

DDD Commission Meeting
January 12, 2016, 8:00 a.m.
YMCA, 521 Third Street

Attending: Fran Gladden, Scott Hensgens, Ric Kearny,
Gordon LeBlanc, Cheryl McCormick, Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Sevetri Wilson

Others in Attendance: Logan Anderson, Joe Anthony, Matt Beeson, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Shannon Blakeman, Timothy Boone, Maggie Bowles, Kevin Broussard, Ryan Broussard, Helen Butts, Sgt. Kyle Callihan, Mandy Cazedessus, Janee Chanet, Margaret Chappius, Whitney Cooper, Ron Crum, Alex Daniell, Michael Day, David Deliman, Kristin Diehl, Peter Dieterich, Paul Dominique, Liz Eure, Lynley Farris, Rannah Gray, Cyrus Greco, Kim Haddox, John O, Hearin, Marcus Hennigan, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Mark Hudson, Courtney Hunt, Ted Jack, Fairleigh Jackson, Mary Johnson, John Kaufman, Bliss Kelley, Chris Knight, Jack Koban, Kathy LaBorde, Stephanie Landry, Jason Langlois, Lori Lasseigne, Justin Lemoine, Sam Losavio, Staci Manning, Lauralyn Maranto, Mary Jane Marcantel, Suzanne McCain, Al McDuff, Robert McGuire, Patrick Michaels, B. J. Militello, Liz Murry, Mikeila Nagura, Chris Negulescu, Dyke Nelson, Tim NesSmith, Chris Nichols, Amy Norval, Mary Olinde, Skipper Post, Margaret Read, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Chad Rigby, Stephanie Rivers, Fredrick Sargent, Lisa Smith, Dr. Kay Solar, Sarah Stafford, J.T. Sukits, Emily Sulzer, Casey Tate, Lauren Lambert-Tompkins, Chris Trahan, Veach Tucker, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Neill Wright, Samear Zaitoon

1. Mrs. Fran Gladden called the meeting to order.
2. Mrs. Fran Gladden declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Gordon LeBlanc moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Ric Kearny seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the December 8, 2015 minutes, Mr. Ric Kearny seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Fran Gladden thanked Kevin Broussard for hosting the meeting at the YMCA. Mr. Broussard welcomed everyone and informed them that the YMCA will be celebrating their 15th year downtown in 2016. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to tour the facility following the meeting and informed the Commission that there are 13 new projects that will launch in 2016.

5. Board Action – 2016 DDD Officers – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DDD logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the Nominating Committee report. Mr. Scott Hensgens informed the Commission that the Nominating Committee has met and presented the proposed slate of 2016 officers as follows: Fran Gladden, Chairwoman; Ric Kearny, Vice Chairman; Scott Hensgens, Treasurer and Sevetri Wilson, Secretary. **Mr. Ric Kearny moved to adopt the nominees as presented, Mr. Gordon LeBlanc seconded and the nominees were unanimously approved as presented.**

6a. Governmental Issues – TramLinkBR – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the public meeting flyer. Each Commissioner received a copy of the flyer. Ms. Rannah Gray informed the Commission that that a public meeting to discuss the proposed tram is scheduled for Thursday, January 28 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30p.m. and will be held at the River Center. The proposed modern streetcar system will connect downtown with LSU campus and points in between.

Metro Council Items – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images pertaining to the projects going before the Metropolitan Council. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the following projects will go before the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

- Accepting agreement with Fregonese Associates for development and implementation of parking study by AECOM.
- Accepting low bid for the Downtown Greenway project on North Blvd. portion.
- Introduction for the temporary location of the River Center library in the Kress building
- Introduction for River Center improvements to the theatre, ballroom and outdoor space

6b. Development Initiatives – Downtown East Developments – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the development map and photographs of the developments. Each Commissioner received a copy of the development map. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects proposed for downtown:

- **Lofts @6C** – 6 story, 142 room mixed used residential development on the surface parking lot between Florida and Convention Street – presenting site plans to Planning Commission on February 15, 2016
- **Sports Academy** – Mr. Ted Jack, BREC, informed the Commission that the current Sports Academy is located in the DPW complex located at 1002 Laurel Street and is in need of expanding. BREC is researching the possibility of constructing a new facility near the recently renovated Spanish Town Park. BREC also contacted the owner of the property across the street from the park regarding purchasing the property.
- **Deville Apartments** – Collis Temple is in the process of renovating the units. Mr. Dyke Nelson informed the Commission that the project is using state and federal and historic tax credits.
- **Elysian II** – Phase II site plan will go before the Planning Commission in February 2016 for an additional 100 residential units. Mr. Rhorer recognized Kathy Laborde with Gulf Coast Housing Partnership.
- **Arkel** – Full block of development of offices on the corner of Florida & 10th street.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that he attended the meeting regarding the proposed three laning of Government Street. The DDD is proposing the Louisiana Avenue connector under the Interstate along the side of Women Club House to Eddie Robinson to connect the Government Street bike lanes to the Downtown Greenway. The bike and pedestrian path would also connect Downtown East and Beauregard Town neighborhoods.

