

DDD Commission Meeting

October 11, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church Conference Center, 930 North Blvd.

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

Absent: Gordon LeBlanc

Others in Attendance: Logan Anderson, Meredith Anderson, Gary Anderson, Bliss Bernard, Gary Black, Ben Blackwell, Timothy Boone, Kevin Broussard, Rex Cabaniss, Kyle Callihan, Albert Chao, Lori Christiansen, Whitney Cooper, Melanie Couvillion, Suzette Crocker, Allison Crump, Shelby Daugherty, Mary Durusau, Michael Day, Bill Deville, Heather Fatzinger, Phil Fernberg, Melony Fields, Remy Finn, John O. Hearin, Corey Himes, Ryan Holcomb, Courtney Hunt, Stacy Jamieson, Mary Johnson, John Kaufman, Douglas Kennedy, Chris Knight, Stephanie Landry, Jason Langlois, Beverly LeBeau, Steven Lumpkin, Lauralyn Maranto, Mary Jane Marcantel, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Lee Melancon, Tommy Milazzo, B. J. Militello, Ben Moran, Mikela Nagura, Mary Olinde, Annie Ourso, Melissa Parmelee, Michael Petty, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Davis Rhorer, Darlene Shingleur, Brandi Simmons, Jane Skerkoske, Lisa Smith, Craig Stevens, Kathy Stites Emily Sulzer, Cherry Talbert, Casey Tate, Lauren Tompkins, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Lindsey West, Marlon White, Robert Wilson, La Rui Yao, Samear Zaitoon

1. Mrs. Fran Gladden called the meeting to order.
2. Mrs. Fran Gladden declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the agenda, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Ric Kearny moved to approve the September 13, 2016 minutes, Mr. Scott Hensgens seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Fran Gladden thanked First United Methodist Church for hosting the meeting.

5. Board Action – There was no board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – 2017 DDD Budget – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the budget, performance measures and photographs of recent projects. Each Commissioner received a copy of the proposed 2017 budget and performance measures. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the proposed budget for 2017 is \$656,360 and that the DDD continues to implement the performance measures. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the current and upcoming projects. Mr. Rhorer requested the Commission review the information and take action on the 2017 budget during the November 2016 Commission meeting.

6b. Development Initiatives – Courtyard Marriott Groundbreaking – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the current construction and an image of the proposed rendering. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the groundbreaking for the hotel is scheduled for Thursday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. and everyone was encouraged to attend.

Third Street Developments – Watermark Hotel – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the interior and exterior of Watermark Hotel. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Gary Black informed the Commission that a soft opening will be held Wednesday, October 12, 2016. The hotel will officially open next week.

Onyx – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior and interior of the Onyx Residences. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mrs. Tina Rance, Commercial Properties, informed the Commission that the residential units are 50% leased and tenants have begun moving in. There is 5,600 sq. ft. of commercial space available for lease. Regal Nails will be moving in the bottom floor in November 2016 and Iberia Bank will be moving in their space in January 2017.

Driftwood Cask & Barrel – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior and interior. Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the restaurants will be opening by the end of October 2016 and will serve lunch and dinner.

Commerce Building – Magpie – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the interior of Magpie. Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the restaurant is open and encouraged everyone to visit for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

River Center Library – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed rendering, a photograph of the demolition and interior of the temporary space. Mr. Rex Cabaniss, WHLC Architects, informed the Commission that construction is progressing and they are working closely with DDD, DPW. Mr. Cabaniss encouraged everyone to visit the temporary location. The Municipal building has been demolished and is being used as a site to store supplies and equipment.

Lofts @ 6C – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed rendering, a photograph of current construction. Mr. John O. Hearin informed the Commission that construction has commenced on the mixed use development project at the corner of Florida and North Sixth Streets. Lofts @ 6C will consist of the following:

- 60 one bedroom units
- 82 two bedroom units
- 3 clubhouses
- Dog washing station
- Bike storage and repair
- Parking

Construction for the project is expected to take between 16 – 18 months.

UDC Updates – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of downtown buildings. Mr. Ryan Holcomb, Planning Commission, informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council instructed the Planning Commission to look at building heights throughout the parish. The Planning Commission is in the early stages of exploring building height restrictions and is scheduling a meeting with downtown stakeholders to discuss. The Planning Commission continues to work on signage, landscape and parking codes.

Parking Strategy Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of parking meters and management personnel. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission about the Request for Proposals for parking management to address the following issues:

- Modern Meters
- Parking Guidance
- Management
- Garage Expansion

Mr. Rhorer has been invited to serve on the committee to select a parking management proposal. A public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 8 2016. Mr. Rhorer mentioned the possibility of including a digital parking sign indicating the number of spaces available as part of the parking upgrades.

