

DDD Commission Meeting
April 13, 2010, 8:00 a.m.
LASM Planetarium, 100 South River Rd.

Attending: Cheri Morial Ausberry, Derrell Cohoon, Norman Chenevert,
Fran Gladden, Chris Nichols

Absent: Van Mayhall

Others in Attendance: James Andermann, Chris Andrews, Joe Anthony, Stephen Arceneaux, Rene Areng, Paul Arrigo, , Jo Landry Bagwell, Susan Bailey, Ed Batson, Mary W. Baus, Kyle Beall, Michael Beck, Danny Belanger, Cory Belden, Carolyn Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Carla Bergeron, Jennifer Berniard, Ricky Besson, Gary Black, Tara Bradford, Jenny K. Branton, Brittany Bland, Mary Boston, Linda Bowsher, Tara Bradford, Lula Breaux, Kayla Brewer, Dave Briggs, Jeremy Broussard, Kevin Broussard, Deron Brown, Christina Bourg, Mike Bruce, Erin Brush, Eddie Budd, Lyles Budden, Jimmy Burland, Jason Burns, Lacy Burris, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Patricia Calfee, Gayle Carnahan, John Carpenter, Nancy Carter, Ashley Casey, Trey Castleberry, Lindsey Cavalier, Jack Chapman, Linda Chauviere, Jennifer Chighizola, Pete Clements, Charles Coates, Erin Cocharn, Tim Cockerham, Sonya Collins, Ronnie Comeaux, Todd Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Paul Counce, Sara Courtney, Ron Crum, Melissa Daly, Kim Daugherty, Miriam Davey, Emmett David, Nedra Davis, Angela DeGravelles, Andi DeJohn, Rachel DiResto, Brian Dixon, Lauren Dodds, Patrick Downs, Mark Drennen, Tom DuBos, Huey Dugas, Jeff Duhe, Patricia Duncan, Katherine Dunstan, Lacey Dupre, Mary Durusau, Ryan Dwyer, Scott Dyer, Kelli Eason, Kendrick Ebanks, John Eblen, Kirk Edwards, Bridger Eglin, Jon Elvert, Eric Engeman, Nikki Essix, Pauline Ewing, Bart Farmer, Natalie Fielding, Derek Fitch, Carley Fleming, Jessica Foleg, Janatha Forrest, Flynn Foster, Carole Fredrickson, Steve Fuller, Mike Futrell, Gail Gaiennie, Ed Gaskin, Brian Gates, Susan Gavrelis, Bryan Gerace, Josh Gettys, Carol Gikas, Debbie Gill, Brian Goad, Trey Godfrey, Krista Goodin, Derek Gordon, Gary Graham, Selena Grant, Jill Green, Blaine Grimes, Becky Gustafson, Lauren Gutierrez, Rev.Howard Hall, Jennifer Hall, Jill Hancock, Tyelise Harrison, John Hart, Dawn Hebert, Michelle Hebert, Kristin Hebert, John Helm, Vida Henderson, Walker Higgins, Kim Hodgeson, Robert Hodges, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Jeff Holeman, Jake Holinga, Helen Holland, Eric Holley, Capt. Virginia Holmes, Mona Holthaus, Lael Holton, Danielle Honeycutt, John Hough, Krista Howard, Marielle Howard, Alice Howe, Rose Hudson, Nicole Huffstetier, Joe Hynes, David Jacobs, Lt. Stephenia M. Jackson, Staci Jamieson, Ted James, Ingrid Payne Johnson, Tammy Johnston, Emma James, Sadie Roberts Joseph, Ernest Junius, Billy Kelley, Bridget Kerley, Patte Keogh, Eddie King, David Kors, Ashley Laborde, Leigh Lafarque, Dana LaFonta, Laurence Lambert, Mark Landry, Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Rashad Lave, Kevin Lawson, Rose Marie LeLeaux, Justin Lemoine, Jin Lee, Stacey Levert, Derek Lewis, Tom Livesay, Chris Loan, Terrence Lockett, Jason Lockhart, Sarah Lomax, Khrystina London, Diane Losavio, Sam Losavio, David Madden, Katie Maloney, Todd Mance, Lauralyn Maranto, Nicole Marshall, Rachel Marionneaux, Katherine Mason, Dee Mather, Jeanne McCollister, Kelley McCormick, Al McDuff, John Melancon, Tommy Milazzo, Alice Miller, Jason Miller, BJ Militello, Donna Mitchell, Todd Mitchell, Kirt Monte, Travis Moore, Sonia Morales, Karen Moreau, Micah Morgan, Robyn Morrison, Penny Murray, Fr. Pat Muscarella, Rose Mustain, Richard Neal, Gordon Nelson, Steven Noel, Rod Nunez, Jennifer Ocken, Mary Olinde, Billy Overton, Bill Palmer, Glenda Parks, Melissa Parmelee, Tom Parsons,

