

Houma Restoration District
Board Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Noah Lirette	Jason Underwood	Bryan Bunn - absent
Daniel Babin – absent	Tom Hassell	Sondra Corbitt
Nick Hebert	Kevin Faulk - absent	

Others Present:

Chris Pulaski	Angela Hidalgo	Connie Bourg
Ann Picou	Brighton Schmill	Jim Wendell
Cohen Guidry	Wayne Thibodeaux	Jason Bergeron
Kevin Champagne	Clarence Williams	Angelo Hutchinson
Chad Hutchinson	Chase Hutchinson	Keith Craft
Michelle Neil		

A meeting of the Houma Restoration District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Noah Lirette at 11:04 a.m. at the 2nd 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, none.

A motion was offered by Nick Hebert, seconded by Brian Bunn to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Brian Bunn, seconded by Sondra Corbitt, to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

New Business: Resignation of Kevin Champagne due to his newly elected Council position was acknowledged, and a motion was made by Nick Hebert and seconded by Noah Lirette to accept his resignation, motion carried.

Board of Commissioners Opening and Executive Committee Nominations: This will be opened on the TPCG website and be brought to the Council for appointment.

Sponsorship/Grand Parameters Discussion: Noah Lirette gave a brief overview of the Grant Program. A brief discussion followed. Noah Lirette asked Michelle Neil to prepare different variations of the program, like façade and conceptual assistant grants, which could be crafted to support the goals of the grant. Jason Underwood discussed other parties interested in attaining different grants but lack the funding to get their projects initially started. He suggested HRD provide incentive programs to assist people with some initial costs to aid those parties, and perhaps the website would offer assistance with incentives for this effort.

Tanner Magee commended the board for their efforts outlining what the HRD accomplished last year in a very short period of time. He suggested some signage to keep the good work in the public view, and increase public awareness/buy in, excitement and participation.

Historic Preservation, Incentives, Grants and Abatements: Ann Picou discussed the program the State of LA has from the LA Office of Cultural Development, which provides useful information/resources on all the opportunities offered by the State. She will reach out to Mr. Ray Scriber to arrange further discussions.

St. Martinsville Historic District Commission Ordinances: Brian Bunn discussed ordinances recently passed in St. Martinsville that tremendously helped develop their downtown district. A copy was included in the packets. He would like HRD to consider implementing something similar in Terrebonne.

Jason Bergeron had conversations with incoming council members regarding blighted properties. He will continue to work with HRD to coordinate with TPCG to jointly implement these goals regarding blighted properties and nuisance abatement ordinances.

Sponsorship Application – Rotary Plaza Sound System: Ann Picou gave an overview of the grant application as discussed at the last meeting. A motion was made by Brian Bunn seconded by Nick Hebert to approve the grant application pending legal concurrence. Under discussion, Chris Pulaski noted the language of the permit to amplify sound in the Plaza should not present an issue. Motion carried.

Sponsorship Application – Krewe of Tradition Recruits. Sondra Corbitt mentioned she would prefer this application to be presented to Explore Houma. Jason Bergeron discussed the SOOFA signs and would like to have conversations with HRD and TPCG to facilitate this as an option. Noah Lirette made a motion to deny this application, and to redirect the applicant to Explore Houma, seconded by Brian Bunn, motion carried. Chris Pulaski discussed signage requirements and details on the permit process for signage within the districts.

Main Street Now 2024 Conference Attendance – Sondra Corbitt reported that Explore Houma and HDDC usually attend this conference and asked if one of the HRD board members would like to attend as well. This year, the conference is in Birmingham, AL. This will be on the next agenda.

Old Business:

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. Nick Hebert made a motion to designate Sondra Corbitt as the ADA contact, seconded by Brian Bunn, motion carried.

HRD Website/Resource Hub Development: Jason Underwood has a strong working document on how the website should look, he prepared an RFQ and solicited Daniel Babin for website development.

HRDC Zoning Overlay: Noah Lirette has been working with Michelle Neil to finalize the draft. Next meeting, this item will be considered in final draft form to submit to the Council for approval.

District Parking Meters Subcommittee Update: Brian Bunn would like to meet with Parish officials to discuss further.

Bayou Boardwalk Project: Noah Lirette is excited about this project and looks forward to its completion. Brian Bunn asked Bobby O'Brien if he has seen any changes in criminal activity since the plaza lighting/cameras has been completed. He reported noticing a reduction in complaints, vagrants, thefts, break-ins, etc.

Officer Reports: Noah Lirette reported HRD received 50% of the annual allocation, \$750k from the State Legislature. Brian Bunn reported the Weyls Jewelry Sign is complete and needs an electrical contractor to illuminate and install the sign. He will email photographs to everyone. Noah Lirette submitted the verbiage for the plaque commemorating the date of the event and recognizing the people who suffered that day. Sondra will maintain a record of all sponsorship applications and awards. She reminded the board about required training and financial disclosures required.

A motion was made by Nick Hebert, seconded by Brian Bunn, to adjourn the meeting at 12:20p.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the 2nd Floor Conference Room, 8026 Main Street, Houma, LA.

Noah Lirette, Chairman

Sondra Corbitt, Secretary