Zipcar – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image indicating parking spaces. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD has assisted in identifying four spaces for the zip cars. The proposed Zipcar will be introduced at the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, October 12, 2016 and voted on Wednesday, October 26, 2016.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the current construction and images of the renderings of the proposed improvements. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission the North Blvd. portion pathways are complete and this phase is expected to be complete by the end of 2016. Mr. Vicknair recognized Mr. Mike Petty with Reich and Associates. The East Blvd. portion is currently under review by DOTD and State Historic Office of Preservation. The DDD is also considering Eddie Robinson as a bike / pedestrian corridor to connect to City Park.

River Road Multi-Use Pathway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed renderings. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that DOTD will advertise for the project November 16, 2016. The project will include the following:

- Bike lane west side of River Rd.
- Overlay roadway
- 8' bike lane
- Landscape buffer

The DDD received a grant from DOTD for a pathway on east side of River Rd. Duplantis Design Group is moving forward with the design and anticipate preliminary designs for November 2016 board meeting.

Riverfront Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of proposed improvements and photographs of proposed plants. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that Carbo Landscape is working on the proposed renovations for the plaza and briefed them on the planting design and concept of the plaza. The proposed renovations will also include lighting, shade and sound and is expected to be complete in a year.

City Hall Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that they are in the processing of reviewing the bids.

I-110 Washington Street Public Meeting – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial indicating the proposed changes. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that a public meeting for the I-110 Washington Street is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2016 from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the Dr. Leo S. Butler Community Center.

Tiger Trails Transit – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the LSU Tiger Trails bus. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that LSU had eliminated downtown out of the route of the Tiger Trails. Mr. Rhorer sent an official request to continue to include downtown. LSU agreed to reinstate the route and the drop off and pick up is at the transit shelter at NBTS. Mr. Rhorer encouraged both downtown neighborhoods to notify the google groups of the available service.

CATS Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image indicating the Bus Rapid Transit route. Mr. Rhorer introduced Mr. Deville and congratulated him on his appointment as the new director of CATS. Mr. Bill Deville complemented the DDD Staff and Commission on the improvements downtown. Mr. Deville briefed the Commission on the following:

- Downtown transit hub will be relocated to 22nd street by the end of 2016
- Touchdown Express has been cancelled due to the loss of buses and reduced staff. Plans are to return the service for 2017.
- Implement a modified Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route along Florida Blvd. utilizing 3 new electric vehicles. The pickup points will include shelter, bike share. Phase I will service Florida Blvd. from Cortana Mall to downtown and Phase II BRT route will service Plank Road
- CATS is partnering with Uber to bring riders to a pick up location on the Bus Rapid Transit route.
- Task is to replace 40 of the 56 buses and tweak routes

Mr. Deville thanked everyone for their support of CATS.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a current maintenance issue. Ms. Cooper informed the Commission the sidewalk café ordinance draft will be presented to the council for approval Wednesday, October 26, 2016. Following are the scheduled maintenance committee meetings:

October 25 – Education and Enforcement

October 27 – Ordinance

November 17 – Full Maintenance

New Business – Somos Bandidos – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the former Freshjunkie North Blvd. location is converting to a taco restaurant “Somos Bandidos”. Everyone was encouraged to visit the new concept.

Business First Bank – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Business First Bank has located their headquarters at 500 Laurel Street.

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.

- 13th Gate Haunted House / Necropolis
- White Cane Safety Day – October 12
- CAUW Jambalaya Jam – October 13
- Live at Lunch – October 14,21,20
- Live After Five – October 14,21,28
- Sunday in the Park – October 16,23,30
- Green Park Press Conference – October 17
- Halloween Festival – October 27-31
- Louisiana Book Festival – October 29
- Baton Rouge Arts Market – November 5
- 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 residential and retail development along 3rd Street as well as green space.

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to attend the Smart Growth Summit - November 1 – 2, 2016.

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

- Saturday, November 5 – 20 year anniversary of Main Street Market with Harvest Blessing, live music, Red Stick Sprout activities and cooking demonstration
- Saturday, November 5 – 18 year anniversary of Baton Rouge Arts Market

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

- October 14 – Live after Five with music by Travis Matte & The Kingpins
- October 14 – Live at Lunch: Humble Kind
- Halloween Weekend activities
- DBA launched the MemberPlanet app

8. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

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9. Public Comment – Ms. Mary Durusau briefed the Commission on the upcoming event “Spirits of Louisiana” and the raffle tickets available for a chance to host your own event at the Old State Capitol for you and 150 of your friends!

Mrs. Tina Rance briefed the Commission on the Green Park program for the City of Baton Rouge. Everyone was encouraged to attend the Press Conference scheduled for Monday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Robert Wilson briefed the Commission on the Louisiana Book Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Everyone was encouraged to attend and for more information visit www.louisianabookfestival.org.

Fr. Pat Mascarella briefed the Commission on the White Cane Safety Day scheduled for October 12, 2016 from 9am – 2pm and will be held at North Blvd. Town Square. Fr. Mascarella encouraged everyone to participate in the event.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.