



**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
NEW ORLEANS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

DATE: April 14, 2008

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

**LOCATION: Capital One Tower (Previously known as Place St. Charles)
201 St. Charles Avenue, 52nd Floor Board Room
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

A quorum was not present

Attendees: Commissioners Brown, Connor, Couhig, West, and Woods

Absent: Commissioners Abbott, Cowen, Legarde, Major, and Singleton

Vice-Chairman Woods indicated the Board would go through the agenda to those items which do not require a motion.

3. Introduction of Guests

Visitors were:

Scott Simons
Adrian Kornman, Southern Homes
Chris Kornman, Southern Homes
Marla Nelson, University of New Orleans
Pincus Friedman, PF Developers
Michael Hearn, Rally Foundations
James Willis, Churches United for Revitalization
Lucinda Flowers, NO Vacant Properties Initiatives
Amber Seely, Volunteers of America, Greater New Orleans
Sylvia Sceneau Richard, East New Orleans Association
Gionne Jourdan, Michaels Development Co.
K Prevost, Bunny Friend
Eddie Beard, Eddie Beard, LLC
Peter Richard, BGR
Adam Bertuglion, Leon NOLA, LLC
Kyle Bienveau, Tulane Law Student
Sebastian Weston, New Orleans East Resident
Tangeyon Wall, New Orleans East Commission

4. Review and Approval of Agenda – No quorum
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 10, 2008 – No quorum
6. Committee Reports

a) Land Assembly & Disposition Committee

1) NORA I-Map Launch

Executive Director Joseph E. Williams introduced Maseyas Fernandez of MFS Global Solutions and asked him to provide an update on the progress of NORA's database project. Fernandez mentioned that NORA had requested that Global develop an internet mapping tool detailing the properties in NORA's various property pipelines and the properties in its inventory. He announced the I-Map tool had been deployed for about a week and was available to the public through the NORA website. It is a working application which will provide continued updates as the status of these properties change.

Commissioner Connor commented on the ease with which I-Map can be used.

2) Progress Report on NORA's 2008 Work Plan

Ommeed Sathe and Richard Monteilh reviewed the highlights of the Status Report on NORA's 2008 Work Plan with the Board.

Sathe mentioned to the Board that all short term commitments made to the Board at the March meeting have been completed. Progress was reported on the medium term commitments and the additional projects.

The property expropriation report summary included:

Files under review – 75

Suits in progress – 158

Hearing set and quick take suits – 25

SOAP transfers in progress - 25

b) Finance Committee

1) Review of Financial Statements

Commissioner Woods asked Sheri LaBranche-Jackson to review the financials. LaBranche-Jackson reviewed the financial statements as of February 29, 2008, which were distributed at the Board meeting.

2) Funding Update

LaBranche-Jackson reviewed the updates of several funding sources for NORA. She mentioned the annual CDBG agreement is signed and at City Hall; a portion of the UDAG funds have been received; and cost control statements for January, February, and March have been turned in to the City's budget department for reimbursement.

3) Resolution to Bond Commission - Fannie Mae

Joseph Williams mentioned the change to the resolution for Fannie Mae credit needed for the Bond Commission. This will need to be approved at the May Board meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

7. Executive Director's Report

a) Community Engagement Update

Williams reviewed with the Board the community update summary sheet which was an attachment. NORA has conducted 17 presentations to neighborhood groups with an additional 9 on the calendar. These meetings include follow-ups with neighborhood associations.

b) Community Needs Workshop

Executive Director Williams informed and invited the body to the Community Needs Workshop, a 2-day conference NORA is co-sponsoring with the Valued Advisor Fund, LLC. The conference is being held at the Chateau Sonesta Hotel on May 6-7, 2008. He mentioned this conference will be a great learning opportunity for neighborhood groups and non-profits and an opportunity to meet investors interested in participating in New Orleans' recovery. Information regarding the conference can be found on the website www.valuedadvisorfund.com

c) Personnel Update

Executive Director Williams introduced the four new hires since the last Board meeting, Kirsten Melberg, Anita Briant, Marla Jefferson and Selena Neal-Sanjurjo. Commissioner Woods requested the number of employee currently at NORA. Williams answered 21.

8. Chairman's Report – No report
9. Public Comment

Hoffman Triangle representative requested a delay in the RFP advertisement until after a follow-up meeting with the neighborhood association.

East New Orleans representative stated New Orleans East needs a hospital. East New Orleans Commission representatives made comments about abandoned apartment complexes located on the I-10 corridor which are an eye sore to travelers passing through New Orleans and the constituents would like NORA's guidance and assistance. There is also concern because NORA's Board did not discuss redevelopment of neighborhoods in New Orleans East. Upper 9th Ward representatives wanted NORA's participation in the neighborhood meetings. Lower 9th Ward citizens was concerned about homeowners receiving their certified mail from NORA regarding the Lot Next Door program because many of them only have post office boxes.
10. Executive Session - None
11. Old Business - None
12. New Business

Commissioner Couhig asked for 30, 60, and 90 day tangible outcomes. Sathe and Monteilh responded that the Irish Channel RFP responses will be in within the next 30 days and will be analyzed immediately afterward. The Winn Dixie project should be under construction in June or July, 2008, and the Gentilly Woods Mall should have negotiations completed by August, 2008.

Commissioner West requested that NORA ask The Office of Recovery Management for a city-wide property inventory.
13. Adjourn – at 7:35 p.m.