

DDD Commission Meeting  
July 12, 2016, 8:00 a.m.  
Taylor Porter, Attorneys at Law, 450 Laurel St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

Attending: Scott Hensgens, Ric Kearny, Gordon LeBlanc, Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Fran Gladden, Cheryl McCormick, Sevetri Wilson

Others in Attendance: Stephanie Allen, Joshua Allread, Paul Arrigo, Carmen Austin, Bliss Bernard, Gary Black, Ben Blackwell, Shannon Blakeman, Timothy Boone, Geraldine Bordelon, Kevin Broussard, Ryan Broussard, Gayle Carnahan, Johnathan Cary, Bubba Cashio, Michele Casi, Janee Chanut, Albert Chao, Whitney Cooper, Suzette Crocker, Allison Crump, Michael Day, Kristin Diehl, Rachel DiResto, Michael Dongen, William Doran, Terri Dugas, Mary Durusau, Terry Elmore, Liz Eure, Lynley Farris, Heather Fatzinger, Melony Fields, Joey Furr, Deena Gill, Jay Haratsis, Courtney Hunt, Stacy Jamieson, Mary Johnson, Ellie Jones, John Kaufman, Douglas Kennedy, Chris Knight, Stephanie Landry, Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Beverly LeBeau, Justin Lemoine, Mary Jane Marcantel, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Lee Melancon, Tommy Milazzo, B. J. Militello, Chris Neumann, Shawn Nolan, Mary Olinde, Melissa Parmelee, Skip Phillips, Margaret Read, Davis Rhorer, Allison Rice, Mary Rockwell, Susanne Romig, Frederick Sargent, Bob Schmidt, Jane Skerkoske, Lisa Smith, Mary Stein, Ebru Sumer, Emily Sulzer, Cherry Talbert, Casey Tate, Ben Taylor, Matthew Taylor, Lacy Terrell, Lauren Tompkins, Chris Trahan, Kyle Treloar, Veach Tucker, Tyelise Vavasseur, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Spencer Watts, Marlon White, Councilwoman Wicker, La Rui Yao, Samaer Zaitoon, Diane Zhang

1. Mr. Ric Kearny called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Ric Kearny declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the agenda, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the June 14, 2016 minutes, Mr. Gordon LeBlanc seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Ric Kearny thanked Taylor Porter for hosting the meeting and introduced the Firm's Managing Partner, Mr. Skip Phillips. Mr. Phillips welcomed everyone and invited them to tour the roof top terrace following the meeting.

**5. Board Action – There was no board action.**

**6a. Governmental Issues – Sidewalk Café Ordinance** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of a proposed sidewalk café. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Ms. Cooper informed the Commission that the Maintenance committee is in the process of updating the ordinance and finalizing the application with Department of Public Works. The public meeting to educate business owners on the proposed sidewalk café ordinance is scheduled for Thursday, August 11, 9:00 a.m. at the DDD Design Resource Center.

**Commerce BLDG Parklet** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the parklet. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the parklet provided it meets fire code standards.

**TramLinkBR** — The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a tram. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the public meeting was well attended. Part of the next process is to identify the local match for the \$10 – \$12 million project.

**New Parking Meters and Management RFP** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a new parking meter. The City has issued a Request for Proposal for downtown parking management services of the three parking garages and on-street metered spaces, the proposals will be open August 5, 2016. Once the management company is hired they will determine what type of meter is to be used.

**State Legislation** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Hilton. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the State Historic Tax Credits are still intact. There may be action motivated by developers during the next session before the credit changes from 25% to 20% on commercial projects on January 1, 2018. Mr. Rhorer expressed the importance of the economic incentive programs that have made a significant difference in development downtown.

**6b. Development Initiatives – Third Street Developments – Watermark Hotel** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Watermark Hotel. Mr. Jay Haratsis, regional general manager for Greenwood Hospitality, introduced the following members of his team; Ellie Jones, Stephanie Allen, Melissa Silva, Deena Gill, Lacy Terrell and Allison Crump. Mr. Haratsis informed the Commission that the Watermark Hotel will consist of 144 guest rooms and two restaurants. The Gregory, an American tavern, will seat 130 and feature a private dining room, exhibition kitchen, wall of wines and serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Milford's on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a kosher-style deli with seating for 26 will serve breakfast and lunch. Ms. Allison Crump, director of sales, briefed the Commission on the following amenities:

- 2,000 sq. ft. of meeting space
- Board Room
- Founder's Room

Ms. Crump informed the Commission that the Watermark Hotel is part of the Autograph Collection and they are excited to be part of the downtown community. The hotel is scheduled to open early September 2016.

**Onyx** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Onyx Residences. Ms. Kristen Diehl informed the Commission that the 26 residential units are scheduled to open September 2016. There is 3,000 sq. ft. of commercial space available for lease. Iberia Bank and Regal Nails will be leasing space on the ground floor. Ms. Diehl encouraged everyone to visit the web site at [www.onyxresidences.com](http://www.onyxresidences.com) for more information.

