

I'm studying to be a certified grant writer, so that would be perfect.

Comm’r Tucker-I know everybody's time valuable. I do appreciate the feedback.

I do wanna get to the public, so we could try and close. I'm gonna hold my motion for that I am gonna cap this with a motion and important motion. So we hear you and I saw Commissioner Mosgrove taking notes, so any other questions from commissioners? No

Open for public comment. Community member Norlita Wells commented she think the festival would be a great idea that jazz fest started in a small room just like this?

Secretary Calhoun asked when you give your comments, to identify yourself.

Community member Cynthia Gillumett “You mentioned our festival, and it was a huge success, but we wanted to do it with other organizations in the community.”

Comm’r Mosgrove said we looked at that. One thing that we emphasized the joint committee and we certainly emphasize this in the strategic planning committee is partnerships.

So, and we can't I mean, I know that she kind of perspective, we can't and aside is bad enough, , both in you know the value of expanding our capacity, ability to execute these ideas, and working together in cohesion, have been, you know, a difficulty for lower 9 board and other areas of New Orleans. I do have some experience in the lower 9, so please, if you don't know me, don't think that that's coming out of the blue. I've worked in this area before children in and after. and so working together and tapping into what a variety of groups are doing, has a lot of value. So yes, certainly happy to work with good men out there. That's fine.

Community member Lindsay Edwards, commented I just have to say that but the discussion are that using the term mitigation money is very disturbing to me. That's all I'm gonna say.

Okay, any other comments?

Community member Betty Perez commented what I discovered in Stop the Grain Train and learning more about lower nine, just so many creatives we have here. We have three comedians who lived in the lower nine. We have I knew of a lot of musicians, and now I know of so many more. We could if we could just even get a space for our creatives to show our artists, I mean, we certainly know the ones that you see them all the time, but then all of a sudden they're coming out of their home and say, we have three comedians who are getting do a show for us at Peaches records, to raise money for our legal fund or the grain train. I mean, and musicians have come out who are bands.

They' saying, we're stepping up, so we have a really great opportunity to market use community, and I and I'm involved in all of sudden. I don't know any of those folks. And they're coming to these meetings saying stop the train where five of us have to leave in just a minute to go to that meeting.

But we have so much to market down here and I knew I love it here, but I had no idea how much marketing, how many talents we have to market. So I'm very excited about is the marketing programs and marketing our community. Any other public voices, comments?

Yes, Richard Johnson, you really that like, when we talk to like I go on sport opportunity for people in this with me. is what I'm thinking about, like I did a combine a couple of years ago at Harrell Park and it was a beautiful, I just I love sports. I think about how it brings the community together. Especially youngsters and they found right now as a huge thing, parents are crazy about their kids going to the NFL. Bob is like, yeah, that sound good. that sound nice. It possibly could, but it's much bigger than that use.

So your comment is that you wanna see a sports combine located in the lower nine.

Comm’r Henry commented last year, our support for Sam Bonart park and its coaches. She said those guys are really doing a lot of things and they're getting like 100 something kids to come out. So working closely with them. We have the coaches numbers, we bought helmets and uniforms directly for the kids so it helps with that image. I was a park monitor at Harrell for almost five years, so I'm very familiar with the part system and how important it is.

So, actually, if you did that, how we can work with you to get you partner with them because they are doing the things they have been to championships, you know, it was something that hasn't happened in over 30 years for this area. So they're really building the program and their cheerleaders now.so really,

if you wanna do something like that they have being turn out football season.

Comm’r Mosgrove- and fits definitely into the youth enrichment part of the strategic plan. and we should never forget the sports component. Even though a very small percentage of young people would make it to the pros, or even make it to division one ball. Sports, you know, has value beyond that, teamwork, sacrifice all those lessons. of course, the physical benefits, and that's a good example of how this commission leverage its work in partnership with city government gets some of the NORD parks improve, because a lot of the great athletes that come out of New Orleans started out at the parks. They had great coaching. and it goes beyond just the high school experience. It's really on coaching on assets that the older guys and gals cite as their beginning when sometimes there's a low opportunity elsewhere. and they they cite their beginning. We call in New Orleans parks often.

Comm’r Tucker-Thank you. I want to make sure that we respect the rest of the people time.

I do have procedure out of motion. If I get a second, we can discuss the motion at that point.

The main motion to reform is a 3 part motion. The motion is to grant full permission authority to the joint committees, the strategic plan and capital outlay to fully execute the items approved by the board, but not to enter into any agreement without specific board permission. Part two, the joint committee shall provide important updates at monthly board meetings. And part three, the commission authority can be revoked from the joint committees at any regular monthly meeting or special meeting of the Lower 9 EDD meeting both commissions and by a proper motion second only by a simple majority vote. Second. motion by commissioner tucker and second by commissioner Morris on the three part motion close open question.

Comm’r Mosgrove- I just like to say commissioner Morris have really liked what we present because I didn't even get a chance to second it. Comm’r Morris-I read the whole thing while y'all were talking.

Chairman Waiters-Are we prepared to vote and he called for public comment.

Community member Lindsey Edwards asked to explain a little more how this procedure would differ from the regular procedure of bringing to the commission a project that you that you want funding for now if you something in committee, then you would bring it to the commission for approval.

How is this new motion that process differ?

Comm’r Tucker-You can only take these projects to the finish line that they already approved. is six of them. We mention them, four three consolidated at the last approved..

So basically you're just adding the approval to the capital out? Is that the only difference?

No, my comment is exactly why it differs from the way a committee would normally work, which would be, you would explore things in committee and then bring it to the commission if either a committee report and then a proposal to be voted on for funds. How is that any different from that process?

Comm’r Calhoun-I think what they're doing is putting a rule in place that anything will be decided and concerning this process going forward, that the board will be informed and actually have a vote before it goes any further than anything else.

Comm’r Tucker-It's just a proper procedure, that's because you can't commit, you can't you're going to spend money on something. So I understand you in opposition. in opposition. I want to understand't..

So your comments are noted. any other?

Chairman Waiters-Call roll, Mr. Secretary. Y Martin-Yes. S. Mosgrovel-Yes, O.Tucker-Yes, K Parker-Yes, K. Henry-Yes, J. Morris-Yes. W. Waiters-Yes. L.Tate-Yes, W. Calhoun-Yes. Nine yes it's no nays. Motion pass.

Chair thanked joint committee for the work that they've done and the work that they planned on join. and I'm standing. ChS said if you will email some of you's address this full plan, so that you have an opportunity to read it to leave at your leisure. If you didn't get all the components while they wouldn't explain it. that correct.

Okay. , if you signed in at the signing desk with you email, that way, he would be able to communicate with you to send the documents to your email address.

