



## Minutes

**October 3, 2024**

**3:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Southside Economic Development District was held on October 3, 2024, at the Benoit Recreation Center at 3:00 p.m.

Present were: Tony Little, Roosevelt Wright, Jr, Atty Sarah Smith, Karl Dhaliwal, Tyrone Goodin, Ms. Jessica DeTiege, Kenneth Hall, Herb Guillory  
Absent were Mrs. Anna Reed, Rev. Michael Douglas

Also in attendance were Rev. Cliff Thomas of the NAACP, Mondrian Douglas and Rev. T. J. Stevenson, both SEDD committee members, and Mrs. Kenya Roberson of the Northeast Louisiana Black Chamber Foundation.

There was a quorum.

Rev. Cliff Thomas gave an invocation.

There was a discussion concerning whether to eliminate the word "deviate" from September 9, 2024. The President said he wanted it removed from the minutes because it made it appear that he had urged the board to violate a SEDD rule. Mr. Wright opposed the deletion because it was an accurate account of what was said regardless of whether it was right or wrong.

A motion by Mr. Little to adopt the minutes deleting the word "deviate" from a statement attributed to him on September 9, 2024 Minutes, was seconded by Atty. Smith.

Voting aye: Little, Goodin, DeTiege, Smith.

Voting nay: Wright, Dhaliwal.

Abstain: Hall, Guillory

The motion failed (6 votes required passage)

President Little introduced new members to the board and allowed them to introduce themselves, including Ms. Jessica Detiege (Senator Jackson), Kenneth Hall (Rep. Fisher), and Herb Guillory (Black Chamber)

The President introduced Ellen Hill, director of Housing and Urban Development for the City of Monroe, to make a presentation to the SEDD. Mrs. Hill said the city is in the planning phases for the new Consolidated Plan for the city. Meetings will be held in November to explain the plan, train non-profits on how to participate, and get input on community needs.

Mrs. Hill said the CDBG expects to have \$730,000 in federal funds, of which about \$300,00 is allocated for administration, and about \$100,000 would be available to community non-profits.

She said her department is open to partnering with SEDD to write grants or host economic activities focusing on workforce development.

On motion of Mr. Wright and seconded by Attorney Smith, the board unanimously voted to approve the treasurer's recommendation to pay the bill for Rebirth Designs for \$3,600 in IT services for the coming year and regular recurring bills.

Mr. Wright reminded the commissioners that each is responsible for completing the required ethics training and filing the Tier 2 Financial Reports. He said links to it are on the state's website.

The President passed over explanations of the SEDD 25-year plan and the mayor's TiF offer, but written copies of the TIF, the SEDD plan, and SEDD talking points on the TIF were distributed to members through their email or with hard copies at the meeting.

There was a discussion about the status of the Arizona Street Dream Center. In response to board member questions, Mr. Little explained the facility is more than 90% complete, but the project had been assigned to Mr. Otis in June of this year, who reluctantly agreed to push to get the facility completed by August 31, 2024, this year.

Mr. Little said Mr. Jones was replaced on the board after his term expired by the Black Chamber, although he asked the Chamber to allow him to finish the project, which would take another month. He said Mr. Jones, who was non-paid, had been replaced by the Chamber and now had sour grapes.

Mr. Little asked the board to authorize him to take the steps necessary to complete the building, including finally issuing an RFP for a project leader to guide the project to completion.

The board did not accept that idea but chose to evaluate what had been done first and then issue an RFP afterward.

On the motion of Miss Detiege, seconded by Mr. Guillory, the board unanimously agreed that the board would have a meeting to evaluate the records that Mr. Jones left concerning the Dream Center before any action is taken to publish an RFP for its completion.

There was no specific citizen participation period; the chair allowed citizens to comment on each agenda item as they were addressed.

After 1 hour and seven minutes of deliberation, the meeting adjourned.

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Tony Little  
President

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Roosevelt Wright, Jr.  
Secretary/Treasurer