

DDD Commission Meeting  
January 11, 2011, 8:00 a.m.  
Kress Gallery, 447 Third Street

Attending: Cheri Ausberry, Norman Chenevert, Fran Gladden, Danny Montelaro, Van Mayhall

Absent: Derrell Cohoon, Chris Nichols

Others in Attendance: James Andermann, Gary Anderson, Chris Andrews, Heather Andricain, Stephen Arceneaux, Paul Arrigo, Jeffrey Beck, Cory Belden, Carolyn Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Denver Benton, Gary Black, Rebecca Bonnet, Dave Briggs, Kevin Broussard, Mary Kay Brown, Mike Bruce, Eddie Budd, Erin Bush, Chad Calder, Patricia Calfee, Wanda Calkins, Gayle Carnahan, Renee Chatelain, Erin Cocharn, Tim Cockerham, Helena Cunningham, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Nedra Davis, Angela DeGravelles, Maggie Drake, Patricia Duncan, Kendrick Ebanks, Jennifer Eller, Terry Elmore, Jon Elvert, Derek Fitch, Lauren Fitch, Judy Foust, Marston Fowler, Sarah Friedmann, Steve Fuller, Joey Furr, Bryan Gerace, Brian Goad, Brace Godfrey, III, Jessica Golebiowski, Francis Grayson, Ted Griggs, John Grove, Becky Gustafson, John O. Hearin, Katherine Herald, Ryan Holcomb, Jake Holinga, Nicole Huffstetier, Ed Jenkins, John Kaufman, Bridget Kerley, Ashley LaBorde, Phillip LaFargue, Laurence Lambert, Debbie Lapeyrouse, John Leatherwood, Beverly LeBeau, Rose Marie Leleaux, Jin Lee, Susana Lee, Justin Lemoine, Tom Livesay, Jason Lockhart, Chris Maggie, Stephanie Manson, Councilwoman C. Denise Marcelle, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Jeff Michie, Todd Mitchell, Phyllis Meyer, Jeff Michie, BJ Militello, Travis Moore, Robyn Morrison, Camm Morton, Greg Morton, Gordon Nelson, Mikela Nagura, Jay Noland, Melissa Parmelee, Ron Pascual, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Beth Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Michael Platte, Eric Poche, Sgt. Kenneth Pointer, Robert Poole, Skipper Post, Stuart Poulton, Taylor Rainey, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Davis Rhorer, William Roberts, Erin Rolfs, Darlene Rowland, Kerry Ruiz, Samuel Sanders, Kathy Scherer, John Schneider, Joseph Scott, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Ann Shaneyfelt, Darlene Shingleur, John Sills, Lorraine Slade, Lisa Smith, John Smith, Kelly Spell, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Jennifer Stenhouse, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Ben Taylor, Clark Vega, Kiran Vemuri, Kathy Victorian, Teresa Vidrine, Elizabeth Weinstein, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Cannon Wiest, Bubba Willis, Erin Wood, Kelly Zimmerman

1. Mr. Van Mayhall called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Van Mayhall declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Danny Montelaro moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Ms. Cheri Ausberry moved to approve the December 14, 2010 minutes, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the minutes were approved.

Rev. Chris Andrews encouraged everyone to attend the Martin Luther King celebration Monday, January 17 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Mr. Rhorer thanked the Kress Gallery for hosting the January Commission meeting.

**5. Board Action – Nominating Committee** – The Commission viewed, via power point, an image of the DDD logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the proposed slate of 2011 officers. Mr. Van Mayhall presented the slate of nominees for the 2011 officers as follows: Cheri Ausberry, Chairwoman; Christine Nichols, Vice Chairwoman; Norman Chenevert, Treasurer and Fran Gladden, Secretary. **Mr. Van Mayhall moved to adopt the nominees as presented, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the nominees were unanimously approved as presented.** Mr. Van Mayhall congratulated the new officers and wished them good luck in the new year. Ms. Cheri Ausberry commended Mr. Mayhall for his leadership as Commissioner of the DDD. Mr. Rhorer thanked Mr. Mayhall for his sterling leadership, civic involvement and dedication to downtown.

**6a. Governmental Issues – There was no information.**

**6b. Development Initiatives – River Center Library Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the River Center library. Mr. Laurence Lambert informed the Commission that the library board has agreed to create the Request for Qualifications for the architectural selection for the River Center library.

**DDD Projects Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the strategic plan, Ground Breaking invitation and site of Repentance Park. Mr. Davis Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects:

#### **Strategic Plan**

The Commission will form a committee to report monthly on the implementations of the plan.

#### **North Boulevard Town Square**

Friday, January 14, 10:00 a.m. ground breaking ceremony for NBTS and Galvez Plaza re-design. Senator Mary Landrieu will be in attendance for the ceremony. Low bid was awarded to Arrighi Construction, Inc. and construction for the \$5.7 million project is scheduled to commence the last week in January or the first week in February.

