

DDD Commission Meeting

May 12, 2009, 8:00 a.m.

Turner Gallery, LSU Museum of Art, 3rd Floor of the Shaw Center for the Arts

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

Absent: Mark Bensabat, Derrell Cohoon

Others in Attendance: Raymond Alexander, Raymond Allmon, Copper Alvarez, James
Andermann, Rev. Chris Andrews, Joe Anthony, Stephen Arceneaux, Renee Areng, Annabelle
Armstrong, Jo Landry Bagwell, Kyle Beall, Danny Belanger, Charles Bennett, Frances
Bennett, Carolyn Bennett, Jennifer Berniard, Ricky Besson, Susannah Bing, Gary Black, Mary
Boston, Danny Breaux, Dave Briggs, Nancy Broussard, Jeremy Broussard, Christina Bourg,
Mike Bruce, Jimmy Burland, Jason Burns, Lacy Burris, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Gayle
Carnahan, Nancy Carter, Ashley Casey, Lindsey Cavalier, Nancy Chesson, Tim Cockerham,
Sonya Collins, Ronnie Comeaux, Todd Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Cpl. Don Coppola, Sara
Courtney, Melissa Daly, Pete Darling, Andi DeJohn, Lauren Dodds, Huey Dugas, Patricia
Duncan, Lacey Dupre, Kendrick Ebanks, John Eblen, John Edwards, Jon Elvert, Eric
Engeman, Natalie Fielding, Derek Fitch, Carley Fleming, Steve Fuller, Joey Furr, Mike Futrell,
Gail Gaiennie, Ed Gaskin, Bryan Gerace, Lydia Gikas, Carol Gikas, Debbie Gill, Brian Goad,
Brace Godfrey, Krista Goodin, Jason Goodson, Mark Goodson, Derek Gordon, Francis
Grayson, Jill Green, Melissa Guilbeau, Lauren Gutierrez, Jennifer Hall, Tyelise Harrison, John
Hart, John O. Hearin, Michelle Hebert, Kristin Hebert, John Helm, Vida Henderson, Walker
Higgins, Kim Hodgeson, Robert Hodges, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Jake Holinga, Helen
Holland, Eric Holley, Capt. Virginia Holmes, Lael Holton, Danielle Honeycutt, Kristi Howard,
Alice Howe, Joe Hynes, David Jacobs, Lt. Stephenia M. Jackson, Staci Jamieson, Ingrid Payne
Johnson, Ernest Junius, Jason Keller, Lanny Keller, Billy Kelley, Patte Keogh, Stafford
Kendall, Eddie King, Joe Labbe, Dana LaFonta, Mark Landry, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie
Lapeyrouse, Justin Lemoine, Stacey Levert, Eric Lewis, Tom Livesay, Terrence Lockett, Diane
Losavio, Steven Lumpkin, David Madden, Katie Maloney, Nikki Essix, Manuel, Nicole
Marshall, Jill Martinez, Katherine Mason, Kendall Matassa, Dee Mather, Al McDuff, Jason
Miller, BJ Militello, Donna Mitchell, Todd Mitchell, Sonia Morales, Penny Murray, Rose
Mustain, Richard Neal, Dyke Nelson, Steven Noel, Rod Nunez, Jennifer Ocken, Mike Odom,
Mary Olinde, Chard Ortte, Theresa Overby, Johnny Palazzotto, Greg Palmer, Melissa
Parmelee, Tom Parsons, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Joel Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche,
Mitch Poche, Skipper Post, Mike Prejean, DeDe Preno, Vincent Price, Tina Rance, Bill Reich,
Eric Relle, Daniel Rhodes, Davis Rhorer, Sage Roberts, George Robin, Emmett Robbins, Erin
Rofls, Darlene Rowland, Kerry Ruiz, Kristen Sanders, James Schafer, John Schneider,
Katherine Scherer, Ben Schultz, Joe Sciortino, Larry Selders, Lonnie Seals, Terry Serio, Casey
Sessums, Tim Seymour, Katrina Shaw, Darlene Shingleur, Pam Sills, Lorraine Slade, John
Smith, Kathleen Spencer, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Mary Stein, Jennifer Steinhouse, John
Stewart, George Strain, John Strena, Kelly Stutes, Cherry Talbert, Todd Teepel, Ted Terrell,
Anna Thibodeaux, Christopher Toombs, Scott Varnedoe, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Barry
Walls, Brad Way, Adam Werth, Hampton West, Jay Westerfield, Emily Wharton, Tara
Wicker, Matt Wilks, Bubba Willis, Michael Wilson, Kate Wilson, Beau Wolfe, Erin Wood