**B. Board Retreat.**

Our next order business is the board retreat.

Comm’r Morris stated the the two RFPs that came in were out of the scope of the financial that was allowed for board retreat. We budgeted $3,500. One RFP came in at $10,000 and the other one came at $40,000.

Those were outside of the scope of our requests. In the executive staff meeting, we talked about limiting or selecting, it was in pieces. The RFP came in pieces, for example, the evaluation, the the assessment, putting a plan, a strategic plan in place for the board.

So at the executive staff meeting, we thought about presenting that we select a piece of one of the vendors offers that will fit into the scope of our dollars. I am making, I'm requesting a motion that we that I move forward with selecting the piece that is most valuable for us that is within our thirty five hundred dollars as a board retreat. Chairman Waiters- And what component of that?

Once I look at it, I'll bring it back to the board.

Chairman Waiters-They did send you a perspective as to what they offer, right? Yes, that's in the RFP.

They submitted respondes to the RFP.

Chairman Waiters asked what component out of that are we looking at to this?

I'm asking the board to move forward with selecting possible components.

That's what I'm asking what components?

I have to look at the details. I don't have it off the top of my head of what those components are.

But for example, one of the things that I don't think is necessary is the evaluation after and continued board support is not needed. That in one of the the $40,000 was like $15,000 for them to continue to support us. So the pieces that I'm looking at that was in the RFP is the actual retreat and that's the only piece.

All of the other pieces that's in that RFP, you know, were just kind of fluff like, to be honest with you. So I'm asking the board for approval to move forward out of the two, select what we actually need based on what they offered and bring it back to the board to ask the vote on what we actually need.

Comm’r Tucker-asked in their budget they lined items activities and you want approval for you or your committee will to go in and select up to 3,500 worth of activities.

Comm’r Morris-That's what I'm asking for.

She wants permission to negotiate with which one of them. With both of them, I want to look at both of them first, to see who's got the most cost effective and with the meat potato. Exactly.

Chairman Waiters asked what’s the name of the two companies that submitted.

I didn't't bring that with me. I do apologize, Comm’r Henry interjected it's in the emails.

Comm’r Morris-yes but I'll send it back out again.,

Comm’r Mosgrove- just to be clear. did we put out an RFP? I would probably call it RFQ, Yeah, it was an RFQ, yes.

Okay, and it went out yes.. And we had how many response? Two.

$10,000 and one was for $40,000. Are we allowed to negotiate?

Chairman Waiters- Not really.She has to bring proposal back to us and we make the final decision.

That's what she's asking is to reject criteria, reject their bid and go back out.

Comm’r Tucker-This put us in a time we got to expend funds unless we as it's been allocated for that, you show a vendor

Chairman Waiters- what is your ask? I guess then my ask would be to reject those bids based on not being cost effective, and go back out in another three days with a limited and revised scope, and then bring that back to the board. at this point we just put our budget on it.

Comm’r Henry- I know the last time when we had to retreat, when we first started, it just as a reference, NOLABA funded that time and they spent $15,000 for the full day in just two days and they put a package together, with like conflict resolution of there was a lot of meat and potatoes.

So, and that was $15,000, so if a firm is coming in, we really have to look at if the amount that he budgeted for is realistic. $3500 did not include those conflict resolutions and something that was just something more general. But as for you as the world something a little more real resolution, those those true me standing on address. So we and the board may have to look at those numbers and see of their budgets may be able to change looking at how much that would normally cost.

Okay, so Ms. Morris, your ask is to critique and format it then $3,500 we budget for. If possible, yes. O.

Motion by Commissioner set by commission and Tucker. to allow to trade. treasurer to format a new statute file $3,500 budget for our retreat. Is that your motion?

Yes.

Comm’r Tucker-When are you gonna you wanna When are you gonna post it?

I'm going to go back today's Wednesday. I'm hoping that I can revise it and have it done by Monday.

Comm’r Henry- asked can we look at the budget? Maybe could we look at the budget first before we put out the RFP, look at the budget, can you look at the numbers and what we have and ask we can, you know, $40,000 in a a $6,000 difference for a firm that has the meat potatoes. we need,

what about put a little bit more effort into, and I don't know how much effort you put into marketing it and posting it?

Where do we post that? We posted it on our website. I put it in neighborhood engagement on neighborhood of next door. and a couple of places that I posted it.

Comm’r Henry-Just the firm dollars that we get from and I know even I had told Chandra about it she sent it out too. So, a few different, it went out. I just think that budget is gonna have too little just to have an expert to come in and here and get an expert. pass a And if we can call about that $10,000 if they have all the meat and potatoes, if we can find that $10,000 or can.

Well, we can talk about the budget. what is the next finance the next finance committee. I don't have a date set yet. Or maybe we can do next week.

That's right. Okay I'll call for one. And and just to be clear, we're putting out broadly to everyone another if we can RFQ..

Okay, that's cool. Well, what I do is developed the RFQ, then I send it to the board for review and any comments or revisions they want to make and then I finalize it and send it out. I can do that if you send it back out, you pretty much go get your same results.

But we just need to the dollar amount is the issue. We won't get no experts with $3,500. I think before we even put it back out, we need to look at the numbers to see what we getting ready to do. and we might be able to call if the one that took $10,000 had enough, that alleviates the process of putting out a lot of doing another going into the next kind of similar to what we did with our joint committees, we're gonna have to grant you authority, but not to exceed. And so y'all gonna have to come back.

The committee meets and then the committee has the approval to identified funds, not to exceed $5,000, $10,000 and then have the authority to put it out for bid and review put it out for a response and then bring those back. And then at that point, maybe you have something that would be. And I mean, treasurer, I need you, because you looked at the budget like, where can you find another $7,000? probably. You think so? So now $10,000.

Okay, so basically $10,000 to give. Okay, give her committee on raising the cap to 10,000 one that we have in, would they qualify or would be the resubmit that. Okay, so the motion now is a cap of $10,000 in for your finance committee to recently commit.

You will do a RFQ.

Public comment.

No comments Okay. Call for the vote.

Roll call. Martin Yes. Mosgrove, what's the dollar amount? Ten thousand; Yes, Tucker Yes, Parker Yes,

Henry Yes, Morris Yes, Waiters, Yes. Tate Yes, You still got eight yeas, no nays, no abstention. Comm’r Calhoun had left the meeting at 6:25 p.m. (recording is still going.)

**C. Finance Report**

Okay, our next order business on the new business is a finance committee report.

The first thing I would like to ask is that the finance committee report be put under old business.

What's the difference? What's the difference is not new business. It's all business.

