

DDD Commission Meeting
July 13, 2010, 8:00 a.m.
Louisiana State Museum, 660 N. 4th St.

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

Others in Attendance: James Andermann, Chris Andrews, Joe Anthony, Stephen Arceneaux, Jo Landry Bagwell, Susan Bailey, Brooke Barnett, Michael Beck, Danny Belanger, Cory Belden, Carolyn Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Matt Besson, Gary Black, Rebecca Bonnet, Tara Bradford, Lula Breaux, Kayla Brewer, Dave Briggs, Harold Briscoe, Chris Brooks, Jeremy Broussard, Kevin Broussard, Mike Bruce, Erin Brush, Jimmy Burland, Chad Calder, Gayle Carnahan, Nancy Carter, John Chaszar, Linda Chauviere, Jennifer Chighizola, Erin Cocharn, Tim Cockerham, Cpl. Don Coppola, Melissa Daly, Pete Darling, Cliff Deal, Angela DeGravelles, Andi DeJohn, Rachel DiResto, Maggie Drake, Tom DuBos, Huey Dugas, Jeff Duhe, Mary Durusau, Ryan Dwyer, Scott Dyer, Kelli Eason, Barbara Anne Eaton, Kendrick Ebanks, John Eblen, Lauren Edwards, Eric Engeman, Pauline Ewing, Bart Farmer, David Farrar, Cassie Felder, Derek Fitch, Steve Fuller, Joey Furr, Scott Gaskin, Brian Gates, Susan Gavrelis, Bryan Gerace, Josh Gettys, Carol Gikas, Gary Gilbert, Debbie Gill, Brian Goad, Krista Goodin, Mark Goodson, Gary Graham, Selena Grant, Jill Green, Blaine Grimes, Becky Gustafson, Lauren Gutierrez, Jason Hargrave, Micah Hargrove, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Jake Holinga, Helen Holland, Eric Holley, Capt. Virginia Holmes, Mona Holthaus, Lael Holton, John Hough, Krista Howard, Marielle Howard, Alice Howe, Rose Hudson, Nicole Huffstetier, Joe Hynes, David Jacobs, Lt. Stephenia M. Jackson, Staci Jamieson, Ted James, Bridget Kerley, David Kors, Ashley Laborde, Mark Landry, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Beverly LeBeau, Jin Lee, Stacey Levert, Derek Lewis, Tom Livesay, Jason Lockhart, Sarah Lomax, Khrystina London, Diane Losavio, Sam Losavio, Tom Lusk, BJ Militello, Travis Moore, Fr. Pat Muscarella, Rose Mustain, Richard Neal, Gordon Nelson, Brent Nettles, Steven Noel, Rod Nunez, Jennifer Ocken, Billy Overton, Rose Marie LeLeaux, Melissa Parmelee, Tom Parsons, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Beth Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche, Regina Porter, Skipper Post, Stuart Poulton, Margaret Read, Tina Rance, Bill Reich, Davis Rhorer, Scott Rogers, Erin Rolfs, Darlene Rowland, Kerry Ruiz, Samuel Sanders, Larry Selders, Lonnie Seals, Casey Sessums, Tim Seymour, Ann Shaneyfelt, Katrina Shaw, Darlene Shingleur, Lorraine Slade, Lisa Smith, John Smith, Kelly Spell, Kathleen Spencer, Lorelle St. Aime, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Mary Stein, Jennifer Stenhouse, John Streva, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, Lauren Sylvest, Cherry Talbert, Claiborne Tanner, Ben Taylor, Suzie Thomas, Genny Nadler Thomas, Matthew Thomas, John Sykes, Michael Thomassie, Katie Thompson, Anna Thibodeaux, Archie Tiner, Jr., Vertina Underwood, Clark Vega, Kiran Vemuri, Randy Verdier, Cindy Verdin, Gabe Vicknair, Barry Walls, John Walters, Elizabeth Weinstein, Bubba Willis, Seveti Wilson, Kate Wilson, Beau Wolfe, Erin Wood, Renee Woods, Melissa Woolridge, Karen Zito

1. Mr. Van Mayhall called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Van Mayhall declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved.

4. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the June 8, 2010 minutes, Ms. Fran Gladden seconded and the minutes were approved.

5. **Board Action** – There was no board action.

Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked Mr. Bill Stark for hosting the meeting at the Louisiana State Museum. Mr. Stark welcomed everyone to the museum and encouraged them to visit the exhibit after the meeting. The Louisiana State Museum has entered into an agreement to form the Louisiana State Museum friends and they will be promoting a membership drive shortly.

6a. **Governmental Issues – City Budget Supplement approved** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of images pertaining to each project. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved Mayor Holden's proposed \$18.4 million construction budget supplement of which funds were broken down into construction, roads, sidewalks and planting and traffic signals. The supplement comes from several different funding sources and will allow the DDD to implement several of the projects in the master plans.

- \$2.0 million – Galvez Plaza – Design implementation by North Blvd. Town Square joint venture. Trahan Architects will design the stage covering.
- \$3.0 million – Repentance Park Fountain and Improvements
- \$900,000 – Two-waying of St. Louis and St. Ferdinand Streets
- \$60,000 – Kiosks – Local match for the construction of 3 kiosks at the following locations: State Welcome Center, 4th Street and Main and North Blvd. Town Square

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD is in the process of creating an email highlighting the development downtown.

Legislative Issues – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the proposed rendering for River Park. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Rail Compact legislation passed as well as the CATS legislation. Mr. Rhorer will be attending a rail seminar in New Orleans later this week. Senate Bill 611 creates a TIF and provides an economic development district. The appointees on the economic development district will represent the Senate, House of Representatives and Davis Rhorer will represent the DDD. The TIF will go before the Metropolitan Council for approval.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the bids were received for the extension of the bike path south of downtown and they were 20% below projected costs. The DDD is checking to see if the additional funds can be used to extend the path north.

6b. Development Initiatives – River Center Library – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, proposed renderings for the library. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. David Farrar informed the Commission that the library board voted to appropriate \$19 million to achieve one of the options below.

A public forum will be scheduled in August regarding the three options. If the option to build a new facility is chosen the board would need to appropriate more funds.

- Renovate existing library
- Renovate and expand the existing library
- Demolish existing building and build new facility at existing site

Request for Qualifications – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an aerial photograph of Repentance Park and the intersection of River Rd. and Florida Street. Mr. James Andermann informed the Commission that the Downtown Development District has drafted two RFQ's which are currently being reviewed by Department of Public Works (DPW) to review. DPW will assemble the selection committee and select the consultants in the month of September.

RFQ – Repentance Park – \$3million – proposed improvements include: a pavilion, trees, interactive fountain, signage and focus on the connectivity with the City Hall, Old State Capitol, Galvez Plaza and River Center.

RFQ – Florida Street & River Rd. – proposed improvements include: greening of North Blvd. and River Rd., bike path on west side of River Rd. connecting North Blvd. and River Rd. to the Florida Street intersections.

Historical Preservation Committee – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a copy of the article. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles and ordinance. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that proposed demolition by neglect ordinance has been revised and goes before the Historical Preservation Committee July 21, 2010.

Grant Initiatives – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the proposed connectivity. Mr. Jacob Holinga informed the Commission that one of the recommendations of PBR II is the connectivity downtown north towards Hollywood Casino and River Park and South towards to LSU. Mr. Holinga briefed the Commission on the following grants:

- **CPEX** – Grant for up to \$50,000 with a \$50,000 local match to be used for planning assistance, expecting a response by late fall 2010. Partner with CPEX to incorporate Smart growth principals into the downtown greenway.
- **EPA Grant** – design assistance for downtown greenway – professional designers from the EPA/HUD/DOT will work with DDD to develop a master plan for the downtown greenway that includes smart growth principals and that help make the area a more livable community.
- **Pre Application for Tiger II** – applied for \$13.5 – \$14 million in discretionary funds. The pre-application includes projects from the Downtown Greenway, the New River District Master Plan, Baton Rouge Riverfront Master plan, and Plan Baton Rouge II. The pre-application is due on July 26th and the final application is due August 23rd.

