



Minutes

Legal and Regular Meeting – March 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Infrastructure Committee of the Southside Economic Development District was held on March 2, 2023, at 800 Washington Street.

In attendance were: Otis Jones, chairman; Roosevelt Wright, Jr.; and Karl Dhaliwal.

Advisory members present were: Mrs. Marie Brown, Mrs. Anna Reed, and Dr. Anthony.

Mr. Little observed the meeting briefly.

Guests included: Mrs. Donna Cathey and Tim Brandon of TBA Studios.

Mr. Jones said he had only recently been appointed chairman of the committee. He said he wanted the committee to focus on selecting two priority projects from the SEDD plan to recommend to the SEDD board for approval.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Wright to explain to new advisory members the committee's goals. Mr. Wright explained the committee's responsibility was to execute details relative to goal #3 of the council-approved SEDD plan. It involves studying, planning, and executing initiatives to make business expansions and new developments possible, including a post office, entertainment and health care district, a supermarket, and other needs.

Mr. Brandon told the committee that TBA is working with two minority companies that specialize in what SEDD is trying to do. As it implements the master plan for the Safe Neighborhood component, he said TBA will utilize their input.

There was a discussion about the two priorities that the committee would recommend to the SEDD board. It was noted that a master plan would be needed for SEDD to execute the Southside Dream that is coordinated with the city's master plan to avoid duplication. Mr. Brandon said he has reviewed the city's master plan, which generally focuses on the downtown area. Southside plans only include necessary infrastructure improvements to prevent flooding, facilitate improved sewerage, and some street repairs.

The discussion also focused on the need for the master plan to show specifics and projected costs.

Mr. Jones informed the committee that about ten years ago, when he was SEDD president, he and members of the Monroe City Council lobbied congressional members for a post office in South Monroe. He said the delegation stayed in Washington for six days and had secured commitments for the post office until the Postal Service decided to cut back on new Department Expenses and curtail any new constructions. Mr. Jones said getting a post office is workable.

It was moved by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Dhaliwal that the committee recommend developing a master plan for infrastructure needs for the district and securing a Post Office in South Monroe become the two of the priority projects for the district. In addition, an RFP would be issued to secure a consultant to manage the project. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Jones assigned Mr. Wright to get the RFP prepared ASAP.

After 37 minutes of deliberation, the meeting adjourned.