**Courtyard Marriott** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed rendering. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the surface parking lot, which is the location for the construction of the hotel, will be cleared by the end of July 2016. Construction will commence August 2016 with a sixteen month construction period. Mr. Rhorer thanked everyone involved in the project.

**Driftwood Cask and Barrel** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that construction continues on the gastropub which is located in the 300 block of Third Street.

**Commerce** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the interior and exterior of the building. Mr. Michael Lang informed the Commission that the sunset grand opening in June was well attended and the building is 60% leased. Mr. Lang encouraged anyone interested in touring a model unit to visit the web site and set up a tour. Magpie Café is scheduled to open late summer 2016.

**River Center Library** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed rendering and photographs of the interior of the temporary space. Each Commissioner received a newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the construction of the new library will impact the programming and parking in the area. Mr. Spencer Watts, Library Director, informed the Commission that the 48,000 sq. ft. facility will provide enhanced functionality and different experience. Prior to building demolition the library materials and staff will be moving to a temporary site at the Kress Building expected to be open by the end of July 2016 with about 10,000 items available as well as computers. Mr. Watts briefed the Commission on the following timeline:

- Currently the building is being remediated
- August 12 – Pre bid conference
- August 15 – Notice to Proceed
- October 4 – demolition begins
- Completion late summer or early fall 2018

**Riverfront Development** — The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a tugboat. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Shamrock Marine Services has located at the foot of the bridge near 900 River Rd. They supply services to the large ships that use the Mississippi River.

**Florida and Lafayette Streetscape** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial image indicating the location of the project and photographs of the current construction. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that all the landscape and benches have been installed and they are in the process of securing the bistro tables and chairs. The final walk through of the project is scheduled for July 15, 2016.

**Downtown Greenway** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the current construction and images of the renderings of the proposed improvements. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the construction of North Blvd. began two weeks ago. Tree protection is in place and demolition is near completion. **East Blvd.** – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that they are in the final planning stages on this project.

**Riverfront Plaza** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission work continues on various components of the work plan for the riverfront plaza. City Parish has hired Carbo Landscape Architecture to design the restoration of the plaza gardens. Mr. Blakeman, Carbo Landscape Architecture, expressed his excitement to work on the project.

**South Blvd. Mural and Improvements** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images indicating proposed improvements on South Blvd. and photographs of mural. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the City Parish plans to build from the parking under the Interstate a sidewalk system and crosswalks that will lead to the trailhead at the Mississippi River levee path. The Mississippi River levee path connects downtown to LSU and will eventually connect to L’Auberge Casino. The Walls Project continues to work on the mural project on the old sewerage plant that relates to the Mississippi River and the Water campus. Sharron markings will also be on South Blvd. connecting the trailhead to Downtown Greenway. Wayfinding signage is also planned to direct people to the trailhead facilities and attractions. Bike racks will be installed at the trailhead.

**Downtown Maintenance Committee** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the previous meeting. Ms. Cooper informed the Commission the following meetings have been scheduled:

July 19 – Volunteer Subcommittee Meeting

July 21 – Full maintenance Committee Meeting

August 11 – Sidewalk Café Public Meeting

As mentioned above under item 6a, the ordinance sub-committee has been focusing on the draft sidewalk café ordinance.

**Downtown Healthcare & Wellness Ribbon Cutting** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the invitation. Each Commissioner received an invitation. Ms. Liz Eure thanked everyone for the warm welcome and invited them to the Ribbon Cutting which is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13 at 12noon.

**New Business – CI Group** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo and images of furniture. Ms. Melony Fields, co-owner, informed the Commission that CI Group is a provider of commercial office furniture and interiors and she is excited to have a showroom downtown at 447 Third Street, Suite D.

Mr. Johnathan Cary informed the Commission that his company “Elate Creative” has located their offices at 728 France Street. They are a full service design company and everyone was encouraged to visit their web site at [www.elatecreative.com](http://www.elatecreative.com).

**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.

- Summer Sounds at St. James – July 13, 20, 27
- Art Melt / Divine Protection March / Weekend Watercolor workshop – July 23
- Italian Festa – July 24
- Baton Rouge Arts Market – August 6
- Hump Day 2 mile – August 10
- Live After Five Line-up Reveal Party – August 11
- 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 downtown greenway.

**8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo.

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

- Farewell to 2013 Table Top bidding August 1, 2016

**Downtown Business Association (DBA)** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mrs. Lauren Tompkins briefed the Commission on the following:

July 12 – Wine and Cheese Social to be held at the Hilton

August 11 – Live After Five reveal party

Mrs. Tompkins informed the Commission that the Live After Five concerts will be held at Repentance Park during the construction of the library. There are spaces available for catering for the VIP tent. Anyone interested in being involved with the DBA is encouraged to contact Ms. Tompkins following the meeting.

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

**9. Public Comment** – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that there will not be an August board meeting.

Mr. Frederick Sargent with Electronic Media encouraged businesses or anyone wanting to promote an event to check out his walking billboards.

Ms. Courtney Hunt briefed the Commission on the Italian Festa scheduled for July 24, 2016 at the Belle of Baton Rouge.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.**