1. Mr. Van Mayhall called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Van Mayhall declared a quorum.
3. Ms. Chris Nichols moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved as amended.
4. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the April 14, 2009 minutes, Ms. Chris Nichols seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Rhorer thanked Tom Livesay, Executive Director of LSU Museum of Art, for hosting the board meeting. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that LSU Museum of Art could be closed with proposed budget cuts. Mr. Livesay encouraged everyone to write a letter to their legislator to support higher education.

Mr. Rhorer recognized Mr. Mike Futrell, City of Baton Rouge Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Futrell encouraged everyone to attend the press conference regarding the expansion of bike paths in Baton Rouge. The press conference is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Capitol Heights and Glenmore. Mr. Rhorer thanked Mr. Futrell for his continued support of downtown.

Mr. Rhorer introduced and recognized the Downtown Development District staff.

5. Board Action

6a. Governmental Issues – Hotel King – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a rendering of proposed renovations. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that on May 20, 2009, the Metropolitan Council will be voting on the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the Hotel King. Mr. Godfrey thanked the Commission for the endorsement of the TIF for the Hotel King. Mr. John Schneider informed the Commission that they have positioned themselves for new market tax credit allocations and financing and are projected to close at the end of May. Demolition and abatement are scheduled to commence in June 2009. Completion for the renovations on the Hotel King is targeted for the fall of 2010.

Cultural District – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the meeting with downtown business owners and merchants. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that a meeting was held May 1st with downtown property owners and merchants to review the process of the cultural district.

6b. Development Initiatives – Kress Update – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the Kress Building. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Schneider informed the Commission that 12 of the 16 apartments at Kress have been leased and 1 of the 3 condominiums has been sold.

There will be an announcement in June regarding the tenant for the 12,000 sq. ft of office space. They are in the process of securing a retail tenant and the goal is to have the entire building leased by September 2009.

Restaurant Announcement – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, proposed renderings of Varnodoe's. Mr. Derek Fitch informed the Commission that they have secured Varnodoe's as a corner anchor tenant for the Kress Building and introduced Chef Scott Varnodoe. Chef Varnodoe informed the Commission that the restaurant will include an open chef's kitchen, outdoor seating and seafood display case. The restaurant will be open for lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Plans are to be open by the end of August 2009.

Bistro Announcement – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, proposed renderings of 1887 Bistro. Mr. Schneider informed the Commission that 1887 Bistro Bakery and Bar will locate on Main Street side of the Kress building. The 5,000 sq. ft. restaurant will serve breakfast, lunch, dinner and late night bar atmosphere. Breakfast and lunch will serve walk up and dinner will be sit down and will feature a 50 piece dessert menu. Mr. Godfrey commended the DDD for the assistance and appreciation for the downtown City Police

Downtown Improvements – Florida St. & River Rd. – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the current conditions and rendering of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that city-parish received \$950,000 in federal funds to implement improvements at the intersection of Florida Street and River Road and streetscape improvements in front of the LASM and Old State Capitol on River Rd. The Downtown Development District will be working with the Department of Public Works and Traffic Engineering to solicit a proposal to hire a landscape architecture firm to design the intersection.

River Rd. Improvements from Pedestrian Bridge to North Blvd. – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a rendering of the proposed improvements in front of the Louisiana Art and Science Museum. This project will be one of many that make up the central green concept, which is recommended by PBR II. Funds are secured and the Downtown Development District will proceed with a Request For Proposal.

