

**L9EDD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Monthly BOARD MEETING**

July 1, 2024

5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

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

Agenda

Call to Order- Chairman Waiters called meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

- i. Roll Call- Commissioners Present: K. Parker, Y. Martin, S. Mosgrove, W. Waiters, O. Tucker, L. Tate, W. Calhoun**
Commissioners Absent: K. Henry, R. Davis, L. Waters, J. Morris,

ii. Adopt agenda for July 1, 2024, Board Meeting.

Motion by Comm'r Tucker 2nd Comm'r Parker. 7 yeas, no nays. Motion Carry.

Chairman call for next order of Business

- iii. Approval of February and May 21 board meeting minutes Motion by Comm'r Tucker for discussion 2nd Comm'r Mosgrove. Comm'r Tucker asked where are the minutes. Secretary Calhoun stated that May 21, 2024, minutes were posted on the La. State Boards and Commissions website. February's minutes were on the May agenda but were not brought to the floor for a vote. Ms. I. Adams (The board's Administrative Assistant) stated that a hard copy of the February minutes was included in the May 21st meeting package. Call for the vote 7 yeas, no nays, motion carry.**

Reports

- iv. Chairman:** said his report will bleed into other agenda items throughout the meeting. That he will interject his report as those items are addressed.

v. Finance Committee: Chairman asked for a motion to hold the finance Committee report in abeyance until the Treasurer comes to meeting. Comm'r Tucker motioned that the Finance Committee report be tabled until the treasurer arrived. The Treasurer arrived at 5:40. Comm'r Tucker withdrew his motion. Chairman Waiters asked the treasurer to present her report.

Treasurer Morris said she is not able to give a financial report because she has not received any documentation, checks books nor financial data needed to prepare a report. She had been asking for months for the documents. In light of not having a finance report, the chair stated the current balance of \$82,722.15. in the bank as of July 1, 2024.

She stated that the board's resolution to make her a signatory on the bank account had not been presented to the bank.

Secretary Calhoun reminded her of the banking statements she was given at the June 6th executive committee meeting, as well as the bank's signatory documents needed her signature. The treasurer acknowledged that she did receive the banking statements but had no knowledge of the bank's signatory documents.

She further stated that the bank statements were not adequate to do a Financial Analysis, nor could they verify if the metrics of the project were met. I need to make sure that there are no more errors in

the bank statement, but I cannot do that without the backup documentation, that is all I am asking for.

Comm'r Martin said this matter has gone on far too long, and asked Comm'r Morris what documents verbatim she needs to clarify and who has them. Comm'r Morris is requesting (1) the finalized MOUs of all the projects. (2) The backup documentation for each project that show that the measurable were met. To ensure that we are getting what we pay for, and the receipts do a true Financial Analysis.

She cited Finance Committee report for July of 2023, which a banking error had occurred and was revealed in the July banking statement, the then Treasurer Comm'r Calhoun contacted the vendor (who was not aware of the error) and the bank to resolve the matter, It was corrected on the August 2023 statement.

Comm'r Tucker requested the floor, He stated on June 13, all the commissioners received an email from Adm. Asst. Adams requesting review/feedback on the addendum for Youth Entrepreneurship and Drainage Monitoring Program MOUs from Tekrema and CSED that were attached in the email.

Treasurer Morris responded that besides these two MOU's she needed the other MOUs to do a financial analysis to see that metric were met.

The discussion ensued with Comm'r Martin concerns with the transitional documents and introduction and contact information between the outgoing and incoming treasurers. (Chairman Waiters received financial documentation from administrative assistant Ms. I Adams. He supplied to CPA Webb. CPA Webb used those documents to complete the 1st quarter of CEA 170. The documentation was received and accepted by the state of LA. These documents were also CC to Comm'r Morris. A meeting scheduled by Chairman Waiters and CPA Webb in accordance with Comm'r Morris availability. Comm'r Morris did not attend nor call. The May 2, 2024, executive committee meeting was scheduled to accommodate Comm'r Morris availability, she did not attend.)

