## MINUTES OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 17, 2022

PRESENT: Jason P. Latiolais, Chair

Herbert I. Miller, Committee Member

Richard G. Duplantier, Jr., Committee Member Herbert T. Weysham, III, Committee Member

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on February 17, 2022, at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport, Terminal Building, Second Floor Conference Room, 6001 Stars and Stripes Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Latiolais called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** None.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The Committee approved the agenda as presented.

<u>Approval of Minutes</u>: The Committee approved the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on January 20, 2022.

Public Comments: None.

## **New Business:**

A. Presentation of design for the floodwall mural near the intersection of Ursulines Avenue and N. Peters Streets by the City of New Orleans and Arts New Orleans partnership with the Canadian Consulate of Dallas.

Lindsay Glatz, Creative Director for the Arts Council of New Orleans, advised that the Arts Council is the City of New Orleans' official arts agency. The Arts Council of New Orleans is an independent, non-profit that works with the City of New Orleans and through public and private funds to bring art to the community (e.g., murals, sculptures, and festivals, as well as working through its youth programs on diversion and opportunities for professional development).

Ms. Glatz explained that the proposed mural project came to the Arts Council through the International Affairs Department of the City of New Orleans, which is currently in discussions with the Canadian Consulate through the Dallas Consulate Chapter to create a Sister City Agreement and help revitalize tourism from Canada to New Orleans, particularly with increases in flights through Air Canada to the region. The Canadian Consulate wanted to find a permanent location to support art and bring attention to their partnership with New Orleans. The mural will celebrate the artistry of both communities and the connection between the two cultures.

Ms. Glatz advised that the proposed mural is unique in that most of the project was conceived throughout the pandemic. The Canadian Consulate provided a selection of Canadian artists from which the Arts Council's Public Art Committee selected an artist for the mural. The Arts Council worked with the French Market Corporation, which has been working on securing additional funding for the project, relative to the mural site. A small highly visible section of the Mississippi River Levee (MRL) Floodwall in a high traffic area was selected at the intersection of Ursulines Avenue and N. Peters Street.

Ms. Glatz advised that Chantelle Trainor-Matties, an indigenous artist from the Pacific Northwest, was the selected artist. The mural will be executed by the Arts Council's Young Artists Movement (YAM) students. In order for Ms. Trainor-Matties to develop the design, the Arts Council partnered with several Arcadian artists and discussions took place regarding culture and artistic details (i.e., a sense of waters, unique wildlife, food and the Acadian celebration of Mardi Gras). The design uses a Caribbean cool color palate to fit in with the floodwall color and includes a representation of the waters through which the Acadians traveled and features northern Canadian and Louisiana wildlife and traditions.

Ms. Glatz explained that the Canadian Consulate would like to unveil the mural at the end of March and invite Consul, City and State officials to the unveiling. Therefore, the Arts Council must execute the mural immediately after Mardi Gras and move forward with their process with the YAM students. She stressed that when working with YAM students, the Arts Council ensures that the students are well taken care of and safe.

Mr. Latiolais wanted to ensure that the mural project would be at no cost to the FPA. Ms. Glatz responded that the Canadian Consul is providing all funding for the project. Relative to tagging (graffiti), she explained that the Arts Council has been involved with over 30 murals across the City and only one of the murals has been tagged. In addition, in the event that something does happen to the mural, the Arts Council has funding that can be used to restore it.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, advised that a permit was issued by the FPA for the mural located on the MRL Floodwall at Tchoupitoulas Street. The permit includes language regarding maintenance of the mural. Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental Affairs, explained that the FPA worked for years on a process for this type of project and developed a checklist that included assurances that the mural did not contain religious or political content and that the permittee had the wherewithal to do any maintenance that would be needed. The FPA worked initially with International Muralists and the Board allowed the Operations Committee to approve the issuance of a permit for a mural project.

A motion was offered by Mr. Duplantier, seconded by Mr. Weysham, and unanimously adopted to approve the issuance of a permit for the mural project.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.