500 Laurel – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the exterior of the building. Mr. Dyke Nelson informed the Commission the renovation of the A Hays Town building is utilizing federal and state historic tax credits. The development will house the corporate headquarters of Business First Bank.

Saltz Building – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building located at 442 Main Street. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Kevin and Helena Cunningham will be utilizing historic tax credits to renovate the 1924 building. The development will consist of 2 two bedroom units and 4 one bedroom units. Renovations are expected to begin January 2016 with a seven month construction period and estimated construction cost is \$600,000.

Commerce Building Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the Gaudet Bros. Logo. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that Gaudet Bros. barber shop has signed a lease for 700 sq. ft. in the Commerce building. The barber shop is scheduled to open the second quarter of 2016 and will launch as the only barber shop in Southeast to offer Aveda Barber Shop products. There is 2,200 sq. ft. of retail space available for lease in the Commerce building.

Rotary Centennial Project – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed art piece. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the contract is currently being revised and approval by the City Parish is expected in the spring 2016.

Repentance Park – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the current construction. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that planting is near completion. Wayfinding signage is proposed for loading and parking.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed greenway. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the low bid for the North Blvd portion will be heard by the Metropolitan Council, Wednesday, January 13, 2016. East Blvd. portion is under 95% review with DOTD and the state historic preservation office.

Downtown Bike Racks – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the proposed bike racks. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the City received a grant from Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality program in partnership with CRPC. The grant will provide approximately 70 bike racks throughout the downtown area. The locations have been determined and the bike racks are projected to be installed in approximately two weeks.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo for “We Live It” campaign. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission the subcommittees will meet the following dates:

Ordinance Sub Committee – January 12 – Finalizing a draft of the sidewalk café ordinance

Education Sub Committee – January 14 – Organizing future educational campaigns and programs

Full Maintenance Committee – Next meeting is scheduled Thursday, March 17

Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved with the committees.

Florida and Lafayette Streetscape – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering of the proposed improvements. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council awarded the contract to Hard Rock Construction. The next step will be to draft the contract and forward to Purchasing for approval.

The streetscape improvements will include replacing trees along Lafayette and Florida Streets and adding seating areas along Florida Street.

Preview of the Development Toolkit – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the contents. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the piece is a guide source for developers. The toolkit will be presented at the February 2016 board meeting.

Events – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Casey Tate briefed the Commission on the following events.

- Franklin Graham – January 13
- Louisiana Marathon – January 15 – 17
- Kings and Queens Jazz Brunch – January 17
- MLK March – Jan. 18
- Restaurant Week – January 18 - 23
- Louisiana Life March – January 23
- Mardi Gras Parades
- Foundation for Historical Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- USS Kidd

7. Strategic Plan – Plan Baton Rouge II – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the PBR II cover. The DDD continues to implement the plan with the greening of downtown.

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. There was no information to report.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Emily Sulzer briefed the Commission on the following:

- Avery Kyle, MasterChef Junior will be guest chef at MSM on January 16 at 10:00 a.m.
- Main Street Market will be open February 6 for Spanish Town Mardi Gras Parade and Red Stick Farmer's Market will be closed
- Baton Rouge Arts Market – January 30

Downtown Business Association (DBA) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mrs. Alicia Baron informed the Commission that the Downtown Business Association has approximately 150 members and briefed the Commission on the following upcoming events:

- January 27 – DBA Open house at Giraphic Prints
- February 4 – Lunch and Learn: Dr. Kay Solar
- February 19 – Life After Five Line Up Reveal Watch Party

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8. **Correspondence** – There was no correspondence.

9. **Public Comment** – Dr. Kay Solar briefed the Commission on the upcoming 3rd Street Songwriters Festival scheduled for April 16, 2016. There are several pre and post events throughout the downtown area. Anyone interested in sponsoring the event were encouraged to contact Dr. Solar after the meeting.

Mr. Rannah Gray informed the Commission that the Red Stick Revelry was a great success with approximately 20,000 attending. Mr. Rhorer thanked everyone involved with the project.

Mr. Tim Nesmith, USS Kidd, briefed Commission on the upcoming event:
Kidd Keynotes “Prosthetic Awareness” – January 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.