Housing Initiatives – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, renderings of the proposed development. Mr. Harold Briscoe, project manager with the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority (EBRRA), informed the Commission that the EBRRA has entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame to restore the Lincoln theater and revitalize the surrounding area. Mr. Briscoe briefed the Commission on the preliminary plans that include a museum, restaurant, coffee shop, streetscape improvements, walking trail that will incorporate informational stations of African American history and park space. Mr. Briscoe expressed that they also proposing to create connectivity to downtown and LSU. EBRRA received preliminary approval for a \$200,000.00 grant that would assist with the clean up of the theater.

Scott Rogers – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the logo for the Downtown television show. Mr. Rogers informed the Commission that the Downtown TV Show has been a tremendous success and the following changes are occurring:

- Downtown TV Show will air on Channel 2 on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 6:00 a.m. The show will continue to air on WBTR Channel 19 and Metro 21
- Downtown TV Show is starting a production committee, and Mr. Rogers encouraged anyone interested to attend the monthly meetings and submit input on the shows.
- Downtown TV has been awarded the contract for the Kiwanis downtown Christmas Parade and is accepting sponsorships for the parade. Channel 2 will air the Christmas Parade on Christmas morning.

International Downtown Association – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the logo for the International Downtown Association. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that he has been invited to speak at the IDA Conference on: Plan Baton Rouge II: Central Green Initiatives, and Greenway.

New Downtown Business – Third Street Parking Garage – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, proposed layout for the police substation. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the contract for the police substation space has been signed and is out to bid. The bids will be open in two weeks with a 90 day construction period.

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.

- July 15 – “Bayou Bijou: Movies Made in Louisiana”
- July 22nd • 34th Annual Preservation Awards Banquet
- July 29th • Heritage Lecture "The Wetlands"
- Christmas in July – West Wing Shop
- July 16th • Art Melt
- Sounds of Summer Concert Series
- Arts Market
- Manship Theatre Events
- River Center Events

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7. Ongoing – **Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)** – Ms. Rachel DiResto informed the Commission that CPEX will be attending the Southern High Speed Rail Conference in New Orleans. CPEX has launched a coalition that is looking at the larger vision of connecting the corridor – CPEX web site – sign up receive newsletter. Jennifer Stenhouse informed the Commission that the 5th Annual Growth Summit is scheduled August 19 – 20 at the Shaw Center for the Arts. Kick off reception is August 18th at the Old State Capitol.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of BREADA’s logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland briefed the Commission on upcoming events:

- Fresh Fest / Summer long celebration
- Farms Table Top Program - online auction begins July 14 - August 10 – Sponsorships are available

Plan Baton Rouge II – Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD continues to implement components of the plan. The concentration is currently on the greenway and establishing the boundaries.

8. Correspondence – The Commission received a copy of the newspaper article regarding Lucy’s. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Lucy’s was forced to close on Sunday’s due to ABC’s requirement of 60/40 ratio of food to liquor sales needed to operate on Sunday’s. The DDD will contact Councilwoman Tara Wicker to discuss the issue.

9. Public Comment – Mr. Van Mayhall recognized the City Police and commended them for their service.

Mr. Ben Taylor expressed that the light synchronization on Florida Street heading east of downtown is not working properly. Mr. Mayhall requested that the DDD contact the proper officials to investigate the complaint.

Ms. Cassie Felder informed the Commission that the preview party for Art Melt is scheduled for Thursday, July 15 from 6:30 – 10:00 p.m. at the Louisiana State Museum. Mr. Chris Brooks informed the Commission that the decision to move Art Melt to the Louisiana State Museum allows them to double the amount of art work entered into the show and to extend the exhibit display to six weeks. Art Melt is scheduled for Friday, July 16 from 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. and trolley service will be available from Galvez Plaza to the museum. The event will also include an Arts Market on 4th street and Smock Papers Scissors Youth Art Show featuring artwork from East Baton Rouge Parish School System students. Approximately 80 pieces of students’ artwork will be displayed at the Louisiana State Library from Thursday, July 15 through Monday, July 19.

Meeting adjourned.