

DDD Commission Meeting  
July 14, 2009, 8:00 a.m.  
Lyceum, 124 Third St.

Attending: Cheri Morial Ausberry, Derrell Cohoon,  
Van Mayhall, Chris Nichols

Absent: Norman Chenevert, Fran Gladden

Others in Attendance: Lt. Raymond Alexander, Raymond Allmon, James Andermann, Joe Anthony, Stephen Arceneaux, Paul Arrigo, Annabelle Armstrong, Jo Landry Bagwell, Susan Bailey, Ed Batson, Mary W. Baus, Kyle Beall, Michael Beck, Danny Belanger, Jeff Bell, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Carolyn Bennett, Jennifer Berniard, Ricky Besson, Susannah Bing, Gary Black, Brittanny Bland, Mary Boston, Danny Breaux, Dave Briggs, Carrie Broussard, Jeremy Broussard, Christina Bourg, Dana Brown, David Brown, Mike Bruce, Jimmy Burland, Jason Burns, Lacy Burris, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Wanda Calkins, Gayle Carnahan, Nancy Carter, Ashley Casey, Lindsey Cavalier, Jack Chapman, Nancy Chesson, Chuck Cline, Tim Cockerham, Sonya Collins, Ronnie Comeaux, Marie Constantine, Todd Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Sara Courtney, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Chad Danos, Pete Darling, Andi DeJohn, Lauren Dodds, Patrick Downs, Huey Dugas, Jeff Duhe, Patricia Duncan, Lacey Dupre, Kelli Eason, Kendrick Ebanks, John Eblen, John Edwards, Jon Elvert, Eric Engeman, Nikki Essix, Pauline Ewing, David Farrar, Natalie Fielding, Derek Fitch, Carley Fleming, Steve Fuller, Joey Furr, Gail Gaiennie, Ed Gaskin, Cpl. Mike Gauthier, Bryan Gerace, Lydia Gikas, Debbie Gill, Brian Goad, Brace Godfrey, Krista Goodin, Jason Goodson, Mark Goodson, Derek Gordon, Gary Graham, Selena Grant, Francis Grayson, Jill Green, Jamie Griffin, Lauren Gutierrez, Jennifer Hall, Jill Hancock, Tyelise Harrison, John Hart, John O. Hearin, Michelle Hebert, Kristin Hebert, Caleb Heine, John Helm, Vida Henderson, Walker Higgins, Kim Hodgeson, Robert Hodges, Ryan Holcomb, Jake Holinga, Helen Holland, Eric Holley, Capt. Virginia Holmes, Mona Holthaus, Lael Holton, Danielle Honeycutt, John Hough, Kristi Howard, Alice Howe, Joe Hynes, David Jacobs, Lt. Stephenia M. Jackson, Staci Jamieson, Emma James, Ted James, Ingrid Payne Johnson, Byron Jones, Ernest Junius, Jason Keller, Billy Kelley, Patte Keogh, Eddie King, Chuck Kline, Joe Labbe, Dana LaFonta, Mark Landry, Michael Lang, Ryan Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Justin Lemoine, Stacey Levert, Eric Lewis, Terrence Lockett, Diane Losavio, Steven Lumpkin, David Madden, Katie Maloney, Manuel, Nicole Marshall, Rachel Marionneaux, Camm Martin, Martinez, Katherine Mason, Kendall Matassa, Dee Mather, Al McDuff, Cheryl Miller, Jason Miller, BJ Militello, Donna Mitchell, Sonia Morales, Micah Morgan, Bryan Murphy, Penny Murray, Rose Mustain, Richard Neal, Steven Noel, Rod Nunez, Jennifer Ocken, Mike Odom, Mary Olinde, Johnny Palazzotto, Greg Palmer, Melissa Parmelee, Tom Parsons, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Joel Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche, Sgt. Kenny Pointer, Skipper Post, Stuart Poulton, Mike Prejean, DeDe Preno, Vincent Price, Mary Louise Prudhomme, Bruce Rampick, Tina Rance, Eric Relle, Daniel Rhodes, Davis Rhorer, Chris Rinaudo, Bob Robe, Sage Roberts, George Robin, Emmett Robbins, Erin Rolfs, Darlene Rowland, Kerry Ruiz, Alison Saunders, Kristen Sanders, James Schafer, Katherine Scherer, Ben Schultz, Joe Sciortino, Larry Selders, Lonnie Seals, Terry Serio, Casey Sessums, Tim Seymour, Katrina Shaw, Jean Shaw, Darlene Shingleur, Pam Sills, Lorraine Slade, David Slaughter, Christel Slaughter, Bill Slaughter, John Smith, John Snow, Kathleen Spencer, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Mary Stein, John Stewart, George Strain, John Streva, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, John Sykes, Cherry Talbert,