The discussion continued with L9EDD bylaw Sec. 11.3 that all checks must contain the treasurer's signature. Who is accountable should an audit happen? The chair stated He is accountable. Comm'r Morris said the entire board is.

The chair asked why Projects' MOUs of CEA 119 accepted and closed by the La. State Treasury were needed for the Financial Analysis.

Discussion ended with Comm'r Mosgrove suggestion to amend the agenda to include a 10 min. discussion on the inefficacy, communication failure between the chairmanship, and treasurer.

The Motion by Comm'r Mosgrove to reconsider and amend the agenda to include a 5-minute discussion on the frequency or the infrequency with which our Commission meetings experience a full and complete prepared and ready plan. 2nd by Comm'r Martin. Called for question, board had none.

Called for Public Comment.

Community Member Ron Mazier-Commented on the motion. All commissioners having a copy of the financial statement seems like the basic thing they should have.

Community Member- L. Edwards Commented the motion to add an agenda must be unanimous to pass. IAW R.S. 42:19 (cc) Notice of Meeting.

Roll call vote Waiter-No, Tate-Yes, Morris-Yes, Martin-Yes, Parker-Yes, Tucker-Yes, Mosgroove-Yes, Calhoun-No. 6-years 2-nays Motion failed.

Next item on the agenda is old business

vi. Old Business

A. Storm Drainage Monitoring Program:

Chair-The storm drains monitoring program has not been executed. because of new questions were sent out to the vendor, which is CSED, to include more deliverables and measurable in the MOU.

Comm'r Morris motion that a two-week turnaround time for CSED to provide the following measurables (1) how many students, (2) how many drains (3) the cost we're paying for each stipend, and (4) the administrative costs to be put in an MOU.

Discussion concerning the necessity of the MOU having these measurables

Comm'r Tucker call for a point of order that Comm'r Morris have a motion on the floor. The Chair needs to be biased to the motion and then we'll discuss it. Comm'r Morris was asked to restate the motion. Motion was 2nd by Comm'r Martin.

Public Comment Community Member Ron Mazier-Comment was when was an RFP done and where was it posted. He was told It was posted on the State and L9EDD website as required by law. Chair called the vote. 8 yeas, no nays, no abstentions. Motion Pass

The next item on the agenda is

- B. Tekrema's Youth Program falls under the same category it has not been executed because some questions and deliverables must be answered and amended on their MOU. Once this is completed the treasurer will receive a copy of the MOUs before it is executed.

Comm'r Morris asked for the same stipulation in Tekrema's MOU that are in the CSED MOU. (1) How many students will be served. (2) What they will be taught. (3) what is the economic impact of what they will be taught in the community. (4) That they are residents of the lower 9th ward in the district that served by this board. (5) The selection process and (6) the breakdown of the cost of the program. Motion by Comm'r Morris, 2nd by Comm'r Tate. Questions concerning the motion can Tekrema meet the Measurables set in the MOU. If unable to meet the measurable the monies are to be returned and reallocated.

Community Member Ron Mazier-Commented. Were the back and forth emails with the vendors made public, were an RFP issue. In accordance with Comm'r Henry motion made at the April 17, 2024, board meeting. Where, and to whom were they issue? He thinks the board is in violation of the public bid law and conflict of interest, the board does not know what they are doing and should get someone there that does knows what they are doing. He asked when were these projects submitted? Were they submitted through capital outlay committee?

End of public comments on the motion.

Chair called for vote on the motion. all those in favor by saying aye, vote. 8 yeas, no nays, no abstentions. Motion Pass

Comm'r Morris asked when are we going to respond to the public's request and comments.

Comm'r Tucker answered, we're not required to respond. Mr. Mazier comments were insulting, disrespectful to all of us. He said we are incompetent; we don't know what we are doing and should bring someone here that do. His disrespect is not only to us but also to the appointing body of individual and elected officials that placed us here. He questioned the integrity and honesty of all board members. No, we do not have to respond to his Comments.