Not trying to be difficult. I even mention it. I find what what's about to happen to be doing and refreshing. business out to each commissioner at this time is actually the financials of where we are.

This second page that I'm handing out is what we spent it all, and what is still outstanding. It's kind of small, because I was trying to pit it all on one page. one of the things we have over spent in some categories, and I'll go over that as soon as I take my seat. in the category of youth development, we overspent $5,039.

In the category of accounting and financial in youth development.

That's on this page here. Spent, over budgeted, well, no overspent. Oh, you, see?

Okay. Accounting, financial and auditing services we overspent 2,0. Administrative services, we've overspent 6500.

Rent we've overspent 500 Board training. I'm sorry, not board training. Attorney 2000. thousand all of the other categories.

We have funds left over. In the strategic planning we allocated 20 we spent 20. Insure program goals, we allocated 10,700.

We did not spend 10,700. community revitalization, we budgeted 45,000 we spent 20,250, so 24,750 was left over. Improved businesses we allocated 14,300. We spent 5000, which left us 9,300.

Our youth development we budgeted 23,000 we expended 28,139, which gave us that 5,139.

Community program for residents. We budgeted 59,000 we spent 7500, which left us with 51,500.

Accounting financial and audit services, we budgeted 1500 We expended 3750, which left us with a negative 225. Administrative we budgeted 10,800. We expended 17,30 6,550 overspent. rent we budgeted 6000 we spent 6500 so it's $500 overspent.

Office supplies we budgeted 5800 We spent 26,282.92 which left us with $3117. Board training, 3500. We have not spent that yet.

Attorney we budgeted $1500. We spent $3500 and $200. On the second page of board members on the second page that I gave you all, which is for the 2023 year of those categories that I just discussed and how we spent who the vendors were, the contracted amount, the amount we paid them, and the balance of those contracted amounts, or if there was no contract amount, for example, in insure program goals and objectives, there was no contract, so we didn't have any contract or amount paid or balance.

We started out with 180,000 We wind up we started out with two hundred thousand Some funds were spent prior to this 170 and 22. Our chairperson was balancing 22 and I balanced 23. He had the binders to do that, and so that's how we split the project up.

So, at the end of the day, from what I can see, our balance should be $86,078.4.

Some of these vendors, I have to balance with them because I don't have invoices for some of those expenditures.

Ms. Adams requested a copy of the spread sheet from Comm’r Morris, Oh, I'm sorry. I should have given you a copy.

She stated an MOU is not an invoice, An MOU gives you the dollar amount and the the type of services that a vendor is offering. That's what an MOU does. It's like a contract.

I'm going to give you an example; I'm going to sell you 10,000 hats for $10,000. That's it.

The invoice tells me that you sold five thousand of those 10,000 and you want to be reimbursed for those five thousand so I need to make sure that for all of these vendors we have the invoices to support the amount of payment.

I'm going to give you an example. Let me just find one that's not controversial. Well, let's let okay, let me just say this. CSED for an example. We budgeted 15,000. Chairman Waiters stated that numbers is wrong.

It is only 13,000 for CSED. Well to go back to your invoice, because if you go back to the minutes, there's only $13,000. report Procedurally, Comm’r Tucker asked the chair if want him to chair the item since you passion it? He said no He can chair the item.

No, I'll check. Go ahead, Miss Morris.. Okay, from what I saw, it was $15,000.

If you have an MOU for 13,500, I'd like to have that so that I can correct my numbers. However, we have paid $6750 to CSED. I have an invoice for $6750 Now if you're saying that the MOU for CSCD that I don't have is 13,000 it's not in the binder, sir.

I brought it to it's not in the binder.? Yes, sir. If you find it, I'll be happy.

Oh, excuse me, did I do that? Okay. so I would adjust my 15,000 to reflect the correct balance. Give you an example.

Fresh start was allocated $10,000. They were paid $9,250, which left $750 unspent. I have invoices for all for this 9,250.?

They had two fresh start had two programs. One was for the youth at Martin Luther King for ten thousand and one was for adults in the community for 10,000. Okay, but they were paid three times for those those two services.

 Comm’r Henry-Yes ma'am. So just to say some changes need to have any one of the first thoughts to go shouldn't be under youth development and CSED that community revitalization, that program was canceled and that needs to be under youth development. If it was canceled. I'm not aware of that. When was doing the the drainage that was the wasn't. So what are we doing?

what are we paying them for now? they submitted for the development program. So they should be under youth development?

One of the under the community rev not revitalization. Community programs for residents, that's what. Okay, I I'll make that change.

I'll make that change.

Comm’r Parker -asked about receipts for example, I'm looking at the football, you see if they ask for 7,500 for buying equipment, you want the invoice for the equipment that they bought.

Comm’r Henry-We actually purchase, I actually went and purchase the products and donated the items. v.

Comm’r Tucker-She need not just the receipt because that completes the transaction. She needs the invoices. though that's a different type of called. So like with friend sig, and then we and were thought when we did the ver down maybe, it actually had put a so amount. and then once they come completed, they put like, I had specifically, once you got to the finish time and trained and actually gave evidence of of the kids, that they were lower 9th ward residents, that they actually, even if they were at the school, had to have address here, like a light bill or something, saying that they were residents of the lower line, Comm’r Tucker-let's do this, because this is progress and I know you came up with a bunch of procedures and processes, so if it's redundant, I apologize. But so we don't have this going forward.

The process, if it needs to be in a motion, the process is MOU first. RFP/RFQ, then MOU invoice and then receipt to complete the transaction.

Comm’r Morris- The invoice, I need to know the measurable, because on the cost report, it asks you for the percentage of the measurable. And so, if you say you're going to buy $10,000 hats, the measurable is 10,000, but you're getting paid fifty percent so you you've purchased five thousand hats.

That's the measurable now. and you paid five thousand dollars. So it's even across the board. it is in the MOU and that is what we need to make sure that’s in the MOU because that's the only way we're be able to say, hey, this is expected also like for the first show, we also put in the MOU that they had to provide the information of like if the kids got jobs, so that we can have research to say if this was a successful program, and if it's something that what she provided was the each of the students that took the Fresh start programs, part of their program, was paid for by us in the ten thousand for the state exam. And so what she provided was the pass all of the students passed it, and she provided their passing from the state evidence from the state that they had passed the state exam. and she got her last payment. So that's why you see the breakup. Now, I'd like to continue to move forward in respect for people's time. I do have this the bank balance.

I started balancing in May of 2023 and I've completed it through January, when I ran out of ink and I rental. So I do have this for review and submitting it to the board as a documentation. I'm sorry, of -h and what, where's my all the page did he print?