Claiborne Tanner, Ben Taylor, Todd Teepel, Anna Thibodeaux, Suzie Thomas, Christopher Toombs, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Barry Walls, Adam Werth, Hampton West, Jay Westerfield, Emily Wharton, Tara Wicker, Matt Wilks, Bubba Willis, Seveti Wilson, Kate Wilson, Beau Wolfe, Erin Wood

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, Ms. Chris Nichols seconded and the agenda was approved as amended.
4. Ms. Chris Nichols moved to approve the June 9, 2009 minutes, Ms. Cheri Ausberry seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Rhorer recognized and thanked Mr. Brace Godfrey, Lyceum, for hosting the board meeting.

#### **5. Board Action**

**6a. Governmental Issues – State Legislation affecting downtown** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a title slide. Each Commissioner received a copy of the house bills.

**House Bill 753** – Mr. Jacob Holinga informed the Commission that the Governor has signed House Bill 753 which increases the funding amount for new market tax credits from \$5 million to \$7 million for qualified equity investments.

**House Bill 903** – Mr. Jacob Holinga informed the Commission that Senate Bills 37 and 63 have not moved since the last board meeting. Ultimately, this will lead to the bill being dismissed. This will have not effect on the DDD. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Old State Capitol received approximately \$2 million in funding from the State to continue their exhibit design.

**6b. Development Initiatives – Jackson Mississippi Delegation** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the downtown tour that the DDD office gave the delegation during their visit. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD hosted the Jackson Mississippi Delegation for two days as they learned about downtown Baton Rouge. The delegation toured downtown and attended an education seminar at the Old State Capitol. Mr. Rhorer thanked everyone involved in the event and commended everyone for their support and hard work in making downtown Baton Rouge a great place.

**Lights in Repentance Park** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of Repentance Park. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the lighting will be increased and improved on River Road across from the LASM. \$55k in funding for this project was given to the DDD a year and a half ago.

The DPW has bid out the lights and we are waiting to hear back the results.

**International Downtown Association** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the past award ceremony. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission the DDD submitted an application for the IDA Downtown Achievement Award and that he has been nominated for the IDA board.

**Spanish Town – Parking Permit Program** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an aerial photograph indicating on-street parking. Each Commissioner received a copy of the parking permit ordinance. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the proposed Parking Permit Program for Spanish Town was approved by the Metropolitan Council. There will be an amendment to the program to change the hours for University Walk from twenty four hours to daily from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Zoning Change Request** – Mr. Derrell Cohoon informed the Commission that the proposed zoning change from A-4 to A-5 for Spanish Town has been withdrawn. Mr. Cohoon expressed that he is pleased that discussions continue between Spanish Town Civic Association and Mr. David Slaughter, the developer of the Capitol Lofts.

**Capitol Lofts** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the proposed rendering. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. David Slaughter informed the Commission that the proposed project in Spanish Town has been re-designed to include 76 units. Three of the ten historic homes in the block will be renovated and the remaining seven will be available for donation to anyone willing to move and restore them. The project will go before the Historic Preservation Commission in August 2009. Mr. Rex Cabaniss briefed the Commission on the proposed design of the units. Discussion ensued. Mr. Mayhall encouraged discussions to continue with Spanish Town Civic Association.