The next item on the agenda is

- C. The Louisiana Museum of African American History.

The chair stated the MOU for the Louisiana Museum of African American History had been executed and the commissioner will get a copy in their inbox of that MOU. He stated there are 4 museums in the lower ninth ward and we gave funding to 3 of them and inadvertently overlooked the Louisiana Museum of African American History.

Commissioner Morris gave further comment; the board had decided to fund each museum for community people and to boost the revenues and the activities and tourism in the 9th ward so we funded those four museums, and this is the last one that is being funded.

The next item on the agenda is

- D. LX PROJECTS

Questions arose from the commissioners and community as to what the LX project is.

Comm'r Calhoun explained that the LX Project was a collaboration between L9EDD, Xavier University and a group of black scientists from across the country to create a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in the Lower 9th ward. The Capital-Outlay Committee made a presentation to the board in July of 2023, requesting funding to assist Xavier in applying for a federal grant from the CDC. The board voted not to allocate the funding nor to continue with the project. At the capital-outlay committee meeting on March 28 held at MLK H.S a recommendation was made Comm'r Calhoun to bring the LX project back to the board for reconsideration the full committee agreed. At the April 17th Board meeting Comm'r Waters spoke about the status of the LX project. He stated Xavier and the scientist wanted to continue to discuss the Project. It was brought to the board for reconsideration at the May 21st meeting. It was also tabled at that meeting. Comm'r Morris asked what's the board's financial obligation to the project. The Chair explained that there is none.

Comm'r Morris motion that the Capital-Outlay Committee continue with further discussion, review, and research with Xavier and the Scientist. If determined to be a viable project. A full presentation be given to the board and community. 2nd by Comm'r Mosgrove.

Public Comment: Community Member- L. Edwards Read to the board R.S. 2740. 54.. Para. A (1), She then read a definition of commercial activity and she was opposed to this project.

Community Member- N. Wittenbrink stated she cannot say yes or no. The project would bring 9 to 5 jobs.

Community Member-R. Mazier-Stated that a Presentation is needed to ensure transparency.

Community Member-H. Nealy- Stated the project should not be taken off the table but moved to the end of the table. There are more pressing needs in the community, such as a grocery store, and the homeless. Public comment was closed.

Comm'r Morris stated the role, responsibilities, and mission of the L9 EDD is to bring economic development to the community and it's the community responsibility to accept or reject the project. Call for a vote. 8 years no nays, no abstentions. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda is

E. Ad Hoc Committee Report

1.Strategic Planning- Chair Comm'r Mosgrove stated the Committee had not had a formal meeting. He will schedule one in the coming weeks. Comm'r Tucker asked who was on the committee, community members S. Booker, J. Wittenbrink and B. Perez. He noted that he was the only Commissioner on the committee.

Comm'r Morris suggested that the strategic planning committee work with the Capital Outlay. Comm'r Mosgrove agreed that our thinking and our discussion should revolve around a consensus built strategic plan. He suggested the Ad Hoc committee exists independently, on some level, but every two or three months we have a joint meeting.

Our next item on the agenda is.

2. By-Laws Committee-Chair Comm'r Henry sent her regrets. She could not attend the meeting due to a work-related matter. She said the Committee had not met, and asked if the board members had any input, questions, or concerns, about the bylaws to send to her or our administrative assistant Ms. Adams.

The next item on the agenda is

VII. New Business

A. Board Retreat- The Chair stated that under CEA 170 we were to a board Retreat. Comm'r Morri stated that at the June 6, 2024, Executive Committee meeting she was charged with getting information on a board retreat. She contacted NOLABA to enquire if the Board Retreat was their responsibility as part of our contract with them. She has not received a definitive answer yet and will let us know when she does. Comm'r Tucker asked that that we have a parliamentarian professional to facilitate at the retreat.

B. CEA 170 Update- Comm'r Calhoun explained CEA 170, L9EDD current funding source, that all monies that had not been expended by June 30, 2024, must be returned to the state of Louisiana. This would include the entirety of the current bank balance. He spoke to Legislative Act 776 of the current session that extended CEA 170 to June 30, 2025. He recommended for the board to take time to review current projects in CEA 170 to amend or reallocate.

