Houma Restoration District

Board Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Noah Lirette Jason Underwood – absent Bryan Bunn – via phone

Daniel Babin Tom Hassell Sondra Corbitt

Nick Hebert Kevin Faulk – absent Clarence Williams – absent

Others Present:

Angela Hidalgo Brighton Schmill Connie Bourg

Carl Lee Harding Ann Picou Michelle Neil

Jim Wendell Katherine Theriot Chris Pulaski

A meeting of the Houma Restoration District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Noah Lirette at 11:00 a.m. on May 7, 2024, 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.

Noah Lirette performed roll call and a quorum was present.

Under Public, none.

A motion was offered by Nick Hebert seconded by Sondra Corbitt to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Financials were deferred until the following month.

New Business: La Petit Theater Public Amenity Grant has been applied for in lieu of their previously submitted façade grant, in the amount of $15,378.00. A motion was made by Nick Hebert, second by Tom Hassell, to remove the 20% contingency, for a total amount of the application $12,815.00. Motion carried.

Norris & Boudreaux submitted a proposal for the downtown sidewalk repairs. The estimate totaled $146,360.00. Noah Lirette will inquire on the availability of TPCG to lead this effort and will report back. No action was taken.

A Place of Restoration submitted an invoice for work through March 2024. Ann Picou reported on their ongoing work. A motion was made by Nick Hebert seconded by Sondra Corbitt to approve the invoice 7161 in the amount of $9,000.00; motion carried.

The Bayou Walk Clock is out of order; Jim Wendell reported on the efforts to repair it.

Old Business: Attorney General’s Office is still processing our request.

Bayou Walk Lighting Project Agreement Revision: Once the HRD project lighting is complete, it will be transferred to TPCG for operation and maintenance. The contract between HRD and TPCG will be presented for introduction to TPCG next week. Preliminary site plans for the lighting work were included in the packets.

LOT Plaque Application/Weyl’s Sign: Noah Lirette completed the application to the LA Office of Tourism. DOTD denied the request to put the sign in their right-of-way; however, an alternate location has been identified.

Façade Application Revision: The application has been revised to provide for a 50% cost share.

Engineering & Design Grant Revision: The application has been changed from a grant to a loan program, with milestone achievements, timeline revisions, payment terms, mortgage provisions, and loan waiver requirements. A motion was made by Nick Hebert, seconded by Tom Hassell to approve the E&D grant application, as amended. Motion carried.

Sondra Corbitt made a motion to reopen public comment, seconded by Nick Hebert; motion carried. Kevin Champagne reported on the Landry Building acquisition by Ascent Health. An appraisal was performed and was rejected by the landowner. This property is currently in nuisance and abatement. Also, there was some disagreement regarding the sale of the adjacent property needed for parking. There is currently an application through the Brownsfield program for remediation, which is still under review.

A motion was made by Nick Hebert, seconded by Sondra Corbitt, to return to the regular order of the agenda; motion carried.

District Bridge and Guardrail Painting: The Intergovernmental Agreement between TPCG and HRD is for HRD to perform this work and then turn back over to TPCG to maintain. A motion was made by Noah Lirette, seconded by Bryan Bunn, to approve the CEA as presented. Motion carried.

Website Update: Noah Lirette read aloud domain names available for HRD website as researched by Daniel Babin. A motion was made by Bryan Bunn, seconded by Nick Hebert to select “restoredowntownhouma.com” as the domain name for the website; motion carried.

Officer Reports: Noah Lirette reported that checks need to be made for public amenity grant for the sound system, La Petit façade grant, and the arts council before next meeting. Kevin Faulk has submitted his resignation from the HRD board effective today. Bryan Bunn provided an update on the Weyl’s sign. Nick Hebert discussed efforts to raise awareness to programs offered by HRD. Sondra Corbitt reminded the board about the financial disclosures due May 15, ethics training and sexual harassment training.

A motion was made by Tom Hassell, seconded by Nick Hebert, to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 p.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2024. at 11:00 a.m. at the 2nd Floor Conference Room, 8026 Main Street, Houma, LA.

Noah Lirette, Chairman Sondra Corbitt, Secretary