

DDD Commission Meeting
June 14, 2016, 8:00 a.m.
River Center, 275 S. River Rd., Meeting Rooms 9 & 10

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

Absent: Cheryl McCormick, Sevetri Wilson

Others in Attendance: Deontray Alexander, Joshua Allread, Paul Arrigo, Carmen Austin, Kenneth Barnes, Jose Barro, Calvin Beal, Bliss Bernard, Gary Black, Ben Blackwell, Timothy Boone, Kevin Broussard, Ryan Broussard, Gayle Carnahan, Bubba Cashio, Janee Chanet, Albert ChaoWhitney Cooper, Suzette Crocker, Michael Day, Kristin Diehl, Peter Dieterich, Michael Dongen, Terri Dugas, Michael Duplechain, Mary Durusau, LaDonna Fabre, Heather Fatzinger, Remy Fin, Lanier Flanders, Darryl Gissel, Rannah Gray, Edmond Greenup, Blaine Grimes, Brandi Hanson, Courtney Hunt, Stacy Jamieson, Mary Johnson, John Kaufman, Douglas Kennedy, Chris Knight, Stephanie Landry, Lori Lasseigne, Beverly LeBeau, Logan Leger, Justin Lemoine, Mary Jane Marcantel, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Lee Melancon, B. J. Militello, Lisa Nice, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Mike O’Deoy, Mary Olinde, Melissa Parmelee, Margaret Read, Davis Rhorer, Allison Rice, Mary Rockwell, Susanne Romig, Len Sedlin, Alexandra Sevier, Brandi Simmons, Lisa SmithCraig Stevens, Kathy Stites, Emily Sulzer, Casey Tate, Lauren Tompkins, Chris Trahan, Veach Tucker, Mark Tullos, Tyelise Vavasseur, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Councilwoman Wicker, Samaer Zaitoon

1. Mrs. Fran Gladden called the meeting to order.
2. Mrs. Fran Gladden declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Ric Kearny moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Scott Hensgens seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the May 10, 2016 minutes, Mr. Ric Kearny seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Fran Gladden thanked River Center for hosting the meeting and introduced Mr. Michael Day, director of the River Center.

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 draft sidewalk café ordinance. Ms. Whitney Cooper briefed the Commission on the following issues to be addressed in the proposed ordinance:

- 1) Clarifying what a Sidewalk Café is (To include restaurants, coffee shops, etc.)
- 2) Determining which DPW Department will oversee permitting & enforcement (Department of Development w/ DDD input)
- 3) Clarifying Permit Process
- 4) ADA compliance
- 5) Fire & Traffic Code Compliance

- 6) Continuing Maintenance of Sidewalk Café materials and area
- 7) Allowable items
- 8) Insurance requirements

Ms. Cooper informed the Commission that final draft will be sent to downtown property owners for review. Once the ordinance is approved by the DDD Commission, it will be considered by the Metropolitan Council. Mr. Rhorer thanked everyone involved with the Downtown Maintenance Committee.

6b. Development Initiatives – TramLinkBR — The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a tram. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Ms. Rannah Gray informed the Commission that the Environmental assessment for the proposed modern street car system is available online for public comment. Ms. Gray briefed the Commission on the success of the Kansas City Streetcar system. The next public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21 at the River Center from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 22 the Metropolitan Council will vote to move forward on the project. The completion of this project phase will allow the City-Parish to seek additional federal and local funding to complete final design and construction. There are 5 proposed stops downtown and the Tram will run every 15 minutes. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to visit the web page and provide comments to the assessment and to participate in the upcoming public meeting.

USS KIDD — The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the USS KIDD. Mr. Rhorer introduced interim director, Mr. Mark Tullos. Mr. Tullos expressed his excitement to be part of valuable asset of the city and informed the Commission that they will be working on a Strategic plan for the USS KIDD.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the groundbreaking and images of the renderings of the proposed improvements. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the ground breaking of North Blvd. Promenade section of the greenway was held Thursday, May 5, 2016. The Notice to Proceed was issued yesterday and the shovels should be in the ground by the end of the week. The project has a 6 month construction period. A plan in hand meeting has been scheduled with DOTD for the East Blvd. portion of the greenway. A meeting will also be scheduled with designers and LSU Agricultural Center representatives regarding plant selection and construction is projected to commence fall 2016. The DDD is in the process on securing funding resources for The Louisiana Avenue Connector. Mr. Rhorer mentioned the DDD was in the process of developing a plan for upgrades and additional amenities at South Boulevard and River Road. The Mayor’s Love Our Community Program & Walls project will also be installing a community mural on the sewerage facility on the corner of South Boulevard and River Road. The overall Greenway Master plan is to connect to the Mississippi River Levee Trailhead via South Blvd.