Oh my God. I'm gonna have to submit it to you again because it didn't print. Right now I have May 23, June, July, August, March of 23.

Oh, I'm going backwards. Okay. So I do have it.

And I'll submit it to you of balancing of the bank statements. Up to this year, yes. Yes, up to January of 2025.

I have that. Yes.

So, I'm submitting for the record, this oh, this is the other thing that we didn't finish on this. The negative balances in the executive staff meeting was discussed to reallocate funds to cover those negative balances and do an amendment to the CEA to make sure that our funding was in line with the state.

So, I did make some recommendations. I have allocation recommendations on this page here, and on that page we reallocated community revitalization from 45 thousand I'm recommending it to be 46,900. I' youth development was budgeted at 23,000.

My recommendation for reallocation is 28,139. It covers the five thousand negative balance. Community programs for residents was 59,000.

I would like to reallocate it to 36,1111 so that it will cover the negative in the financial audit in the administrative in the rent in the attorneys, so that we come out with the $21,100. We were received 200,000 from the state. However, a grant I wrote a grant for MLK to the council member, and we were awarded $1 thousand dollars.

So that's where that extra thousand dollars come from. But that money went straight to MLK we were the fiscal agents for that, and that money went directly to MLK and then $1 hundred dollars for ESport, which was another grant that we received. And that went directly.

So that's why it's not a $200,000 even. Okay? So I would like to offer these as part of the record. for the training to see if we can get the $ Yeah, I'm gonna have to look at the numbers again because of the board training, but I can't do that tonight.

Chairman Waiters-, yes, you can. Hear me out. Okay, we know that you have $4,000 to $6,900 in that wasn't over here. No,

Community program for residents. You started out with $59,000, right? Okay, you spent $7500 out of that, right?

That left you 51,500. Correct. So, you said allocation left is 36,111, right?

Exactly. So, you can’t take it out of that? I can.

Comm’r Morris-This is the difference. This is how the funds were spent. This is how we're going to reallocate it. However, in reallocate,

Chairman-the bank has nothing to do with it. you got $50,000 in the bank.

Comm’r Martin- She saying what’s the numbers that based on her records, but what we have in the bank does not match. So if you let us finish our report, we can get there.

Comm’r Henry under youth development need to be pushed around up to so this has to be.

Comm’r Morris-So this is how we spent the categories we spent in, where we overspent and what we have left over, okay This is only budgeted numbers. The actual numbers is the money we have in hand to spend in the bank.

So when we look at the actual number we have on hand in the bank, it may it won’t readjust these numbers. It just tells us what we have left to spend, which is different than saying, what we budgeted 59,000 so we are moving money around. You can move it around or you won't to satisfy the state for the correct allocation to cover the negatives.

That's one thing. now when you say, but I need $10,000, that's not in here. That's what we have to spend in the bank, which the state has nothing to do with. It does in a sense, you know, we have to do our quarterly reports, but as it relates to this reallocation to cover these negatives, that's what whatever we have in the bank, that's where the ten thousand dollars would come from.

Chairman-Okay, so as what's the balance in the bank as of today.

Comm’r Morris-I don't have that statement with me because I haven't had a chance to get to that that piece on what the balance is in the bank.

Comm’r Tucker- will someone log in quickly? it takes two minutes.

Chairman- Can you login ? You got the password; you change the password.

Comm’r Tucker- While she's doing that I think that

Comm’r Morris- I'm trying. I'm gonna seat., she can't wait.

Comm’r Martin- First, she can't do it on a new thing. That's. It's that's a computer.

This one here is this is my the. Can you get access? in your phone?

It che. And the I is gold saints of this building. So we' unable to val your information you guys try has extra money sitting over here at this line, just put it at this line.

You can't do that because I'm guessing, because it's not related categories, right? You have to justify the movement of that money. the moves you were able to do was kind of sink into certain categories, you were able to move a couple of dollars here and then. But you have to justify why you're moving the money and where you're moving it to and why where you're moving it to need the money.

So at that point, if the board approves this moving, then I can write the justifications. If I have a problem it, but then you come back to fulfill what he's trying to say trying to move money. You got to need time, right?

Comm’r Tucker-Yes. You just can't pull that money. So you want to approval and then an amendment later? wait, I want an approval for this if the chair is recommending that we move again more money to cover the board training, then I would rather just make another move and then come back and ask for a approval for the final recommendation.

Chair-Well, the motion that we entertain was sealing the $10,000. Right.

So right now, you only have $3,500 to deal with. So, what I'm saying is, if we said the ceiling is

$10, 000 move the ten so you have your change from one I'm gonna change for one category another, but I gotta make sure it works. We need $6,500. The numbers. Now, to keep not the whole people in our executive staff meeting, it was stated that the State has not received 2022 and 2023 quarterly reports. course reports.

I have evidence that they did receive it that I'd like to submit. This is just to start off with. This is the CEA from the state saying that it was approved.

Do you remember we were talking about James, and they made a transition of people that when I was chair, that's who my my contact was James Kelly. and then the Wait, let me finish. Let me finish, okay? on in April of 2022, I asked Mr. Kelly to confirm that you received the Lower Nine contracts and were using the necessary documents attached, and he said I have been receiving the contract and I use you have been sending they have been placed in your file.

That's another email. In accordance with CEA199. I'm sorry, 119.

I’m submitting the required documents for the January 1, 2022. These are the emails where it was submitted. And then he's saying, is submitting the required documents for the period, you know, has been a so we have that's Yes, that's what I was working on because you were doing Yeah, I'm going to give you all of this. Okay, I'm gonna give you all of this.

We don't to talk where the public understands. Okay., the email from James Kelly, his title James Kelly is the fiscal control analyst for the office of the state treasurer, John M. Schroeder. He was, as when I was chair in 2022, was the contact person for me to do to submit the first CEA that the board had under act 119.

This is the evidence that he has said the email on January 26th, 2022. This email is to inform you that your act 119 CEA has been approved An approved copy will be mailed, okay and authorized and stuff. Okay.

On April 27th, I forwarded it to Mr. Kelly under act 119 the required documents for the period of January 1 through March 30th. Now remember, this was approved for January 26th, but when you're doing the cost report, you have to go from the first month to to the first of each month for 30 days. So this is my evidence that it was submitted and received and approved, and as he said, he put it in our files that was that.

That the one I'm sorry, treasure. The one you just put down, what's that highlighted statement? Oh, in accordance with Act 119, the L9EED is submitting the required documents for the period of January 1, 22 through March 30, 2022, which is the first quarter.

Okay. I'm going to give it all to you because as a matter of record. Okay. So the next quarter would be April, May, and June, okay?

