Houma Restoration District

Board Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Noah Lirette Jason Underwood Bryan Bunn

Daniel Babin Tom Hassell – absent Sondra Corbitt – absent

Nick Hebert – absent Kevin Faulk Clarence Williams

Others Present:

Angela Hidalgo Brighton Schmill Connie Bourg

Carl Lee Harding Ann Picou Travis Theriot

Michelle Neil Katherine Theriot

A meeting of the Houma Restoration District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Noah Lirette at 11:00 a.m. on April 2, 2024, at the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Towers, 8026 Main Street, Houma, LA.

Clarence Williams led the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Noah Lirette performed roll call and a quorum was present.

Under Public, Carl Lee Harding addressed the board regarding HRD expansion and extending throughout the Houma City limits.

A motion was offered by Brian Bunn seconded by Jason Underwood to approve the minutes, as amended. Motion carried.

Financials were presented for the month of February. A motion was made by Brian Bunn, seconded by Kevin Faulk to approve the financials as presented. Motion carried.

New Business: District Expansion: Noah Lirette discussed the District expansion. Clarence Williams requested that the Houma Highrise Building offer their position or intentions for expansion of the HRD. Noah Lirette stated that HUD has approved the demolition of the towers, which is the sole responsibility of the Housing Authority not the HRD.

Terrebonne Parish Logo: Noah Lirette stated the logo was launched and can be found on the website and social media. If anyone has any questions regarding the log, please contact the TPCG Administration.

Budget Amendment: No action.

Façade Application: The intent of this application is to provide a 50% cost share. Le Petit Theatre has submitted an application, however, there was a discrepancy whereby this application is requesting HRD fully fund the grant. Michelle Neil suggested this item be tabled and allow her time to work out the language with the guidelines and resend to the HRD board for consideration.

Engineering & Design Grant: Noah Lirette provided an overview of this grant application. This would help potential investors with any unforeseen expense, and possibly eliminate costs due to development. This grant is also 50% cost shared, up to a total project cost of $100k. Jason Underwood suggested this could be considered a “loan” until such time a certain percentage of construction is achieved, whereby the loan could be forgiven. All projects must be completed within two years of funding unless extenuating circumstances arise. Michelle Neil will make suggested revisions and bring back to the HRD for consideration.

Bayou Terrebonne Cleanup: Noah Lirette updated the board on the current cleanup efforts with the contractor and the Parish Solid Waste department, as well as the non-profit performing cleanup efforts. April 27 is the Pirates and Boots Festival at the Marina dedicated to cleanup of the bayou.

District Bridge and Guardrail Painting: Noah Lirette discussed the chipped paint along the guardrails at the pedestrian bridges, near the fountain, and along Roussel and Church Streets. This is a project that falls in line with “restoration” and would like the board to consider it. A motion was made by Brian Bunn, seconded by Kevin Faulk, to authorize obtaining bids to repaint/resurface and install the guardrails as discussed, and reach out to the TPCG Purchasing Department for assistance.

Website Update: Jason Underwood requested Daniel Babin take the lead on building the website. They are working on auto populating the federal and state guidelines to ensure continuity of services offered. A budget needs to be developed. Meanwhile they will work on implementing a few pages with links to forms and contacts. Daniel Babin will reach out to a website developer/consultant.

Le Petit Theatre Façade Grant: A motion was made by Brian Bunn, seconded by Jason Underwood to table this item until the next meeting. Motion carried.

Old Business: AG’s Opinion: No update.

ADG Bayou Walk Lighting: A meeting held with ADG to outline what HRD would like to do. Michelle Neil sent a draft of an agreement with TPCG for rights of access, ingress, and egress for HRD operations on the boardwalk. Michelle Neil will revise the draft agreement and return to the board for consideration.

LA Office of Tourism Plaque Grant Opportunity: A meeting was held with DOTD to look at the location of the Weyl’s Sign as well as a plaque memorializing the people who lost their life in the explosion. DOTD would be agreeable to using an existing pedestal location and installing a method to illuminate the sign.

Officer Reports: Noah Lirette reiterated that it would behoove HRD as a board to look at all ways to be efficient at spending funding for its intended purposes. Brian Bunn has no movement on quotes to install the Weyl’s Sign.

A motion was made by Brian Bunn, seconded by Jason Underwood, to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2024. at 11:00 a.m. at the 2nd Floor Conference Room, 8026 Main Street, Houma, LA.

Noah Lirette, Chairman Sondra Corbitt, Secretary