Florida and Lafayette Streetscape – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image indicating the location of the project and photographs of the current construction.

Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the project is ahead of schedule and should be complete in approximately two weeks. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission the city parish has entered into a contract for the private maintenance of the tree wells.

River Road Improvements – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed renderings. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that DOTD will be overlaying River Road and installing a bike path on the west side of River Road. The DDD and City Parish received a grant from the Transportation Alternatives program to install sidewalks on the east side of River Road. The design contract for the east sidewalk pathway is with Duplantis Design Group. Mr. Rhorer complemented the DDD staff for their work on the grant.

Riverfront Shade Structure – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Riverfront Dock and renderings of proposed shade structures and proposed lighting. Ms. Lisa Nice, Post Architects, informed the Commission that they have chosen a functional shade structure that will be attached to the existing dock structure and will cover approximately 3,000 sq. ft. Post Architects is currently working with the manufacture to prepare the RFP package to accept proposals from different manufacturers. The initial cost estimates of the shade structure for the dock portion is between \$130,000 – \$160,000 which may allow for extension of the shade further down the walkway. They are working with the City to light the fabric structure. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the city is researching the possibility of a series of floating barges to accommodate additional River Boats and public events.

Ms. Nice informed the Commission that Post Architects is working on the renovations to the River Center Theatre that will include infrastructure improvements, and improvements to the lobby space and changes to seating.

Riverfront Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the proposed improvements. Each Commissioner received images of proposed improvements for the riverfront plaza. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that a budget of \$232,000 has been approved for schematic planting design and implementation, lighting and sound system and an irrigation system for the gardens. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the proposed improvements and informed them that different departments of the City Parish will be working on the project.

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 14, 2016 – Education Committee Meeting

July 17, 2016 – Volunteer Subcommittee Meeting

July 21, 2016 – Full maintenance Committee Meeting

As mentioned above under item 6a the ordinance sub-committee has been focusing on the draft sidewalk café ordinance. Mr. Kearny asked what was the procedure to have utility markings removed from the street. Ms. Cooper informed the Commission that the Arts and Entertainment District has an ordinance that requires utility paint to be removed within 14 days upon project completion.

New Business – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. **Cosi Bella** – Mr. Cooper introduced Ms. LaDonna Fabare. Ms. Fabre informed the Commission that she is the new owner of Cosi Bella, a full service salon located at 240 Laurel Street. The salon specializes in the Holistic approach with organic products. Everyone was encouraged to view the web page for a complete list of services.

New Aperio – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Logan Leger informed the Commission that the web and mobile app development firm has located at 640 Main Street and expressed his excitement to be a part of downtown.

Downtown Healthcare & Wellness – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that they will be having a soft opening Wednesday, June 15 from 5p.m. – 7p.m. and the Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13 at 12noon.

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.

- Running Reverend 5K / Juneteenth / Daddy Daughter Brunch – June 18
- Carl Thomas Concert – June 19
- WFC 54 Live Boxing – June 25
- Baton Rouge Arts Market – July 2
- 4th of July Spectacular – July 4
- Summer Sounds at St. James – July 6, 13
- Happy Hour Art Monday's – July 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

Mr. Michael Day welcomed everyone to the River Center and commended the DDD on the development downtown. Mr. Day informed the Commission that the River Center, Visit Baton Rouge and the downtown hotels have reached out to regional and national conventions in hopes of them utilizing what is available in downtown Baton Rouge. Mr. Day will keep the Commission apprised of the Theatre renovations. Discussions are in the works with the Mayor regarding possible renovations to ballroom and arena. The River Center is currently updating the web site and installing digital monitors and digital walls. Mr. Day briefed the Commission on the upcoming events.

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.

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

- Red Stick Farmers Market's Fresh Fest continues through July 30, 2016
- July 2 – Star Spangled Market with music by John Gray Jazz
- Red Stick Spice relocated and expanded inside the Main Street Market

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

June 28 – Coffee Chat – Old State Capitol

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

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** – There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.