#### **Repentance Park**

Department of Public Works (DPW) has forwarded the final contract to Reed Hilderbrand Associates for their signature. The DDD is working on a draft agenda with Department of Public Works (DPW) for the design charettes that are scheduled for January 26 – 28, 2011. The charettes will include representatives from Mayor's office, DPW and adjacent stake holders of Repentance Park.

**Manship Theatre** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the Hartley Vey Studio and workshop spaces. Mr. Jay Noland announced the completion of Phase I renovations to the Hartley Vey Studio and workshop spaces. The next phase will be to create an entrance to the workshop space on North Blvd.

**438 Main Street Apartments** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, images of the proposed renderings for the development. Ms. Helena Cunningham, developer, informed the

Commission that demolition is expected to be complete by the end of this month. Requirements must be met with the state, once they submit additional information and update information then they will be issued a Notice to Proceed. It is anticipated that the Notice to Proceed (NTP) will be issued within the next 30 days. Once they receive the NTP they will be able to close the transaction and begin the construction phase of the project. Construction is expected to take 12 months.

**New Downtown Aerial / Event Procedure Guidelines** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the aerial and event procedure guideline brochure. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD had a new aerial photograph produced of downtown. The aerial is available online and on a disk.

**Event Procedure Guidelines** – The event procedure guideline brochure has been updated and is available online for review and printing. Some slight modifications will be made to reflect the guidelines for Galvez Plaza and Welcome Center Park, after they are constructed.

**Website homepage improvements** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of DDD website. Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD webpage is currently being re-designed to be user friendly and should be complete in six weeks.

**Downtown Business Association (DBA)** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer introduced Mr. John Smith, chairman of DBA. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that DBA is a non profit organization committed to the dedication, success and growth of downtown businesses. The DBA is excited to be a partner in the development downtown and demonstrate that downtown helps the entire city.

**Vision City Development Group** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, Mr. John Schneider briefed the Commission of the projects that have developed in the past five years as a result of his partnership and vision with the late Brace Godfrey. Mr. Derek Fitch informed the Commission that Mr. John Schneider, Mr. Brace Godfrey, III and he have formed the Vision City Development Group. The Group will continue to focus on the downtown area and look into expanding efforts into Mid-City and the Old South Baton Rouge. The Cyntreniks name will continue under Vision City. Mr. Brace Godfrey, III expressed his excitement to be a part of the venture and development projects. Mr. Rhorer expressed his appreciation of commitment to development that has taken place downtown as a result of their vision.

**Prince Apartments** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the exterior and interior of the Prince Apartments. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Prince Apartments located on North Blvd. has completed the \$1million renovation of the 8 units and is available for lease.

**New Downtown Businesses – Kress Gallery** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the logo. Mr. John Schneider informed the Commission that the gallery will include a fixed exhibit displaying the history of the building and the civil rights.

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He is currently working with Derek Gordon of the Arts Council to develop the exhibit. The gallery will also include rolling exhibits and the space will be available for rental.

**Hotel Indigo** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the hotel and logo. The 93 room boutique hotel is scheduled to open in mid February 2011. The hotel will include the “King Bar and Bistro” that will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner and offer 24 hour service. Nu Vieux Hospitality will be managing the hotel.

**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.

- B. R. Jewish Film Festival
- Laurel Street Palooza
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Downtown March
- Mardi Gras Parades
- LSU Museum of Art
- Manship Theatre Events
- River Center Events

7. Ongoing – **Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the CPEX logo. Mr. Phillip LaFargue encouraged everyone to attend the following event:

**Red Stick Green Drinks** – Monthly gathering for environmentally minded Baton Rouge residents to meet and exchange ideas. The event will be held on Thursday, January 13, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Manship Theatre, 2nd Floor Gallery. Steven Babock, speaker, will share his experiences from a recent trip to the Galapagos Islands.

**BREADA** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of BREADA’s logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland informed the Commission of the following:

- The market has a booth available for rental.
- Downtown restaurants interested in participating in the Fresh From the Market contact BREADA
- Special activities for Valentines’ Day

**PBR II** – The DDD continues to implement initiatives of PBR II.

**8. Correspondence** – Each Commissioner received a copy of the correspondence sent to the Metropolitan Council regarding the status of 2010 downtown projects.

**9. Public Comment**

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Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked The Little Village for catering the meeting this morning and encouraged everyone to visit their new location at 447 Third St.

Mr. Paul Arrigo made the following announcements:

- January 25 – 28, 2011 – Louisiana Travel and Tourism Summit – Hilton Capitol Center
- Sunday, Feb. 6 – 8 – Bank Travel Annual Conference – Hilton Capitol Center, Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel Atrium & River Center.

Councilwoman Tara Wicker made the following announcement:

District 10 leadership meetings for 2011 will commence tonight at 6:30 p.m. and be held at the Metropolitan Council Chambers this quarter. The meetings will be held quarterly at various locations.

**Meeting adjourned**