

LOWER 9th WARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

December 18, 2024

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

**Andrew P. Sanchez & Copelin-Byrd Multi-Service Center
1616 Fats Domino Ave, New Orleans, LA. 70117**

(Quorum was reached at 6:00 p.m).

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Waiters

Roll Call- Commissioners Present; O. Tucker, W. Waiters, Y. Martin, R. Davis, J. Morris, K. Henry, L. Tate, W. Calhoun
Commissioners Absent: L. Waters, K. Parker, S. Mosgrove. 8 presents, 3 absent. Quorum was reached..

Approval of Agenda

Comm'r Morris had an objection to the agenda and asked for an explanation as to why her name was the only board member name on the agenda. Secretary Calhoun and Chairman Waiters assured her that there was not any malicious intent in putting her name by the finance committee report. He stated that names will not appear in the agenda. He called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motioned by Comm'r Tucker 2nd by Comm'r Davis.

Comm'r Davis asked for a point of order to ask Comm'r Henry and Comm'r Morris if they have any questions/concerns with the agenda, now would be the time to discuss it. Comm'r Henry said she submitted an agenda item, but did not get a response. Comm'r Davis asked her what concerns she have relative to this agenda, if there are items she is requesting now is the time to speak to it. She requested that the bylaws be added to the Agenda. Comm'r Davis said he was trying to make sure their concerns they had concerning the previous minutes be addressed because the previous minutes are part of the agenda.

Comm'r Tucker said to amend the agenda it would take a 2/3 vote. If we add to the agenda without a 2/3 vote we would be in violation of State Law.

Comm'r Davis said we can accept the agenda with the conditions of Commissioners Henry and Morris. Comm'r Morris recommended that we receive board minutes within ten's days of the next meeting. Comm'r Davis stated that, that is state law and does not need to be stated. He continued to say that Secretary Calhoun should distribute the minutes no later than 10 days from the date of the last meeting, Board members should put their concern(s) in writing and submit them to the Chairman within 5 days. Motion by Comm'r Davis that the minutes be distributed within Ten days, and any concerns be put in writing and directed to Chairman Waiters. 2nd by Comm'r Martin. Called for public comment. No response. Call for vote 8 yeas, no nays. Motion carry.

Comm'r Tucker stated we had not voted on the approval of the agenda. Chairman Waiters agreed and call for the vote for agenda approval. 8 yeas No nays. Motion passed.

Commissioners Henry, Martin and Morris requested the audio file of the Oct, 16 meeting. Secretary Calhoun agreed to send out the Audio file within 24 hrs. (It should be noted that the commissioners attending the meeting received a hard copy of the Oct. 16th minutes.)

Next Order of Business

Chairman's Report

Meeting Rules of Order Chairman gave the ground rules to maintain order during the meeting, (1) Respect the person the chair has recognized to have the floor. (2) Please do not over talk the person that have the floor. (3) Public Comment shall be held to 2 minutes

Verification of Documentation for Board Governance. Chairman stated at our October 16th meeting we talked about changing our quorum, state laws we may not be in compliance with, He asked that we state. where those laws and regulations can be found that we are not in compliance with. Chairman read from Louisiana Legislature Auditor Open Meeting Law Overview. Question 7 as to what a quorum is. It says a quorum is defined as a "simple majority" and gave an example of simple majority. Comm'r Calhoun had stated a simple majority is 6 for an

11member board. He also stated Revised Statute. 37:711.9 Receipts and Disbursement to show we are in compliance with the State of Louisiana for check that were signed without the treasurer signature.

Comm'r Henry gave her rationale as to why at its inception it chose 2/3 majority for a quorum. She continued to say that the board's bylaw has precedence over state statutes and further commented on board members that are not working with the board nor respecting the bylaws. Comm'r Davis asked for a point of order. He asked if these concerns be addressed at the retreat or in an executive session and move the agenda forward. Comm'r Morris asked to comment on his comments. She stated that in executive session only the executive can come to it. Comm'r Tucker explained the difference between an executive committee meeting and executive session. He further stated we are doing committee work instead of board work. Discussion continues on defining executive session and executive committee meeting. Comm'r Henry read the open meetings law concerning the reasons for an executive session. Comm'r Davis asked that the concerns of governance be addressed at the board retreat.