**Education Project** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the map indicating surrounding schools and listing. Each Commissioner received a copy of the information. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that he compiled a map indicating the schools located within a ten minute radius of downtown. There are six schools downtown and a total of thirty eight schools within the ten minute driving distance from Early Learning to High School. The information is available on the DDD web site.

**Hotel King** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the Hotel King. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Godfrey welcomed everyone to the Lyceum and encouraged them to attend one of the events held at the facility. Mr. Grayson informed the Commission that Hotel King will carry the brand name, Hotel Indigo, which is an Intercontinental boutique hotel brand. Mr. Carnahan informed the Commission that he has been working with Indigo for approximately two years, as well as other brands, Indigo is an affordable upscale hotel. Mr. Grayson said the demolition of the interior of the Hotel King will commence by the end of July.

**North Blvd. Town Square** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the renderings of the proposed development. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. The consultants addressed the Old State Capitol Board and Foundation on the NBTS.

- **Traffic** – The DDD is working with the city on the 2-way conversion of St. Ferdinand and St. Louis Streets.
- **Logo** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the proposed logo for the NBTS. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD has begun

**Progress Is** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the logo. Mr. Todd Teepell informed the Commission that *Progress Is* was structured by a group of young professionals that were disappointed by the failure of the bond issue this past year. Following is the mission of *Progress Is*: A community movement dedicated to advancing initiatives that enhance quality of life, spur economic and cultural development, and build a stronger capital region. The group is a non-politically affiliated movement that sees the proposed bond as the first initiative critical to support. The group plans to focus on educating the public about details of the tax proposal. Mr. Patrick Downs expressed the importance to inform yourself, involve others, initiate actions and make an informed decision. Ms. Danielle Honeycutt encouraged everyone to involve friends, colleagues and add the [www.progressis.org](http://www.progressis.org) link to your website. Mr. Ted James said that this is an aggressive movement and that to initiate action will be the focal point over the next few months. The web site will launch July 22 and he encouraged everyone to contact council members and to attend the August 12<sup>th</sup> Metropolitan Council meeting to support the bond issue. Mr. Mayhall commended the group and encouraged everyone to spread the work about *Progress Is*.

**Plan Baton Rouge Phase II Update – Tree Inventory / Palette for the CBD** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of previous working meetings and examples of tree palettes for downtown. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that they are in the final process of the document. Mr. James Andermann informed the Commission that the DDD is in the preliminary stages of implementing section 3.1 Green Infrastructure of the plan. The following are the three topics that will be addressed:

- Diagram Existing Conditions of trees
- Work with City partners to design a comprehensive urban forest
- Pursue a phased planting of the Baton Rouge Urban Forest

**Welcome New Business – Lucy’s Restaurant and Bar, 151 Third Street** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photograph of the logo and the exterior of the restaurant. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Bruce Rampick informed the Commission that he is in the process of renovating the existing building and plans to open the restaurant by the end of September 2009.

**Willies on the River** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photograph of the logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Ms. Wanda Calkins informed the

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Commission that Willies on the River is located in the previous Thirsty Tiger location at 140 Main St. The establishment is a wine and martini bar with a private room for meetings and lunches.

**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.

**Chase Annual Jambalaya Dinner benefiting Uniforms for Kids – Manship Theatre, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Louisiana State Museum – Pride of Place Exhibit**

**Downtown Business Association Meeting – July 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Divine Protection March – July 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Manship Theatre Events**

**7. Ongoing –Center for Planning Excellence** – No information to report.

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

- Fresh from the Market cooking show
- Fresh Fest
- Friends of the Market Membership Drive

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

**9. Public Comment** – Mr. Van Mayhall recognized the City Police in attendance and expressed his appreciation for the service provided by the police department.

Ms. Kelly Eason, Raising Canes, informed the Commission that their Government Street location has completed renovations and will be celebrating with free lemonade at 11:00 a.m., July 23 at the corner of Main and Fourth Streets.

Ms. Marie Constantin, Spanish Town resident, expressed her opposition with the proposed Capitol Lofts development project in Spanish Town and demolition of several homes.

**Announcement**

**Meeting adjourned.**