 I said I would appreciate a confirmation that you have received L9 EDD contracts, MOU and the necessary documents attached for L9 EDD vendors. Also, you can let me know if there's anything else you need and any requirements from for the Light should have been from the L9EED. His response was, I have been receiving the contracts, MOU you have been sending they have been placed in your file.

Please be advised that you must submit cost pro progress cost reports to show the appropriate was spent in accordance with agreement. and I said thank you for your quick response. hold on. He he's requesting the cost reports. No, he's not requesting it.

He's stating report b e sent in, is he not? That you must submit I have submitted it with these documents. He's just reiterating on everything that should have been submitted.

Let me tell you what our problem is. your personal contact is Jim Kelly James Kelly the person sitting in the seat now is Kenneth Como. So they are saying that they have no. I?

On May 20th, I ask I would like confirmation that the L 9 EDD quarterly reports has been reviewed. If there are any outstanding items that are needed, please let me note. Mr. Keller responded on May 23 your call your progress cost reports have been received.

If any issues are discovered when it is worked, someone will contact you no contact. This is 202 May May 23r, 2022. Again, on July, the attached letter explains there was an issue , let me preferences, with Mr. Webb's check and the cost report was sent back to me because Mr. Webb took too long to the check and I submitted the cost report with his cost in it, so Mr. Kelly was not was basically saying, well, where is his invoice and why this check hasn't cleared, so I had to submit a letter to him explaining to him what happened Mr. Mr. didn't he processed it as an ACH and not the check.

So that's why I couldn't I had to go to the bank and get all that stuff to justify that it's the the ACH and the check is the same thing. It was the same to cover the same cost. So I attached the letter explaining why the L9 ED does not have a front and back copy of Charles Webb's ap pack check for 1525 for accounting service hard copies of the fourth quarter report have been mailed. this right here are the cost reports that were submitted if they are already here.

So who I ask a couple of times for the contact at the state on who you guys are talking to the information the person that I that you all gave me was not aware, so I'm asking again so that I can, or as the treasurer, speak to the treasury of the state to get us straight because we have proof from those folks. those documents because I'm gonna submit them back to Yes. is. I give her the information. I don't have it with me right now.

Okay. Also in this packet here for November 8, 2023, this was we were meeting on Deslonde Street at your building. And in that meeting, we had an executive session update.

Then we went over at 119 of 2021 because 21-22 is really the act one 119 fiscal year. Does that make sense? Okay.

So in doing that, we had we went over a lot of things, but I also had submitted to the board, all of the that's my mama thinking all of the cost reports. and this is a copy along with everything else that we went over for the 22 twenty one, twenty fiscal year. And that's where we had the TBDs on on there, that's all it. So this is the cost reports for January 1 and March 31st of 2022. This is just our copies.

This is of January 1, March 31st, April 1st to June 30th of 2022 is July 1 to September of 2022 October 1 to December 31st of 2022. The reason they' not sign because this was my copies, okay? October again, I have two copies

Chairman Waiters-In the right hand corner, there's a date in the upper right-hand corner. There's a date Comm’r Morris-with that quarter up October 1 to December 31st. Chairman Waiters-

And that was on 1,January through March, January I must have made a lot of copies, April through June. And that concluded that year for 2023. So when you all said in the executive staff meeting and I was saying I didn't have the proof with me, I went back in my files and I'm saying we did do that. send and I gave you the contact't retired. And the other fella's name is Commeaux. And then we have Schmolke who's also has the same title Mr. Kelly has.

Comm’r Martin-We didn't have a transition plan that is the problem.

Comm’r Morris-So what we need to do now is to have a ?

Comm’r Henry-because we gotta do physical year 22 to 23 because that's when I was chair and they don't have that. Ms. Adams is our witness, Mr. Webb did not do his part of it, we had to send it back to him because he put the previous year CEA 119 on it.

Comm’r Henry-Mr.Webb is our CPA. When we're doing on the part that he does, we were completing those documents because we remember we had to do a backlog and he sent it in when we were going to sign the documents to send in, he had the previous projects on the present here, which was not correct. And it was told to him he had to redo it, and in that process of him supposed to redo it, you were elect chair and I brought that up in the board meeting and y'all said everything was taken care, and I said, well I should have had the signed because it was under my chairship. and y'all said he took care of everything. that we were in compliance.

Comm’r Morris-so we didn't move forward with anything.

Comm’r Henry- So that they probably you need to he has them, but he needs to change the projects and put the projects.

Comm’r Morris-because I forwarded to our chair at the executive staff meeting in Manilla Folder's the cost reports that you signed under your chairmanship. And so, you know, we decided in the meeting that he would do 22 and I would do 23 of Act 119, I would do 119 and he would do 170.

Chairman Waiters- Okay, so that's where the problem came in with Mr. Webb. and he used yours has been act 170 and he used 119 which you took in 21and 22, yours should have been 22 to 23 taking one.

Exactly. So it in, 22 and 21, And so when when Miss Henry was chair, the reports were submitted incorrectly to the state and Miss Henry asked me to work with her to correct the reports that needed to be resubmitted to the state because of him using the wrong numbers. Right.

And so then you became chair. Okay. And then that's that and then when you became chair in our meetings, when we asked about the cost reports and what have you, you and Reverend Calhoun had stated that we were in compliance and everything was taken care of, so we didn't move forward with anything because we were under that impression.

Chairman Waiters-we’re looking at act 170 and we submitted the cost reports under 170 I have to go back and look in the file because I think it was be the second and third quarter, don't hold me to that, because if we didn't have the first second or third we didn't go back for the cost reports for that because that we didn't think there was any reason to backtrack we only started out from where we were. bought it.

Comm’r Henry-That’s why after the transition, I bought it up and I told you all that, because when we were trying to sign it, because remember, we had to bring Mr. Webb back on to get it done and when he sensed it, it was wrong. So we paid him for it, but it wasn't correct and when I went to it putting the evidence together because when you're doing it just so that the community, when you're doing the cost report, you're not only giving them what the state be allocated, you have to give them invoice. give them proof that this that's why I'm so invoice and stuff. when I'm looking at, I'm like, where is this? And that was the problem.

The CEA I'm like, he never sent it, I'm looking at it like, oh, he's sent me the same thing two times, but he really just he did he just changed it here. So it wasn't so I had, because I know Jean, she wasn't the treasurer at times. she's accountant because she did it on previous occasion, I asked her to come in to help do those numbers and all we had to do was resubmit them so him, and he could just sign off on them.

A CPA does have to sign it. So Miss Jean is an accountant, so she's wrote it familiar with that numbers. So that's what means to be submitted.

