
Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2025

Members present: Cody Blanchard, Rhonda Dempster, Marguerite Erwin, Lance Ledet, Trey Ledet

Members absent: None

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

Blanchard called the meeting to order.

Erwin moved to accept the minutes presented for the June 12, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dempster, all Commission members were in favor, motion carried 5 to 0, with 0 absent and 0 abstaining.

Blanchard recused himself from the discussion of the first agenda item.

Dempster introduced the first item on the agenda - to review proposal by Emily Braud/BTNEP for 10 storm drain murals in Downtown Thibodaux.

Emily Braud & Emily Bonvillain, BTNEP, were present to represent this proposal. Braud explained that this is an educational project focusing on bringing awareness to the protection of our waterways. She explained that all storm drains in Thibodaux feed into Bayou Lafourche, which is the source of drinking water for over 300,000 residents.

She noted that, although the style of art in Houma showed a lot of cartoon characters, they do not have to go that route for Thibodaux. If the City would prefer more images of historical buildings, or music instruments, they can do that instead. Erwin discussed the history of storm drain artwork, and stated that she does not feel the images shown from Houma would fit in the Historic District.

T. Ledet expressed concern over the ability of the artwork to last, especially since many of the storm drains are in the road and would be driven over by vehicles. Braud stated that the Houma murals are covered in several coats of marine coating. L. Ledet asked about upkeep and who would be responsible for that. Braud stated that they could put something in the contract to address that. Erwin stated that she would like to see some more specific proposals. Braud explained that they did not get more specific because they wanted the Commissions input. Erwin then questioned how these murals would fit into the sign ordinance, and if they would classify as an off-premise sign. Reulet questioned if it could be designed to qualify more as a 'no dumping sign'.

Mayor Kevin Clement, 205 St Michael Street, was present to comment on this matter. He stated that there are several manhole covers in the area, and maybe some of the murals can be painted on these. He also noted that there are BTNEP medallions attached to several storm drains across the City, so perhaps these could be used in the design. Mayor Clement then suggested that BTNEP pick locations and then commission members could pick designs. Dempster noted that artists can give input on possible designs. Mayor Clement mentioned the Nicholls Art Club and Purple Penguin Art Studio as possible sources of ideas.

Erwin made a motion to table the proposal by Emily Braud/BTNEP for 10 storm drain murals in Downtown Thibodaux.

The motion was seconded by L. Ledet all Commission members were in favor, motion carries 4 to 0, with 0 absent and 1 abstaining.

Blanchard re-joined the meeting.

Blanchard introduced the second item on the agenda – to review proposed changes to the Historic District ordinance.

Erwin asked Dempster if she found anything closer to what the commission was aiming for. Dempster said that the document she put together and sent to the Commission is the closest sample of what she felt the Thibodaux Historic District Commission would want to enact. Blanchard asked if they could remove the section on a review board and the creation of a review board. Dempster requested that all members send her their comments and propose changes. The Board members then discussed whether they should regulate color or not. Reulet suggested that they consider restricting use of certain types of colors, like 'neon' colors. Blanchard and T. Ledet discuss the possibility of having subsets of rules for both residential and commercial properties. Dempster noted the door hangers that had been created by Public Works, and suggested that these be handed out to more residential areas. The new director of Thibodaux Main Street could focus more on bringing awareness to all the building owners and business operators in the commercial areas.

Blanchard explained that Thibodaux Main Street is working on a master list of all business owners and property owners with contact information and details on the types of businesses. Commission members and Mayor Clement discussed how to handle blighted and vacant properties in the Historic District. Blanchard requested that we keep this item on the agenda for all future meeting dates until a final draft of the ordinance is completed. Reulet asked if Thibodaux Main Street would be able to share the meeting agendas to help spread information and encourage people in Downtown Thibodaux to attend the meetings and give feedback, and Blanchard said yes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.