Ron Pascual, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Beth Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche, Mitch Poche, Sgt. Kenneth Pointer, Johnny Palazzotto, Regina Porter, Skipper Post, Stuart Poulton, Katie Prechter, Mike Prejean, DeDe Preno, Vincent Price, Tina Rance, Eric Relle, Daniel Rhodes, Davis Rhorer, Malcolm Richard, Tina Righteous, Chris Rinaudo, Bob Robe, Sage Roberts, Darryl Robertson, George Robins, Emmett Robbins, Erin Rolfs, Darlene Rowland, Kerry Ruiz, Thomas Ryan, Scott Saltmarsh, Allision Saunders, Shane Sandefer, Samuel Sanders, Kristen Sanders, James Schafer, Ben Schultz, Larry Selders, Lonnie Seals, Casey Sessums, Tim Seymour, Ann V. Shaneyfelt, Katrina Shaw, Darlene Shingleur, Pam Sills, Lorraine Slade, Ed Smith, John Smith, John Snow, Michael Songy, Kelly Spell, Kathleen Spencer, Lorelle St. Aime, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Mary Stein, Jennifer Stenhouse, John Stewart, George Strain, John Streva, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, Lauren Sylvest, Cherry Talbert, Claiborne Tanner, Suzie Thomas, Matthew Thomas, John Sykes, Michael Thomassie, Katie Thompson, Anna Thibodeaux, Archie Tiner, Jr., Christopher Toombs, Berry Trascher, Vertina Underwood, Clark Vega, Kiran Vemuri, Randy Verdier, Cindy Verdin, Barry Walls, John Walters, Elizabeth Weinstein, Adam Werth, Hampton West, Jay Westerfield, Emily Wharton, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Bubba Willis, Seveti Wilson, Kate Wilson, Beau Wolfe, Erin Wood, Renee Woods, Melissa Woolridge

1. Mrs. Cheri Ausberry called the meeting to order.
2. Mrs. Cheri Ausberry declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the agenda, Ms. Fran Gladden seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the March 9, 2010 minutes, Ms. Chris Nichols seconded and the minutes were approved.
5. **Board Action** – There was no board action.

Mr. Rhorer thanked Ms. Carol Gikas, executive director, for hosting the board meeting. Ms. Gikas welcomed everyone and informed the Commission that the LASM attracts approximately 70,000 visitors a year. LASM was selected to host the International Planetarium Society Conference in 2012. To prepare for the conference the equipment will be upgraded. Mr. Jon Elvert, planetarium director, briefed the Commission on the technology of the planetarium.

The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the past weekend activities downtown. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the events downtown this past weekend.

6a. **Governmental Issues – River Park Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the current construction for the underpass and renderings of the proposed mixed use development. Each Commissioner received a copy of the Senate Bill 611.

Mr. Pete Clements informed the Commission that the underpass construction is 80% complete and the anticipated completion date is November 2010.

A service road that will provide access to the batture property is also being built. A development plan has been created for River Park. Included in the plan is a proposed wharf that will jet out into the river from the north to south ends of River Park, two parking garages, an entertainment district, a hotel district, and a residential district. The four phases of the River Park development are below.

- Phase 1 – Underpass
- Phase 2 – Entertainment District – 2 floors, 33,000 sq. ft. of space for live entertainment, 120, 000 sq. ft for restaurant, shops etc. and other retail options.
- Phase 3 – Hotel District - Traditional Hotel & Suite Concept
- Phase 4 – Residential District - 800 – 1000 units offering ownership and rental
Early concept and planning phases

Mr. Mark Drennen, Cornerstone Government Affairs, informed the Commission that the proposed Senate Bill 611 by Senator Dorsey creates an economic development district for the 60 acres. The district will have a board appointed by the Mayor and Metropolitan Council and will have the ability to raise funds by levying a tax within the district. Senate Bill 611 also creates a TIF for the project. The TIF is extremely important, because it will enable the developer to construct the public board walk along the Mississippi River, the key element to bringing all the components together would be a riverfront park.

John Carpenter, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, expressed that the Mayor's office is in support of the project and encouraged everyone to support the project. Mr. Chenevert encouraged Mr. Clements to continue working towards implementing the residential component of the project. **Mr. Norman Chenevert moved that the Downtown Development District support the project in concept and work closely with the developers regarding the taxing district. Ms. Chris Nichols seconded and motion was approved.**

Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Clements on this extraordinary project.

Baton Rouge Fire Department – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the promotional flyer. Fire Chief Ed Smith thanked the DDD for the opportunity to address the Commission regarding the tax renewal for the B.R. Fire Department. Chief Smith introduced Mr. Curt Monte, union president. Mr. Monte expressed that the tax renewal affects 26% of the salaries for the fire fighters. In 1979 the Baton Rouge Fire Dept. was the first in the nation to earn a Class 1 rating, which has been maintained every year since. Mr. Monte encouraged everyone to vote in favor of the tax renewal on May 1, 2010. **Mr. Cohoon moved that the DDD go on record endorsing the tax election. Ms. Chris Nichols seconded and the motion was approved.**

6b. Development Initiatives – Mentorship Academy– The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the logo for the Mentorship Academy. Mr. Brian Dixon, executive director, informed the Commission that the Mentorship Academy is two schools; one is focused on Science and Technology and the other focused on Digital Arts. The school will be located in the Regions Bank building on the corner of Florida and Fourth Street.

