

DDD Commission Meeting
May 10, 2016, 8:00 a.m.
Capitol Park Museum, 660 N. 4th Street

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

Absent: Fran Gladden, Sevetri Wilson

Others in Attendance: Mike Airhart, Joshua Allread, Paul Arrigo, Carmen Austin, Brad Bates, Calvin Beal, Bliss Bernard, Gary Black, Timothy Boone, Maggie Bowles, Kevin Broussard, Ryan Broussard, Kyle Callihan, Gayle Carnahan, Bubba Cashio, Janee Chanet, Albert Chao, Renee Chatelain, Whitney Cooper, Melanie Couvillon, Chief Carl Dabadie, Michael Day, Kristin Diehl, Peter Dieterich, Terri Dugas, Michael Duplechain, Mary Durusau, Liz Eure, Remy Fin, Joey Furr, Dr. Tom Guillot, Courtney Hunt, Stacy Jamieson, Gayle Hamilton, John Kaufman, Douglas Kennedy, Chris Knight, Stephanie Landry, Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Beverly LeBeau, Loralyn Maranto, Mary Jane Marcantel, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Lee Melancon, B. J. Militello, Mikeila Nagura, Chris Negulescu, Chris Neumann, Lisa Nice, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Mike O'Deoy, Mary Olinde, Melissa Parmelee, Joel Pattison, Margaret Read, Davis Rhorer, Mary Rockwell, Susanne Romig, Hilary Scheffy, Fredrick Sargent, Alexandra Sevier, Lisa Smith, Bill Stark, Craig Stevens, J. T. Sukits, Emily Sulzer, Casey Tate, Boo Thomas, Lauren Tompkins, Chris Trahan, Veach Tucker, Tyelise Vavasseur, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Samaer Zaitoon

1. Mr. Ric Kearny called the meeting to order.

2. Mr. Ric Kearny 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 March 8, 2016 and April 12, 2016 minutes, Ms. Cheryl McCormick seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Ric Kearny thanked Capitol Park Museum for hosting the meeting and introduced Mr. Bill Stark, director of the museum. Mr. Stark encouraged everyone to view the exhibits after the meeting and briefed them on the gala scheduled for June 11, 2016.

5. Board Action – There was no board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – Downtown Precinct – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the office. Chief Dabadie informed the Commission that the numbers of police officers downtown from Thursday to Saturday has doubled since 2015. Plans are still moving forward to have a fully staffed downtown precinct located in the basement of City Hall, but the shortage of officers has prevented it from happening.

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 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.

Downtown Library – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed development. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Bubba Cashio, DPW Interim Director, informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the low bid from Buquet & LeBlanc for the construction of the library. The Municipal Building site will be the staging area for the library construction and demolition is scheduled to begin next week on the Municipal Building.

6b. Development Initiatives – Downtown Health and Wellness — The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Ms. Liz Eure informed the Commission that she and Ms. Holly Chaney will open a medical clinic at 307 Third Street, which is the former location of Lake Quick Care. The clinic will offer an array of services as well as making calls to downtown hotels and offices. Ms. Eure introduced collaborating physicians, Dr. Michael Duplechain and Mr. Thomas Guillot. The soft opening is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2016 and the grand opening will be Wednesday, July 13, 2016. The clinic hours are scheduled to be Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the previous meeting. Ms. Cooper informed the Commission the next full maintenance committee meeting is July 21, 2016 and meetings will be scheduled next week with the Education and Enforcement committees. As mentioned above under item 6a the ordinance sub-committee has been focusing on the draft sidewalk café ordinance.

Downtown Greenway Groundbreaking – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the groundbreaking and images of the renderings of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer thanked Capital Area Finance Authority for their contribution to this project. The ground breaking ceremony for the North Blvd. portion was held Thursday, May 5, 2016. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the ribbon cutting for the Spanish Town Park is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Florida and Lafayette Streetscape – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image indicating the location of the proposed improvements and photographs of the current construction. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that work has begun on the improvements and they are ahead of schedule. The improvements will include replacing trees along Lafayette and Florida Streets and adding seating areas along Florida Street. The project is expected to be complete in sixty days.

River Road Improvements – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed renderings Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the design contract for the River Rd. improvements will be presented to the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

Riverfront Shade Structure – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Riverfront Dock and photographs of examples of shade structures. Mr. Cashio informed the Commission that the city has hired Post Architects to design a shade structure for the riverfront dock. Ms. Lisa Nice, Post Architects, informed the Commission that they are working with a fabric manufacture to provide functional shade structures. The structures will be attached to the existing dock structure and will cover approximately 3,000 sq. ft. The design is scheduled to be complete within one month and installed by the end of summer 2016.

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. The City is proposing LED Lighting for the shade structure.

Coke Sign Re-Lighting Ceremony – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the sign and ceremony. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that re-lighting of the Coke sign was a great success. Mr. Rhorer thanked everyone involved with the project.

ACGBR Public Art Campaign – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of public art in the Baton Rouge area. Mr. Joshua Allread informed the Commission that the Arts Council is utilizing social media to highlight public art in Baton Rouge using the #publicartweek.

Commerce Building – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the interior of the residential units and the pool. Mr. Michael Lang informed the Commission that all of the one bedroom units have been leased, the two bedrooms are available, and there are twelve bikes that are available to tenants. Thursdays, tours of the residential units from 12noon- 1pm are still available and the Open House for the building is scheduled for Friday, June 10, 2016. Mr. Lang introduced Ms. Hilary Scheffy, leasing and branding specialist, for the Commerce building.

New Business – There was no information.

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.

- Annual Peace Officer's Memorial Service – May 12
- Live After Five – May 13,20
- BRAGGO 5K – May 14
- Happy Hour Art Monday's – May 16,23,30, June, 6,13,20,27
- Companion Animal Alliance Dog Adoption Day – May 19
- St Jude's Run for the Children / 112 Concert – May 28
- CANN 5K – June 4
- Movie Night – June 9
- Running Reverend 5K / Juneteenth – June 18
- Star Spangled Celebration – July 4
- 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 residential and proposed greenspace.

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Mrs. Boo Thomas encouraged everyone to attend the presentation of the St James Episcopal conceptual Campus Master Plan this evening at 6 p.m., in Bishops Hall at St. James Episcopal.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Emily Sulzer informed the Commission the Main Street Market will host Masterchef Junior finalist Avery Kyle for the 10 am Fresh from the Market cooking demonstration this Saturday. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to visit Chef Celeste bistro.

Downtown Business Association (DBA) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Ms. Tompkins informed the Commission that she is in the process of defining the membership for the DBA and encouraged anyone interested to please contact her.

8. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

9. Public Comment – Ms. Lisa Nice informed the Commission that Post Architects is working on the renovations to the River Center Theatre and ballroom.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.