

DDD Commission Meeting
March 8, 2016, 8:00 a.m.
St. James Episcopal, 208 N. 4th Street

Attending: Fran Gladden, Gordon LeBlanc, Cheryl McCormick, Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Ric Kearny, Sevetri Wilson

Others in Attendance: Logan Anderson, Joe Anthony, Prescott Bailey, Alicia Baron, Matt Beeson, Bliss Kelley Bernard, Gary Black, Timothy Boone, Maggie Bowles, Chris Brooks, Kevin Broussard, Ryan Broussard, Helen Butts, Sgt. Kyle Callihan, Mandy Cazedessus, Janee Chanet, Albert Chao, Margaret Chappius, Catherine, Frederick Coates, Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Ron Crum, Alex Daniell, Michael Day, Mary Deas Dunn, David Deliman, Kristin Diehl, Peter Dieterich, Paul Dominique, Mary Durusau, Liz Eure, Lynley Farris, Lanier Flanders, Brian Goad, Liz Goad, Cyrus Greco, Kim Haddox, Charyl Hearin, John O, Hearin, Marcus Hennigan, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Cid Hollis, Lauren Hull, Courtney Hunt, Fairleigh Jackson, Mary Johnson, John Kaufman, Emily Kay, Chris Knight, Jack Koban, James Lachney, Preston Lamy, Stephanie Landry, Jason Langlois, Lori Lasseigne, Justin Lemoine, Sam Losavio, Michelle Mahaffey, Staci Manning, Jennifer Mayer, Suzanne McCain, Al McDuff, Robert McGuire, Patrick Michaels, Tommy Milazzo, B. J. Militello, Joe Mosby, Liz Murry, Mikeila Nagura, Chris Negulescu, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Mike O'Deoy, Mary Olinde, Jessica Ottaviano, Michal Petty, Lluvia Pevets, Sean Pharis, Ashley Powell, Rob Powell, Lauren Ray, Margaret Read, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Chad Rigby, Stephanie Rivers, Steve Rodrique, Fredrick Sargent, Don Shea, Lisa Smith, Sarah Stafford, Christina Stephens, Craig Stevens, Emily Sulzer, Casey Tate, Jon Thorning, Lauren Lambert-Tompkins, Chris Trahan, Veach Tucker, Tyelise Vavasseur, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Neill Wright

1. Mrs. Fran Gladden called the meeting to order.

2. Mrs. Fran Gladden declared a quorum.

3. Mrs. Melanie Montanaro moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Scott Hensgens seconded and the agenda was approved.

4. Mrs. Melanie Montanaro moved to approve the February 11, 2016 minutes, Ms. Cheryl McCormick seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Fran Gladden thanked St. James for hosting the meeting. Ms. Lauren Ray, head of St. James Day school, welcomed everyone and briefed them on the history of the school. Ms. Ray invited everyone to stay after the meeting for a tour of the school.

5. Board Action – There was no board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – There was no information.

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 newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects proposed for downtown:

- **Sports Academy** – No update to report
- **Deville Apartments** – No update to report
- **Elysian II** – The Planning Commission approved the proposed expansion.
- **Arkel** – No update to report
- **Louisiana Avenue Connector** – Schematics will be presented at the April DDD board meeting.

Lofts @ 6C – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed development. Mr. John O. Hearin, developer, thanked the DDD and everyone involved in the project and informed the Commission that the project was approved by the Planning Commission on February 15, 2016. Mr. Hearin briefed the Commission on the proposed mixed use development located on the corner of Florida and Sixth Streets and Convention and Sixth Streets. The six story development will include the following:

- 142 residential units – 58 one bedroom units and 94 two bedroom units
- Pool
- Clubhouse
- Rooftop courtyard
- Rooftop garden
- Greenspace

The first two floors will be parking with retail available on the first floor. Once HUD signs off on the project construction is expected to commence in 30 - 45 days with a construction period of 18 months.

Parking Implementation Strategy – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the parking strategy. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that as a result of the Parking Implementation Strategy by Fregonese Associates, a committee will be formed to discuss how to implement the plan. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following recommendations of the plan:

- Update to modern meters
- Management of the garages
- Parking Guidance
- Garage Expansion

Mr. Fregonese will meet with the committee Friday, April 1, 2016.

Downtown Library – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of proposed renderings of the library. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the lease agreement for the Kress Building as the temporary space for the library. The library will begin their move six weeks after the City Parish approves the contract.