That's why we're saying reading invoices because of statement on front and bag copies of the checks, they want everything, every dollar and what was done and, you know, so that's why to do that all that means said. because we have invoices and copies of supporting documents missing, or so it's clear that we are not at this point. So this is the second phase that I'm going to go through. I'm going to go back to each one of these.

This I went through with the checkbook and the bank statements. Okay? Now I'm going to go back and some of them I went through to verify that we had invoices and what have you.

I need to go back now and look at each and every one of them to make sure that we have our invoice and and the copy of the check, which we do have the copies of the checks. I'm just missing some invoices. For example, a missing CSED's invoice.

And my last thing that I understood was the MOU is the invoice, pay based on that. I can't do that.

Chairman Waiters- that was generated for it needs to be in before the end of the year. Right.

So I'm going what I'm gonna do, is to reallocate the funds to cover the bull retreat. Go back through all of the documentation. I'm going to need to get the 2022 binder from you in order to do that and verify that I have an invoice and a check for each one of these calls when you log on when you get your statements from the banker on the back of that statement it's one it's pages one through four and on that fourth page there's a copy of all your check.

That's what I use that's what I use. That's how I knew how much was spent for each under the expended category based on those checks. and that's true. However, the state wants the front and back copy of it, and on the bank statement the first thing when the new administration came in just to let you know they will take the then I have that.

So now I still need the invoices. So the binder that you put together under your tenure, I was able to verify the with invoices. However, there are some right now that are still outstanding that I need some some invoices for. under the lower they did not send the support documentation to see what they did because people without so I got to give them they needed to they shouldn't have got the whole money without they find what housing they are and they't a

Comm’r Tucker-Personal privilege. We are 25 years into the 21st century. Can we do way with with binders? Can we scan?

Chairman Waiters- Why? You need it just for incidences like this. for records for records, nobody's acted for original, because you would then have to hand

I have to scan it and send it to would already. No, no, I'm just saying I understand what you're saying. and you instead of mailing it, but you have a audit purposes..

I'm years from now. I'm not what I'm saying is you all have to keep doing this. no? All you have to do is give you can you gonna put this in a safety, whatever you wanna put it at in a storage, go put it up. and then if y'all want to share documents, you give digital access, you can limit that access, you can do you only.

We have. if yall like it, I love it. I'm just going it out. I the binder, created the binder.

I was kind of getting all the paperwork together. It was a great idea to take they who want this stuff signed and scan. You can't so you gotta put it out, we can still have the binder, but it will not need the key.

You will just be adding to it would have to go. It could be up everybody on this board, because we have a group we drive that's within our emails and everything Some of us who is not in the executive committee, this stuff's moved to Parker like it's new to the community, and he's a commissioner needs to asks to make important decisions on his board. But act one not what is act one.

It was our funding source. It is in the legislature. It was it's an act from the legislation that awarded economic development districts throughout the state of Louisiana funding to operate in their district.

Comm’r Tucker- if we all had access, the education part reading part would be on us.

Comm’r Morris-That's fine. but we used to do that, and nobody read. That's how we that's how I started sending everything with emails, emails, emails, and I was told I sent too many emails, and so I started making paper copies. Maybe you'll read that. So, moving forward, can we move, can we continue moving forward with the financial?

In February 29th of 2024, I had requested and let me read it.

When I became chairperson, I am excited to have been elected as the L9 ED treasurer. before I fully accept the responsibility of treasurer in order to be a good steward of state dollars awarded to the board, I am requesting that an independent financial order be done prior to my accepting responsibilities for the board finances. I am recommending that the board hire an independent auditor to conduct this audit. This would allow the board to identify any outstanding deficiencies and provide sound financial policies moving forward. It would be a great tool to use when applying for state federal and philanthropic funding in the future.

I am requesting that the board be placed on the next board agenda. With that, I would like to make a board resolution. Wait, wait, how do you say a board motion?

You know how put resolution board motion? I have two board motions. Numbers one, I am making a motion that the L9 EED hire an independent auditing firm to conduct an audit of the L9 ED financial records.

I am requesting that an RFP be done to solicit an auditing firm to perform the audit to be completed by May 30, 2025, and if this resolution does not pass, I am requesting from each commissioner to justify there no vote. my second.

Comm’r Tucker- one at a time.

Comm’r Morris Okay, ok Well, he had done one, two and three. That's why I said, let me just about it together. parts.,

Comm’r Tucker- this main motion is to us for an independent auditor. financial auditor..

Comm’r Morris- Yes. Okay. To look at our records and to make sure that we are in compliance with our bylaws. I didn't I only said the date to be completed would be May 30th because I know that our our year is ending. So if we can hire them in what in March, they can do the audit in April and May, and then we're still within our fiscal year and so if the state has any questions, we can just lay the audit on them..

Comm’r Tucker- Why didn't you use this why didn't you use this recommendation for a line item?

You could have just let because I would have had to lot to add a line item without board approval.

Comm’r Morris- I mean, this is recommendations right So my point is, I'm going yes, if I don't see no money. Okay.

I. Well, can I do you can tell me I'll take your professional opinion. You tell me you can find a money for it. See, there's there's mons that you we're not looking at.

There is this money, which is reallocated funds, and then there's actual dollars in the bank. When I do something, I have to look at what I have in hand. A bird in a hand is what in the feathers or something.

But that money in the bank is is is earm more. it's not hard. Okay, okay. So so well, so what are we saying here?

Are we saying that at under the CEA, we said that we were going to do accounting, audit and financial services. That's what we said. Under the CEA.

Okay, but you put here, the accounting and financial services, you've allocated $1,500 for that, and you're saying we over spent by $2,500. Exactly on those numbers to reallocate and I don't that list of things because we had to up the budget for. We had to up the budget for the account because was charging, plus the cost report.

So every cost report was for every quarter that he does the cost report, he charge1200 something. So it wasn't a retainer a monthly seat. It was per cost report.

So the cost report should be an audit, and I you know, just let you know Ms. gene, I think your background and your educational understanding of the accounting. I think you're actually going through it and you're actually pinpointing everything. and I think once you do your final your final of everything, I think that will be an adequate audit because you're able to look in dig because of your your background. If there was something that was red flagged, that would make me say, okay, we need an auditor to come in not.

We had millions of dollars, I'd be like fine money and do it. But with $200,000, that is a a low amount of money. It sound like a lot of some people, but $.200,000 that ain't no money. that would be adequate.

I think more of what you're doing is kind of like what I did when I first became chair the get is the policy and the procedures needs to be in place and no one needs to be collected to actually keep issuing the dollars so this won't come up in the future.

Comm’r Morris- Okay, so where are we point of order where

Chair Waiters-she’s saying we table your motion for an auditor because is not necessary based upon your expertise that you can do the job.