Beautification under I-110 – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Department of Public Works has cleaned the debris under I-110. The committee will be researching potential improvements to implement under the interstate.

St. Louis and St. Ferdinand Streets – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of vehicular circulation graphic. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that PBR II recommends the following conversions:

- St. Louis and St. Ferdinand Streets to two-way streets tying in Nicholson Drive with St. Louis and terminate at the town square. Highland Rd. which becomes St. Ferdinand then Fourth Street and will terminate at the State Capitol.

DDD Commission Mtg.
May 12, 2009
Pg. 4

The conversion is needed for the River Center expansion and the Town Square. The Downtown Development District will be working with Department of Public Works and the City towards implementing the conversions.

Plan Baton Rouge Phase II Update – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of previous working meetings and matrix. Mr. Cabaniss informed the Commission that the final draft document will be presented to the Mayor for his approval then released to the public by June 2009. Mr. Cabaniss reviewed the components of the matrix.

Town Square Public Open House – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photograph of proposed concepts for the town square. Mr. Joey Furr informed the Commission that the final presentation is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Old State Capitol.

Baton Rouge Hilton Capitol Center – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the press conference. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Baton Rouge Hilton Capitol Center received a four diamond status by AAA. Mrs. Tina Rance expressed their enthusiasm for the award and thanked everyone for their support.

Downtown events Procedures and Guidelines Outline – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the cover of the brochure. Each Commissioner received a copy of the draft brochure. Mr. Gabe Vicknair briefed the Commission on the topics addressed in the brochure. The brochure will assist the public with the process of having an event downtown or organizing an event. The brochure has been distributed to various entities for input and once completed it will be available online or at the DDD office.

Welcome New Business – Stroube’s – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the interior of the restaurant. Mr. Rhorer, informed the Commission that Stroube’s Chop House is open and encouraged everyone to visit the restaurant.

Regions Bank – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photograph of the logo. Mr. Rhorer recognized Kendall Matassa, Regions Bank, and welcomed them downtown.

Events – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, 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 – May 8th

Sunday in the Park – April 5 – May 17th

Free Lunchtime Lagniappe with images from the Past – May 6th – June 3rd

Louisiana All Veterans Reunion – May 15th – May 17th

DDD Commission Mtg.
May 12, 2009
Pg. 5

Beauregard Gallery Presents Paper and Clay – May 15th

Light up the Levee (HAART – HIV/AIDS – May 17th

FHL National Preservation Month – Monthly Meeting – May 20th

Run for the Children (St. Jude Children’s Research) – May 23rd

7. **Ongoing –Center for Planning Excellence** – Ms. Jennifer Steinhouse informed the Commission that the 4th Annual Summit on Smart Growth: Creating Complete Communities, is scheduled for August 27 & 28, 2009. Featured speaker is Andres Duany, Duany Plater-Zyberk Company.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via power point, the BREADA logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland briefed the Commission on upcoming events:

May – Garden Month – special garden activities for children

May 30 – Butterfly Extravaganza

Saturday’s during June –A different fruit or vegetable will be featured as well as cooking demonstrations.

BREADA is connecting local farmers with chefs and encouraged any restaurants that would like to participate to contact the BREADA office.

8. **Correspondence** – No information to report.

9. **Public Comment** – Ms. Renee Areng invited everyone to attend the Convention & Visitor’s Bureau annual stakeholders meeting on Thursday, May 14, 3:00 p.m. at the Lyceum, 124 Third St.

Ms. Katrina Shaw, co executive director of City Year, informed the Commission that City Year is hosting an event called “100 Hours of Power” between June 1 – 5, The event will mobilize volunteers, corporations for 100 hours of consecutive community service in the city of Baton Rouge and New Orleans. City Year is looking for volunteers and sponsors.

Announcement – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the EBR School Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 5:00 p.m. at the school board office on South Foster. The school board will vote on a short term solution for the students to remain at South Blvd. Elementary. Mr. Mayhall encouraged everyone to attend the meeting and demonstrate their support.

Meeting adjourned.