Public Hearings – I-10 Meetings – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of public meeting and image of the proposed improvements. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 23 has been re-scheduled for Wednesday, March 9 at the Addis Community Center. Everyone was encouraged to stay informed by visiting www.i10br.com.

TRAM – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of public meeting and images of the proposed routes. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that City Parish selected Route Option 2 for the proposed tram which would be a direct link between Tiger Stadium and the State Capitol. North and southbound trams would run on Nicholson Drive, St. Ferdinand Street and North Fourth Street between South Stadium Drive and North Street. The proposed route is a straight shot to and from downtown and is easy walking distance from downtown attractions. The proposed hours for the tram are 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. weekdays and hours will be extended during the weekend. Mr. Rhorer commended the Mayor for his support on this project.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed greenway. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the Environmental Clearance process for the North Blvd portion of the Greenway is being finalized. Solicitation of view letters have been sent to difference agencies for their comments. Final responses are due by Friday, April 1 with construction expected to commence in May 2016. T. J. Jemison and East Blvd. portion is under 95% review with DOTD and the state historic preservation office.

River Road – Great Places of Louisiana Award – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of DDD staff receiving the award. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release. Ms. Cooper informed the Commission that the DDD and the City Parish were awarded the “Great Places of Louisiana” award for the transformation of River Rd. into a ‘complete street’ from the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Downtown Bike Racks – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the proposed bike racks. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the DDD / City Parish received a grant from Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality program in partnership with CRPC. The majority of the bike racks have been installed on Third Street and those proposed locations on the riverfront are waiting on approval from the Corps of Engineers for installation.

Downtown Bike Share – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the bike share station in Birmingham, Alabama. Ms. Cooper informed the Commission that February 28 & 29, 2016 representatives from the DDD, BRAF, LSU, BREC, CPEX and CRPC participated in a site visit to Birmingham, Alabama to learn about their successful “ZYP” bike share program. The team learned a lot about the successful program and will reconvene Wednesday, March 16, 2016 to debrief and discuss next steps.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a street sweeper. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission the subcommittees will meet the following dates:

Enforcement Committee – March 10 – Finalizing a draft of the sidewalk café ordinance
Full Maintenance Committee – Thursday, March 17

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that plans are to convene property owners affected by outdoor dining and bring the proposed ordinance to the DDD Commission for adoption consideration in the near future.

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 kick off meeting was held Thursday, March 3, 2016. Hard Rock Construction will begin the streetscape improvements next week. The improvements will include replacing trees along Lafayette and Florida Streets and adding seating areas along Florida Street. The contract is for 120 days.

New Business – Cordon Rouge – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the pastries offered at the restaurant. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Cordon Rouge located at 324 Third Street is now open for business.

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.

- St. James Glory and Gumbo – March 11,18
- Providence Corporate Cup / MRC Awareness Day – March 19
- Live After Five – April 1,8,15,22,29, May 6,13,20
- Fest For All – April 2 & 3
- Sunday in the Park – April 3,10,17,24, May 1,8
- Southeast Tourism Society Conference – April 4 – 6
- Color Run – April 9
- Blues Festival – April 9 & 10
- 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 proposed Lofts at 6C residential units.

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:

- March 19 – Red Stick Sprouts
- March 26 – Visit by the Easter Bunny and Chef demonstration by Jay Ducote
- March 15 – Mid week markets return

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

- April 1 – Life After Five begins through May 20
- March 3 – DBA Social at Hotel Indigo
- April 2 – Downtown Derby
- April 7 – DBA Meeting at Boudreaux’s

8. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

9. Public Comment – Ms. Maggie Bowles, Visit Baton Rouge, briefed the Commission on the upcoming Southeast Tourism Society Spring Symposium to be held April 4 – 6 at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center. Everyone was encouraged to display a welcome poster and offer a discount to participants.

Ms. Jessica Ottaviano, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, briefed the Commission on the upcoming events:

- April 2 – April 3 – Fest for All
- April 2 – Sunday in the Park kicks off
- March 9 – Kick off to River City Jazz Masters with performance by Regina Carter and Jazz pianist Amina Figarova

Mr. Chris Brooks, chairman of the Baton Rouge Blues Festival, briefed the Commission on Baton Rouge Blues Festival scheduled for April 9 – 10 in downtown Baton Rouge.

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

Ms. Lauren Ray invited anyone interested to attend “Welcome Wednesday Tour at St. James” Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.