Okay, I think that's exactly what do we have to report to how is? Yes, we have to report Tyler.. What do we do with this?

no, I'm not gonna withdraw the motion. So that's. That's my motion.

Comm’r Mosgrove- I would presume that for an independent auditor, he or she would need all kinds of information that we may have had. An auditor may not be able to do her work. right? so we would say that what you said when we get to discuss another motion.

And then you vote that say, so we got a second for the purpose of discussion, perhaps. so that flows over the discussion. Right. so, my question is if we entertain this idea this motion, two things we facing in, one, they will fix the same issue genes facing. They don't have the documents.

We can't track them down or it's like it's just a wall just just to get the information. Two, they don't have the historical knowledge of the L9, like Jene. I think, like I said, like, she said that gene can do this audit. It's just that we need for her to get everything that she needs in order to. she got this largest space. So imagine what she can do if she actually has to bind us in the use. seems like we have in Gene work, but herself is saying, I want this.

Comm’r Tate= But even if something different, there is a way to go around, you have to write a letter something like that we've done it. And there are pro bono auditors we just have to find them

Okay, so So, we got a call for both. I'm we're still a discussion Oh, it is? I think it's relevant to the emotion, because commissioner Henry mentioned that Webb charges $1500, whatever it is.

The tone I got was that that's expensive. My belief is it better not be expensive because we should have procured him competitively. So if he's doing this work and we can get it at a reduced rate, if we put it off a bid, then we're not good stewards at all.

It's a good price. It's a good price basics.. it's about the accounting work based on a proposal, we look at now we just reactivated him from the last time he did it, and which Msing did have issues with him in a full time needed somebody who board approved his contract. Right, and and he just rolled over. just rolled him over because it was a very competitive price. $1,500 per quarter no, what we should be doing is the motion that Miss Morris made is to hire an independent.

I'm get the understanding of what an auditor would cost. He's similar work, right? You have put R&P for. is extremely expensive.

That's the only gau I'm trying to get. I don't need a numbers. does have a mask account. my question is that doesn't mean were gonna hire the correct? Is that what I'm?

That what if we say yes on the motion doesn't mean we're gonna hire the If you're not gonna hire the order, I'm not gonna do the RP. I mean, that's wasting my time. the RQ or RP, that means that we're in the position of looking so hard. So if they put more data out and they fit our requirement, then you move forward with that. similar to the the board retreat.

I mean, we're looking to do a board retreat. You put our Rute, but we're not doing the board because it's too much requirement, so we're gonna put a limit on the amount for the or when I put out the RFP, when I put out the RFP RFQ for an auditing firm, loop of Spate, came in. He came in at $50,000 to do the audit.

Mr. Webb came in, I don't remember, or whatever it I don't remember his total dollar amount, was we went with that. We went with his. That's what that's what Luther, you know, Luther. it is a couple of The first.

It depends on the amount of money that we're operating with an extreme amount of money. If the only thing that's hindering her from doing her job is not having the access she needs. in a strategy, because I'm not gonna support it. My strategy is to kick it back to a finance committee, and if that committee is some of these strong commissioners I know, when she gets burned out, I know, this is my you and I'm going this in front of the community.

You told you. how many millions of dollars you budgeted with the city in Wals? what was your budget? About 365 million. 3 is so I call the question.

I call. you in debate. So we vote and the debate. I'll call the question.

No more talk. So let's vote on in the debate. Okay.

The most is the high independent is in date.. public conduct? We're in the debate right now. We're public comments.

We' we'll get to you.. and then please don't just b worry out while we talk, and we don't wanna work from the debate. Yes, that's my motion. motion the end of the debate. Yes.

In the second? second. all the papers and I. in the debate. Okay, comments from the general public before we go to our vote.

Community Member Lindsay Edwards, I agree that the problems are that you don't have the invoices, so when you go to do it on it, they're gonna run into the same problems. You don't have the invoices, you don't have the documentation, you don't have and so so you're gonna be paying for somebody to sit there and not have the information to do the job, which is exactly what Commissioner Morris is doing right now. You know, if to me, it's like we would be in this mess if if if every quarter when the CPA does the the cost report or whatever, that that's kind of a mini audit at that point that you can tell what information is missing with and where money is, and and all that could be the wrong.

The only reason we're in this mess is because the CPA did the wrong cost report for a year. I don't know if they've been done this year and not. It's like it just has hasn't been done. the ball has been totally dropped.

So at that but to me it's to pay for an auditor at this point and not have the information, but I'm volunteering to be on a finance committee and how to make it, I'll help with a list of every document we're missing and hold somebody accountable. at all what you say a TFPE or missing import, particularly for the project of the monitoring system this year? The fact that I can try a cornerad. so which one do you need of PSD? I'll I'll give you a list of the invoices that are missing and and where we are, okay?

Okay. So, any other comments from the public before we move to vote and MLU. that community can be expanding... The front desk committee is normally commissioners only, only ad hoc committees do we allow comm community to members to be part of those committees?

You can attend the meetings, but you can't participate as a meeting. will that I can also get of information for every docent and do it on my own.. they're right. That's the problem. But if you want us the next time we have a a committee meeting, we go on post it and you're you're welcome to come.. we have another question question..

It sounded I think I heard you say earlier that the reason you want the audit at all is because there are so many documents that you can't get a hold of, is that in part because they're being withheld from you, or why you? Let me.. I don't open up a canle arms. yeah, you about to.

I don't wanna do that. from a community member, there's much pressure as my little self can give. There is she needs to get the tools she needs to have. It's ridiculous that she does it, and so we need to make sure she's proven today with the report she's got the skills to be able to to put us back on a track with our finances.

Now, the vote is yes or no, this is not Dan rather. We're not gonna go comment. says, no. Mark says no.

I asked for I asked for a reason in my motion.. No. Love me too.

That's your reason? is no in with the commentary that she requested is that I believe that you're fully capable. Once you get those documents that you have, this is a very well prepared report that you made, and I have all the faith that you can manage and find it, you've givenven, wherever it is, all the documents you need.

Henry. It's and that's the ability and the capability to put everything in place and we. Still in the meeting and call you back.

Oh, Miss Morris?, yes. Yes, yes. M. Morris, I think that you're capable, so I'm both no.ape. and say yes, because I've seen some cases, okay?

That's very diplomatic of you. find ourselves. Okay, one to four, five, six nose. six nose and two two yeses, motion failed. Okay. now, my second motion. Okay, then I'm done. I'm making a motion that all checks are to be signed at the monthly board meeting unless an emergency has been declared by a vote of the full board. don't need to write to a questions from the comment from the in the comments from the Joan public. called roll. here, So just to be clear, Commissioner Morris, all checks that are transacting business for the commission would be signed during our tuition meeting prior to during No, that would interrupt the business, but that there? Yeah, after the meeting is fine.

