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## Historic District Commission

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### Special Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024

Members present: Cody Blanchard, Rhonda Dempster, Marguerite Erwin & Robert Cavell

Members absent: Lance Ledet

Also Present: Monique Reulet, Public Works Executive Secretary; Sonya Cabrera, Public Works Secretary; Josh Bourgeois, Public Works Director; Trey Waguespack, Assistant Public Works Director; Kevin Clement, Mayor

Blanchard called the meeting to order.

Erwin moved to accept the minutes presented for the March 7, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dempster, all commission members were in favor, motion carried 3 to 0, with 2 absent.

The minutes reflect that Robert Cavell is present at the meeting.

Blanchard introduced the first item on the agenda – to review proposal by Eric Tate/Tate Construction Group on behalf of Matthew Ory/Facowee, Inc. for exterior courtyard addition to Rox’s Bar located at 200 St Philip Street.

No one was present to represent this request. Erwin questioned the design proposal for the fence. Monique Reulet clarified that the proposal was to do solid wood at the bottom and wire mesh at the top. Erwin also asked for clarification on the scope of work, and Reulet stated that for the purpose of the Commissions review, they are mainly looking at the fence area, which would be visible from the street. Erwin asked Mayor Clement if there was a food truck ordinance. Mayor Clement stated it was in the works.

Cavell made a motion to approve the proposal by Eric Tate/Tate Construction Group on behalf of Matthew Ory/Facowee, Inc. for exterior courtyard addition to Rox’s Bar located at 200 St Philip Street. The motion was seconded by Dempster, all commission members in, motion carries 4 to 0, with 1 absent.

In other business, the Mayor updated the commission on the plans for a pavilion/stage area in Downtown Thibodaux. He stated that he had met with an engineer and was working on some design proposals for this area and would like to get the commission’s opinion. He clarified that this structure would be located on W 2nd Street from St Philip Street to LA 1. It will be 20x30 and will have power serviced to it. It would be about 95% facing the intersection. Erwin discussed the location of the stage, and questioned why it was not going to be along the bayou side. Mayor Clement agreed and stated that he originally proposed placing this structure on the bayou side, but the City Council had concerns and requirements.

Mayor Clement, Dempster and Blanchard discussed the size of the stage and the usability concerns, expressing the desire to be able to use it year round. Mayor Clement stated that he wants it to be usable year round as well, but he is limited because the funds from the State that are given to the city for this project have an expiration date of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Erwin mentioned that she saw the first design proposal and felt it was too contemporary. She also expressed concerns that this stage would be mainly beneficial to the bars nearby. Mayor Clement stated that he is working to ensure that this does not happen, and that the project will benefit all of downtown. Dempster added that she believes it would

resemble the bayou side pavilion that was recently built across from City Hall. Blanchard mentioned that he wanted his structure to be more family friendly.

Blanchard spoke to Mayor Clement about working together to make some guidelines for the Historic District Commission and the community, so that we can clarify what the Commission looks for within the District. He also requested to discuss the possibility of giving the Historic District Commission a little more authority. Reulet stated that she thought some clearer guidelines would be beneficial to everyone, and suggested that they schedule a time to meet to brainstorm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.