C. New CEA Projects- Chair asked that the commission to allow the capital outlay committee to review the CEA Projects

Comm'r Calhoun motion to review and evaluate projects in each unfunded categories in CEA 170 budget. Comm'r Morris asked how do we verify the deliverables of the completed projects. The chair explained the quarterly reports filed by CPA Charles Webb contain attachment C of CEA 170. Progress Reports (Goals, Objective(s), Activity (Activities) Performance, and Performance Measure(s) by %, \$Amt, or number Completed. The CPA's report was accepted by La. Treasury Dept. Comm'r Calhoun restated his motion, 2nd by Comm'r Tucker for discussion. Comm'r Martin requested that documentation be provided (if any) for all board members.

Community Member-R. Mazier- Commented in light of the motion made by Comm'r Henry on April 17th on RFP he did not think it was appropriate to review the projects.

Public Comment Period closed. Chair called for the vote. Roll call vote Waiter-Yes, Tate-Yes, Morris- abstain, Martin-Yes, Parker- abstain, Tucker-No, Mosgroove-No, Calhoun Yes. 4-yeas, 2-nays, 2 abstentions.

Comm'r Morris amended her abstention to a no vote. 4 yeas, 3 nays, 1 abstention.

Majority vote was 4 yeas. Chair erroneously rule the motion failed.

Viii. Public Comment-

Community Member- Betty Perez commented this has been interesting and difficult as a community member she suggested that the board retreat work on communication skills with one another. She continues with the side conversation with board member was very distracting, that nothing of substance happen here. She has questions of finance; she cannot get answers because of the dysfunction of the board.

Community Member- L. Edwards Commented that we should include a grant writer in our budget. We are missing out on funding opportunity. She asked that we post executive and committee meeting on our website and facebook.

Community Member-R. Mazier- Presented the board with a flyer that showed NENA's programs. He announced that NENA has started a youth job training program for 50 people, he commented that Nena has emailed the commission for the past two years and has never been invited to bid nor were they aware of any RFP's. The presentation he made at the capital outlay committee was voted down. He did a presentation before the board. Comm'r Henry motion that all projects should go through a RFP. He believes that other projects were vote on after that point in violation of Comm'r Henry motion. He commented on Greer Mendy and her dance group and asked is she not the board's attorney. He further commented on the storm drain project, He thinks Arthur Johnson does great work is a great person did he not appoint Comm'r Calhoun to the board, Comm'r Calhoun interjected and said NO he did not appoint Rev. Calhoun to the commission. He continues his comments with Comm'r Waters connection to Louisiana Museum of African America History. These projects went forward without public bid. His comments continues that he approached Comm'r Calhoun several times to get on the board, He stated, Comm'r Calhoun, told him that if he was on the board that it would be a conflict of interest, we can help you if you are not on board. Comm'r Tucker had questions concerning the flyer that he had pass out. When will the program start, is it soft skills. He stated the program is a 5 month program funded by a national organization, and will address soft skills

Community Member-H. Nealy-Commented on NENA's group home transitional housing program for homeless and returning citizens. The group home is located on Lizardi. Mr. Mazier interjected that this is a Family Foster Foundation project that operate out of the NENA bldg. Ms. Nealy continue her comments, Funding was needed to cut the trees on the neutral ground, Comm'r Martin said that is a function of Parks and parksways.

xi. Announcements- none

Adjournment- Meeting Adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

Lower Ninth Ward Economic Development Commissioners

Appointing Entity Title/Name	Commissioner Appointed
Mayor LaToya Cantrell	Yvonne Martin
Mayor LaToya Cantrell	Stephen Mosgrove
City Council Oliver Thomas	Mr. Otis Tucker
City Council Oliver Thomas	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. Bill 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
William Waiters, L9EDD Chairperson
Wwaiters@lowerninenola.com