And the signatories are always gonna be our treasurer and our chair, correct? Exactly. not according to our by laws, treasurer, the chair. No, in the by laws, it says the chair has to be on the thing. the third signature is only for in case of a emergency one goes be the same thing so what what of those people aren't aren't available in Do you want to establish a timeline that that defines emergency?

Like a, you know What's an emergency? The board has to vote on whether it's as a case package and the vote the vote the board votes on an emergency. Whether it's an emergency or not..

Tucker, (Yes). Parker (Yes) Henry (Yes) Martin (Yes) Waiters (Yes) Tate (Yes). Mosgrove (Yes)

Morris (Yes). Motion carry.

Comm’r Morris-this one last question.

Chairman Waiters- The motion is all checks for the L9 EDD shall be signed at the monthly meetings unless there's an emergency. An emergency will be determined by the board.

Comm’r Morris-How are you going to respond to the state about these quarterly reports?

Or this is my this is my thing. If I'm the treasurer and I'm talking finances, I should be talking to the state. Comm’r Waiters-Well, in the past, that was done by the chair.

No, yes, it was because Reverend Calhoun was a treasurer that was handled by the chair. What I'm going to do? I'm going was missing on treasurer at the time to he said, he's he's not here to offend that def on record it was in? Yes, it was in the minutes. Well, what what I plan to do, M. Morris, is to get all this cleared up once I get this cleared up and I give you everything that point on. supposed to put together and all the chairs is supposed to call the chair is to..

I'm sorry, can you clarify what you mean get cleared up? Well, the the correspondence came to me for Mr. Como. He said, these are the documents that he's missing., M. Martin, Mercedes again.

He contacted me and he said, these are the documents that I need. I'm gonna send him those documents. When I send him those documents and I'll refer him to Miss Morris. that's what I mean, if those reports are doing your tenure, then if those course reports need to be done under your ten will have you the silent and.

I'd like to make a motion that their corresponds that you have with that individual is either given directly to Mrs. Morris, or when you correspond with that person, Mrs. Morris is CC in. come. no problem? I'm okay.. I'll.

One.. Thank you. Okay.

Any comments from the public wait, who second your motion?. South, okay... Public comment. here n, we're voting with smart..

Yes. Wait, or Martin? Oh, okay.

Sorry, my..ushroom, yes... Yes. is abs. Henry.

Yes. Morris is a yes. yes, yes. yes? Yes,.stained, okay.

I say look. know about. He got eight, yes, eight. Okay. eight days. one.

I. Yeah, okay. Mates theor our men is reflect that commissioner Calhoun enter back into the lead. Okay, that concludes your report?

Yes, sir, it does. Thank you very much.. I' item on our agenda is C, you know,ot report.

We don't have another finances we are next item on the agenda with CEA projects. Now, theart that also will lead into you'll financial report because some of those projects that we get forward to the state. we would have to reensit them. There.

So, probably most likely in the next week or so, you and I will probably have conversation that we could look at those through the projects that were TDA that were supported to the state to to update the CEA, those CEA projects and the ones that, will be changed. We have to notify the board, or we' still use the same categories. We're using the same categories.

However, this sheet here puts the projects that we've done under the correct category, except for the ones we may changes to the night tonight, which would be CES CSE D would go on the community program for residence and fresh start would move to community program for residents. You want to take a look at that because it was adult dealing. take your sheet now on your sheet, you should add under vendor, I think when we had the African American Muse of American history. We gave them2500.

I thought we did three2500. Oh, they did? Okay, so that one is $2,500.

African-A American muse. Do we have an invoice from them for that? Yes, it was in the I'm going to have to look back through that binder because there was an invoice signed by when we gave them the check for $25,500.

Okay.. And also there was a the C. The I'm that CSCD, that should only been $13,000. instead of when I see the contract, I'll make the change if you look at the check, the check states that was 50%.

Right. So with 50% and you only paid six,750 so six percent, I mean, half of of the th 13,000 would leave you eight to 82200. I let me check.

You got to check Okay, but let can I say this, please? I'm on the check is only to verify the amount paid. The M o u tells me what should be paid, and the fact that you paid the check has written at the bottom 50% was paid me nothing to me.?

because the check only verifies that the payment was made. Any notes on the check mean nothing to me because any you can put anything on the notes, but the contract tells me what should what supports the payment of this check. no problem. I'll get those documents.

Okay. And I don't mean nothing to me. I mean, you know, in in balancing my?

Okay. So, now, do we have any announcements? I mean, are we done with with that item?

Yes, good no more questions, no more comments, no more discussions? Yes. So I, , I know said in order for her to move forward, she has a list of invoices in MOU.

Is there a you next week? No, I'm gonna have a list by Monday. I have a list by Monday and I would expect a $48 turnaround time for those documents.

Yes, yes. -h. our ad in the loop? So when she gets the doc, I'll another five board that she received them within that time, did we just get an email saying they' been delivered?

The finance committee is Keisha. Yvonne? -h.

Anybody else? Because Dr. Parker, I did send you something I thought you were on the finance committee. If you're not, I apologize for sending that to you.

The request for the last meeting Finance committee meeting. But? No, I don't should be able to?

Yeah. Andre has that. Who's on what committee?

I don't know if I have one for the finace committee. but I can look at it, but somebody are you asking me, you want me to email this Yes, please..

**Announcements**

We have any announcements.

Comm’r Mosgrove- I would just like to announce, something I announced last time, not related, well, indirectly related to our work here, but people Louisiana beautiful has loved the boot week, April 5th through April 13th. if you want to put together with a formal group, a neighbor association and such or just informally with a couple of neighbors, put together I love the boot by activity, you let me know,

I'll be happy to help you register and do the final report and that's some of the work I do in in my neighborhood.We would like to help you do that, encourage you to do an activity and to get with me where I sometimes you all into that activity. So it's love to boot.

Comm’r Tucker, My announcement is about the work we're doing here in our committees. I mentioned about the finance committee, they' public, so is the strategic planning committee, we didn't have anybody from the public there. We watch all there.

We can't do committee work at the board level. We did a lot of explaining, took our time and went through things thoroughly, so you guys are invited. again, I think you're posting all of our committee means on the same platform rep post four meetings. Show up to support of this work.

Comm’r Henry, And follow us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram, follow us on next neighborhood. We post in all those places. c

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun is second by Commissioner Morris to adjourn meeting the general by standing up.