Next order of Business

Old Business

Board Retreat-Chairman asked Comm'r Morris to give a update on the board's retreat. Comm'r Morris said she had been working with NOLABA to schedule a retreat, however, NOLABA is closing and will not be available for assistance. She is researching to see who can help us with the retreat and give a report at the next board meeting.

Board Committee Reports

Capital Outlay Committee- Chairman Tucker said the committee has been dormant for a couple of Months funding is critically important to capital outlay projects the will remain dormant waiting to see and understand how board funding will be addressed.

CEA Projects Budget- Chairman Tucker gave the same response for this committee.

Strategic Planning Committee Chairman Mosgrove nor his designee was available for this meeting. Strategic Planning report was Tabled until January 15, 2025 board meeting.

Finance Committee Report - Treasurer Morris stated she has **not** received the necessary documents to do a financial report. The documents she needed are invoices with backup documentation to support the invoice. She was given the wrong username and password to access the bank account at the executive committee meeting. She contacted Secretary Calhoun and he sent her another username and password that also did not work. She continued that at the executive committee meeting she did receive bank statements, a returned check of \$2500 from L9 Homeowner Association for L9 holiday distribution, a receipt for board refreshments. She restated she cannot do a finance report without invoices, mou's and measurable. She further stated she will not sign a check without the proper documentation.

She said it has come to her attention that Chairman Waiters wrote a correspondence to her appointing authority Sen. Bouie asking to remove her from the board, because she had missed six board meetings in two years. She stated this action was in violation of L9EDD Bylaws. On October 9, 2024, she forwarded an email to Chairman Waiters that she would not attend the executive committee meeting for fear of disrespect from the executive board, referring to the chair. She said that she sent emails and texts that her absences were work related. She asked had any other board member's sponsor been contacted to remove them from the board. Comm'r Martin responded that her supervisor had been contacted and had been told that she was sabotaging the board. No one else responded. Comm'r Morris continued that this is a continue harassment and disrespect for the women and bylaws of the board. The chair has sent disrespectful and threatening emails. She received the following emails. July 11 an email attacking her competence and character, which said "your inability to understand and playing to the cheap seats has muddy the water, on September 24, an email that asked for her commitment or resignation. On September 26 an email that asked is she her brother's keeper if yes, please discontinue the questioning. Oct. 9 email stated she was confusing accountability with respect. At the December 12th she asked the chairman to adjust his tone. June 5 the chair raised his voice; she asked him to address her respect. She further stated that Board meetings were cancelled when there was a quorum. June 2, an illegal secret meeting was held to vote on the projects the chairman proposed. He ignored the request of the public to post the meeting other than the L9EDD and Louisiana State website. July 20, she asked that he does not move forward with Tekrema and CSED funding until she receives an Ethics ruling from the state of Louisiana

concerning him being on the board of the CSED and Tekrema executive director being the L9EDD board attorney.

The chair began to address the timeline of

Comm'r Henry motion that no checks shall be written except for operational purposes of the board. 2nd by Comm'r Martin.

Comm'r Davis asked how long this will be in effect and what is his plan to get it resolved.

Chairman Waiters stated that Comm'r Morris will have the documents he has within 10 days.

There wasn't any public comments on the motion

Call for question and roll call vote, 7yeas 1 abstention. Motion passed.

At 7:17 p.m quorum was lost.

New Business

Announcements

Public Comments

Adjournment

Lower Ninth Ward Economic Development Commissioners

Appointing Entity Title/Name	Commissioner Appointed	Present/ Absent
Mayor LaToya Cantrell	Yvonne Martin	
Mayor LaToya Cantrell	Stephen Mosgrove	
City Council Oliver Thomas	Mr. Otis Tucker	
City Council Oliver Thomas	Dr. Kendall Parker	
State Representative Candance Newell	Mr. Randolph Davis	

State Representative Candance Newell	Ms. Keisha Henry	
State Senator Joe Bouie	Ms. Jean Morris	
State Senator Joe Bouie	Mr. William Waiters	
Lower Ninth Ward Neighborhood Association	Ms. Leona Tate	
Table Connect Group	Rev. Willie Calhoun	
Table Connect Group	Mr. Leon Waters	

For more information, please contact

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