

**Minutes of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority  
Board of Commissioners Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, April 9, 2007

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Place:** Amoco Building  
1340 Poydras Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

**The following agenda items were considered at the meeting:**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

**2. Roll Call**

Quorum was present with Commissioners Abbott, Brown, Connor, Couhig, Cowen, Gray, and West. Commissioners Lagarde, Major, Singleton, and Woods were noted absent.

**3. Introduction of Guests**

- Karen Gadbois, Common Knowledge
- Maggin Merrill, UNO Student
- Ricardo Gutierrez, CHAT and DeSaix Area Neighborhood Assn.
- Michelle Krupa, Times-Picayune
- Becky Bohrer, Associated Press
- Amy Westfeldt, Associated Press
- Shawn Antee, CHAT
- Amy Enchelmeyer, Councilman Arnie Fielkow's Office
- Daya Naef, Crescent City Management, LLC
- Geoff Brien, Councilwoman Shelley Midura's Office
- Davin Boldissar, BGR
- Deborah Langhoff, District 5 Steering Committee/NRN
- Becca O'Brien, Mayor's Office
- Brenda Breaux, City Law
- Patty Gay, PRC
- Eliot Kamenitz, Times-Picayune
- Stephanie Grace, Times Picayune
- Rebecca Houtman
- Alan Gutierrez, Think New Orleans
- Susan Barre, CHAT and Think New Orleans

**4. Review and Approval of Agenda**

Approval Motion: Gray

Second: Brown

Vote: Unanimous

**5. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting held March 26, 2007**

Approval Motion: Cowen  
Second: Brown  
Vote: Unanimous

**6. Committee Reports**

There was no new information reported by NORA Committees.

**7. Executive Director's Report**

**a) Grant report**

Mr. Williams informed the Board that NORA has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the SURDNA Foundation. The funds are to be applied towards the compensation package for the Land Assembly and Disposition position as well as for technical assistance provided by the National Vacant Properties Campaign.

Mr. Williams also took a moment to thank the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) for their assistance in preparing and submitting the SURDNA grant proposal.

Lastly Mr. Williams reported that he expects to receive the Prospectus, a document NORA will present to potential funders, prior to the next Board meeting.

**b) Office Space**

The Office of Recovery Management informed NORA that the foundation-funded office space reported on at the last Board meeting will be available to NORA and the Office of Recovery Management. ORM is finalizing the arrangement with the funding foundation and NORA's staff is working through the remaining issues related to setting up the wiring to bring the space to a plug and play level. Mr. Williams informed the Board that based upon the initial reports from the IT Department, NORA can reasonably expect to be moved into its new space by mid-June.

**c) Staffing**

Mr. Williams informed the Board that the background checks on the three finalists for the Director of Finance have come back positive. This was the final stage in the process.

In addition, Mr. Williams informed the Board that the Land Assembly and Disposition position has been posted on two websites. Resumes will be coming from those and other sources.

Mr. Williams also provided the Board with a report on the Land Assembly and Disposition Policies and Procedures. The draft is to be completed by consultants in the next week or two. It will be submitted to the Board for review and changes after Staff and the Land Assembly and Disposition Committee meet to review the document.

**8. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman made no report.

**9. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Issues**

Motion: Couhig, to recruit experienced student interns to assist NORA in specialized areas of operations.

Second: Gray

Vote: Unanimous

**10. Public Comment**

- Several members of CHAT addressed the Board in reference to when a list of property would be available so that they can begin purchasing property.
- Patty Gay, PRC, addressed the Board in reference to the need develop a marketing plan for property sales at the same time they are developing disposition policies. She stressed the importance of not leaving advertising of the properties to the last minute.

**11. Old Business**

None

**12. New Business**

None

**13. Adjourn**

Motion: Couhig

Second: West

Vote: Unanimous