

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

**October 14, 2013  
6:00 p.m.**

**1409 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70113**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Singleton called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

A quorum was called with the following Commissioners present at the meeting: Hackett-Antrum, Dang Le, Lee, Leger, Marsiglia, Singleton and Tiller. Commissioner Connor was absent.

**III. Introduction of Guests**

**IV. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved.

**V. Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes August 12, 2013**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

**VI. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Hebert provided an update on the NSP2 program. As of August 5, 2013, 107 units have been sold; 175 units rented; 79 units have been made available for rent/sale; 97 units under construction; and 14 units in the pre-development stage.

NORA issued the Gentilly Redevelopment Initiative Request for Proposals on September 1, 2013 and the deadline for submissions is November 1, 2013. Staff will conduct an information session on September 17. The RFP is for the redevelopment of the area bounded by Bayou St. John, Mirabeau Avenue, London Avenue Canal and Interstate 610/Gentilly Blvd. There are 35 properties available; which includes 28 lots and 7 structures.

The Landscape Design and Administrative Services Request for Qualifications received three (3) responses with two (2) awards made to Dana Brown & Associates, Inc. and Spackman Mossop+Michaels (with Julien Engineering, Inc.).

Vacant Lot Greening Pilot Project- This project will be presented at five (5) locations in each Councilmanic District. Landscape designs will prevent nuisance and beautify lots. The lots will be developed by NORA and maintained for one (1) year by NORA vendors. Community partners will also assist with long-term maintenance.

New Orleans Mission-An article appeared on nola.com October 12, 2013 stating that NORA made a commitment to provide funding for the renovations to the facility. Mr. Hebert clarified that NORA received an application for funding from the New Orleans Mission which is currently under review, but that an award had not been made.

Broad ReFresh/Whole Foods-The original opening date was December 2013; however, due to construction delays the opening date has been pushed back to February 2014, the original opening was for December 2013. Mr. Hebert stated that the opening date does not impact NORA's agreement with the developer.

Whole Foods held an employment information session on October 10, 2013. Approximately 125 jobs are available.

2014 Budget-NORA will appear before the City Council in November to present its 2014 Budget request. Staff will present the 2014 Budget to the Board at December's Board Meeting.

Fannie Mae Line of Credit-The final payment was submitted October 9, 2013.

Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference- This year's conference was held September 9-11, 2013 in Philadelphia, PA. Jeff and David Lessinger served on several panels.

Market Value Analysis Peer Cities Working Group- These meetings were held here in New Orleans October 1-2 and included representatives from New Orleans, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Detroit.

Staff updates included the hiring of Sonya Brister, Grants Manager II; Bianka Brown, Staff Accountant; Mia Jones, Senior Accountant; Colleen McHugh, Resiliency Fellow and Joe Pfeifer, Intern.

**\*\*\*PowerPoint Attached\*\*\***

## **VII. Livable Claiborne Communities Study-William Gilchrist**

Williams Gilchrist, Director of Place Based Planning for the City of New Orleans gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Livable Claiborne Communities Study which was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Transportation & Development.

The study provided an overview of the economic development, community revitalization and multi-modal transportation alternatives and actions in the Claiborne Corridors to improve the short and long-term livability, equity, sustainability and mobility for residents, businesses and visitors in the Claiborne Corridor while maintaining regional mobility.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**A. Finance Committee-Lee**

1. **Revenue Update-Michelle Calachino**
2. **Acceptance of July and August 2013 Financials**
3. **2013 Budget Amendment**

Copies of the report were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting for their review and staff assured the Board that responses to findings have been completed or are in the process of being completed.

4. **Resolution(s)**

2013-16 Amending 2013 Budget

Motion: Lee

Seconded: Hackett-Antrum

8 Yeas            0 Nays            1 Absent

**B. Land Assembly Committee-Connor**

1. **November 2, 2013 Auction Update-Brenda Breaux**

Ms. Breaux stated that the Buyer's Seminar was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and over 100 people attended. There was an open house on October 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> for the 50 structures included in the November 2<sup>nd</sup> auction. Advertisements for the auction are strategically located at bus shelters and on streetcars.

**\*\*\*PowerPoint Attached\*\*\***

**IX. Executive Session**

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. and the Regular Board Meeting resumed at 8:00 p.m.

**X. Other Matters**

**XI. Public Comment**

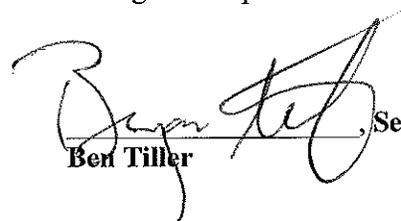
Ricardo Gutierrez- DeSaix Neighborhood Association stated that property located at 3118 Castine has had no substantial progress made to it. Mr. Gutierrez did state that he saw a NORA inspector on site in early spring. He's requesting that NORA address this matter with the owner.

Ms. Breaux stated that NORA has a reversion team which meets weekly to address matters such as this. NORA will contact Mr. Gutierrez with their findings.

Chairman Singleton requested staff to provide the Board with a complete report detailing all property inspections and reversions. Ms. Breaux stated that the Legal team will prepare this report for distribution.

**XII. Adjourn**

A motion was cast and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

  
Ben Tiller, Secretary