Mentorship Academy is a public school and is open to all incoming 9th graders. Mr. Dixon encouraged everyone to volunteer to be a mentor.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the proposed greenway route and phases of the project. The Downtown Development District is working with ABMB Engineers to produce the feasibility study and cost estimates for the proposed greenway. Mr. Laurence Lambert, ABMB, informed the Commission that the proposed downtown Greenway is a three mile connector that will serve as a multi use path that includes walking and biking and could connect seven BREC parks. The minimum cost is \$2.75 million up to \$12 million. Mr. Lambert briefed the Commission on the following proposed phases.

- Phase One - BREC's City Park to Expressway Park
- Phase Two – Continue from Expressway Park along South 10th Street across Government and ending at North Blvd.
- Phase Three – Continue along North Blvd. median and turn north onto North 7th through Spanish Town and end at Arsenal Park and Capitol Lakes.
- Phase Four – Connect Arsenal Park and Capitol Lakes with Memorial Stadium.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that there are funds in the Downtown Visitors' Amenity Plan account designated for improvements under Interstate-110. The DDD will be applying for grants through Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism. Mr. Rhorer also informed the Commission that the Downtown Greenway is to be included in Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Plan. Mr. Rhorer thanked the Baton Rouge Advocates for Safe Streets (BRASS) group for their recent support of the proposed greenway by riding the proposed route.

Police Substation – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, proposed renderings for the build out of the substation. Mr. John Carpenter, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, informed the Commission that the city and the state have reached an agreement on the lease. The agreement will be taken to the office of Facility Corporation for final approval. The space should be complete by January 2011. Mr. Norman Chenevert, architect, reviewed the proposed plans for the space.

North Blvd. Over Pass – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the North Blvd. overpass. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved \$200,000 to install railing on the overpass for bicyclist and walkers. This will allow a direct connection from downtown to the Baton Rouge Community College.

Beauregard Town Community Garden – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the plans for the garden and volunteers working in the community garden. Mr. Brian Goad, president of Beauregard Town Civic Association (BTCA), announced that BTCA has partnered with First United Methodist Church to implement a community garden in Beauregard Town. This is the first organic garden in the City of Baton Rouge.

Rev. Chris Andrews thanked Ms. Chris Nichols for her assistance with this project and the Pettit family for their donation of the land to develop the garden. Ms. Chris Nichols expressed her excitement with the development of the garden.

CATS – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the CATS shuttle and logo. Mr. Brian Marshall, president, informed the Commission that CATS implemented the shuttle express service for the April 16th Live After Five concert with 89% on time performance. CATS also offered a comfort bus for anyone to relax and cool off during the concert. Mr. Marshall announced that in concert with US Air, CATS will implement a shuttle service from downtown to the airport, as well as service to and from Corporate Blvd. and the airport. This service is expected to start May 2010.

Spanish Town Parking Permit Ordinance — The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the parking permit signage. Councilwoman Tara Wicker informed the Commission that on Wednesday, April 14, the Metropolitan Council will hear the amendments to the parking permit program in Spanish Town. The ordinance was proposed to enhance the quality of life for the Spanish Town community. Mr. Rhorer thanked Councilwoman Wicker for her assistance with the program.

Events – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following events.

- Live After Five
- Sunday in the Park
- Development + Diversity = Downtown
- Providence Corporate Cup 5K
- Earth Day
- LSU Museum of Art
- B. R. Blues Week / Blues Festival
- Fest For All
- Manship Theatre
- River Center Events

7. Ongoing – **Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)** – Ms. Rachel DiResto informed the Commission that CPEX hosted a tour of downtown Baton Rouge for participants of the American Planning Association (APA) conference. Ms. Diresto expressed that the participants were impressed by downtown, as well as its' progress.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the Red Stick Farmer's Market. Ms. Darlene Rowland briefed the Commission on upcoming events:

- Louisiana Strawberry Jam – April 17
- Summer Table Top Project

DDD Commission Mtg.
April 13, 2010
Pg. 6

Plan Baton Rouge II – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD addressed the participants of the APA conference as part of the mobile workshop.

8. Correspondence – No information to report.

9. Public Comment – Mr. Kerry Ruiz invited everyone to attend the Downtown Business Association quarterly meeting scheduled for Wednesday April 14, 7:30 a.m. at Daltons.

Councilwoman Tara Wicker announced the District 10 leadership meeting will be held this evening at 6:00 pm. in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned.