Houma Restoration District

Board Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2023

Commissioners Present:

Noah Lirette Jason Underwood – via phone Kevin Champagne

Daniel Babin – via phone Tom Hassell Sondra Corbitt

Nick Hebert – via phone Kevin Faulk Bryan Bunn - absent

Others Present:

Chris Pulaski Angela Hidalgo Wayne Thibodeaux

Ann Picou Brighton Schmill Clarence Williams

Michelle Neil Alex Ostheimer

A meeting of the Houma Restoration District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Noah Lirette at 11:15 a.m. at the 7th Floor Conference Room of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Towers, 8026 Main Street, Houma, LA.

Tom Hassell led the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Sondra Corbitt performed roll call and a quorum was present.

Under Public, Mr. Alex Ostheimer addressed the board regarding 213 Oak Street in Houma. He received a letter from the Nuisance Abatement Committee relative to his property.

Mr. Wayne Thibodeaux addressed the board on behalf of the NAACP, and its president Mr. Jerome Boykin. He is requesting that the board consider filling any vacancies upcoming on the board with an NAACP nominated member. He is also requesting the board consider diversity, equity and fairness when planning its expenditures. HRD is requesting the TPCG include its board members and vacancies be included on the parish website.

A motion was offered by Sondra Corbitt, seconded by Tom Hassell to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Tom Hassell, seconded by Kevin Champagne, to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

New Business: Chris Pulaski presented a Complete Street Plan. He plans to develop a policy, get HRD to adopt it, then bring to the Planning Commission, and ultimately, he will be requesting the Parish adopt this policy. Sondra Corbitt will be sending a survey to the board members from DOTD, to identify priorities of the community. There will be a meeting of the South Central Regional Planning Coalition tomorrow at the main library.

A motion was made by Sondra Corbitt, seconded by Kevin Faulk to amend the budget for 2023 and adopt the proposed budget for 2024. Motion passed.

Sponsorship Application – Rotary Plaza Sound System: Motion was made by Kevin Champagne, seconded by Kevin Faulk to defer this item to the next meeting.

Website for HRD/Resource Hub Development: Jason Underwood discussed building a website for HRD. He will lead this project and build a draft site to present to the board. Noah Lirette made a motion to authorize Jason Underwood to seek proposals for website design, seconded by Kevin Champagne, motion carried.

Act 393 Changes to Open Meeting Laws: Michelle Neal discussed the changes to the Open Meetings Laws. The LA Legislative Auditor is requiring the board to adopt a formal policy for Open Meetings. She began drafting a policy and will circulate to the board for consideration.

2024 Board Meeting Schedule: Sondra Corbitt will coordinate with the Council Clerk to see if the 2nd floor meeting room is available and propose dates.

Parish Administration Changes: Michelle Neil discussed the transition to new parish administration. Any contracts, agreements, or arrangements the HRD has with the Parish Government will remain stationary and new issues should be coordinated with the new administration.

Old Business, Non-Profit District Maintenance Work: Noah Lirette updated the board on the ongoing cleanup work. Chris Pulaski asked if the contractor is able to do additional work around the pavers and perhaps assist with weed control or other maintenance work. He will develop a scope of work and present to the HRD for consideration.

HRDC Zoning Overlay: Michelle Neil discussed the vacant structure ordinance draft. C2 was examined and additions were made to prohibited uses. Noah Lirette is asking the board to look at these uses and comment on the draft and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. This is still in draft form and has been submitted to the Council for consideration; however, no action has been taken.

Landry Furniture Building: Phase 2 remediation work paperwork has been submitted.

Weyls Jewelry Sign: Completely repainted and is being reassembled. Noah Lirette drafted some verbiage from the explosion and would like to place this language on a plaque to commemorate the memorial.

District Parking Meters Subcommittee Update: Vice-chairman Brian Bunn is requesting the HRD draft a resolution removing the parking meters. Chris Pulaski would like to meet with Brian Bunn regarding both the parking meters and the overlay district to assist in facilitating these topics in an effort to move these issues forward.

Bayou Boardwalk Project: Noah Lirette discussed lighting along the area and some parameters he gave to David Stelly to begin the work.

Officer Reports: None.

Mike Billiot asked the board for an extension for the Public Amenity Grant. The dates will be changed and sent to him.

A motion was made by Tom Hassell, seconded by Kevin Champagne, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for January and the date will be sent to the board, but will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the 2nd Floor Conference Room, 8026 Main Street, Houma, LA.

Noah Lirette, Chairman Sondra Corbitt, Secretary