

Gentilly Development District Minutes
Board of Commissioners Teleconference Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Gentilly Development District (GDD) was called to order by Senator Joe Bouie (acting chairman) at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the teleconference, explaining that due to COVID 19, the board would meet by Zoom or Teleconference as all other boards are doing in the state of Louisiana. Senator Bouie welcomed the two new board members, Senator Harris and Representative Willard.

Roll call of the Commissioners was taken by Ms. Honaker. Ms. Honaker referred the commissioners and others in attendance to the Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Honaker explained that the Open Meeting laws were followed with this meeting by posting the meeting 24 hours ahead of time as required.

Members Present:

All board members were present: Senator Joe Bouie, Ms. Gretchen Bradford, Pastor Aubrey Watson, Senator Jimmy Harris, Representative Matthew Willard and Councilperson Jared Brossett.

Others Present:

Kathy Lynn Honaker/ No members of the public were in attendance.

Old Business

Minutes from October 2018.

Senator Bouie asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and if so and no questions he would ask for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2018 meeting. Ms. Gretchen Bradford made a motion to approve the October 2018 minutes. A second was made by Rep. Willard and were approved by all.

Election of Officers

Senator Bouie stated that another item from our last meeting was election of new officers for GDD. He explained there were four positions to fill of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. He further explained that officers will serve for a two year period.

A nomination was made by Ms. Gretchen Bradford for Senator Joe Bouie to serve as Chairman of GDD. Senator Harris seconded the motion and moved to close the nominations which was seconded by Councilperson Brossett. It was a unanimous

approval by the board. Chairman Bouie stated he was honored to be elected to be the chairman of Gentilly Development District.

A nomination of Senator Harris for vice chair was made by Senator Bouie, which was seconded by Ms. Bradford. A motion to close was made by Councilperson Brossett; seconded by Pastor Watson and approved by all. Senator Harris was elected as Vice Chair by all board members.

Pastor Watson made a nomination for Ms. Bradford to be Secretary of the Board, which was seconded by Chairman Bouie. A motion to close the nominations came from Rep. Willard and seconded by Pastor Watson. All voted for Ms. Bradford to be Secretary of the board.

Ms. Bradford nominated Rep. Matthew Willard to serve as Treasurer of the board which was seconded by Senator Bouie. Chairman Bouie moved to close the nominations which was seconded by Pastor Watson. Rep. Willard was elected by all members of the board and will serve as Treasurer.

New Business

Legislative Session update

Chairman Bouie explained that during the recent legislative session they were able to identify a recurring revenue stream for Gentilly Development District. He publically recognized the work of Senator Harris who is on the Finance Committee for making it happen. An amount of 100k annually from the Fairgrounds gaming taxes will be available for GDD.

Ms. Bradford asked what the funds are allowed to be used for. Chairman Bouie explained that a small amount will go to the maintenance of cameras. This is new money however, and the board needs to decide how to use the funds. There may be a committee set up to bring ideas back to the board. Pastor Watson wanted a clarification that the total funds annually would be 100k. Senator Bouie confirmed the amount.

Historical Overview of GDD

Chairman Bouie asked Ms. Honaker to give a historical overview of Gentilly as she has served as the Executive Director from the beginning of the district. He said she has been the Algiers Development District Executive Director since 2004 and currently holds that position. Ms. Honaker covered the below bulleted items with the Commissioners and answered any questions they had.

- Gentilly Development District (GDD) was created by state legislation in 2008 as a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana
- GDD was created to provide for cooperative economic development between the district, the city of New Orleans and the owners/owners of businesses and property within the district in order to provide for renovation, restoration and development within the district
- Funds were requested in 2010 and received in 2011

- State appropriation of 600k to assist with restoration of Milne Boys Home 2011
- Ms. Honaker and GDD board worked on this project with City of New Orleans and State of Louisiana Facility Planning team 2011-17 when the project was finalized
- Held public update meetings twice a year
- Board meetings as needed/Usually four per year
- Ms. Honaker handled the district needs and issues on a day-to-day basis reporting to Chairman
- Annual Budget created
- Annual Audit/ Ms. Honaker worked with CPA Sean Bruno who did pro-bono for GDD
- Public Meeting Laws followed
- Board responsible for State of Louisiana ethics training annually/ Ms. Honaker monitored to ensure compliance
- Board also responsible for State of Louisiana annual financial disclosure
- Focus Areas at last 2018 board meeting:
Decision to focus on areas to assist all of Gentilly when spending funds from GDD. 3 areas selected for future funds:
 - Crime prevention/Crime center
 - Lighting and Banners
 - Beautification

Proposal for future Executive/Administrative assistance

Chairman Bouie explained to the board that he would like to request their approval on his working with Kathy Lynn Honaker for her to help the board jump start the transition and help with administrative duties for the district over the next year. Also he would like to contact Sean Bruno who will do any audit requirements and has done so in the past for Gentilly. Chairman Bouie explained he can come up with a scope of activities for them and a pay amount then bring it back to the board for approval.

Pastor Watson made the motion to give Chairman Bouie the authority to discuss Kathy Lynn Honaker and Sean Bruno working with them and to bring back to the board the agreements for the board's approval. Rep. Willard seconded this motion and everyone approved.

Resolutions

Chairman Bouie said he would like to defer the resolutions until our next meeting. A motion was made by Pastor Watson and seconded by Rep. Willard to defer the resolutions and all approved.

Selection of Bank for Deposits

Ms. Honaker stated that the former bank had been First NBC which was no longer in business. The former account which had a zero balance and is close. She asked if the board had any recommendations to consider. Both Pastor Watson and Ms. Bradford recommended that Capital One who does a lot for the community be one of the banks considered.

Ms. Honaker explained that the requirement in the past has been for two signatures of board members on all checks. Chairman Bouie asked if the board wanted to operate the same, and everyone agreed to do so.

A motion was made by Pastor Watson to require two signatures on the account and all checks of the following members: the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. There were no objections and everyone voted to accept the motion. It was agreed the group would chose a bank at the next meeting.

Public Input

There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

Chairman Bouie stated there will be four items for the next meeting. they are:

1. Approval of Sean Bruno and Kathy Lynn Honaker working with GDD
2. Bank for GDD
3. Resolutions that were deferred
4. GDD Focus areas for which funds will be used

Chairman Bouie thanked all commissioners for attending. He once again thanked and recognized Senator Harris for the revenue stream. He stated he is very excited from seeing what ADD has done in the past and that it can be done with GDD for economic development and future opportunities for the Gentilly area.

As there was no other business, Chairman Bouie asked for a motion to adjourn if there were no more comments or questions from the members.

Ms. Bradford had one question. Ponchartrain Park has received a historical designation from the state of Louisiana. There is no historical marker which costs about 2,500 each and three are needed at the three entrances. Is this an item that might be considered for funding? Senator Bouie said that three areas had been identified that GDD funds could be used in the past meeting which Ms. Honaker covered. Crime prevention/crime center-lighting and banners-beautification. This will all be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Bradford thanked the chairman.

Pastor Watson said that children's masks are needed and if the legislators or commissioners knew of anyone that could help he would appreciate it. Senator Bouie said he had 500 masks that he will provide to Pastor Watson. Pastor Watson expressed his thanks to Senator Bouie.

A motion was made to adjourn by Rep. Willard and seconded by Pastor Watson.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



