

DDD Commission Meeting
August 10, 2010, 8:00 a.m.
Mentorship Academy, 339 Florida Street

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

Others in Attendance: James Andermann, Chris Andrews, Stephen Arceneaux, Paul Arrigo, Rita Baillie, Brooke Barnett, Carolyn Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Gary Black, Rebecca Bonnet, Chip Boyles, Dave Briggs, Jimmy Burland, Chad Calder, Wanda Calkins, Erin Cocharn, Tim Cockerham, Cpl. Don Coppola, Melissa Daly, Nedra Davis, Angela DeGravelles, Rachel DiResto, Brian Dixon, Maggie Drake, Mary Durusau, Scott Dyer, Jay Dykes, Kendrick Ebanks, Jon Elvert, , Betsy Fazekas, Derek Fitch, Judy Foust, Sarah Friedmann, Steve Fuller, Scott Gaskin, Bryan Gerace, Debbie Gill, Brian Goad, Jessica Golebiowski, Krista Goodin, Selena Grant, Jill Green, Lani Guilbeau, Hans Gurtner, Micah Hargrove, John Hearin, Katherine Herald, Tony Higginbotham, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Jake Holinga, Eric Holley, Capt. Virginia Holmes, Mona Holthaus, Krista Howard, Nick Huff, Nicole Huffstetier, Ed Jenkins, Bridget Kerley, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Beverly LeBeau, Jin Lee, Rex Lee, Justin Lemoine, Tom Livesay, Jason Lockhart, Jared Loftus, Chris Maggie, Stephanie Manson, Lauralyn Maranto, Phyllis Meyer, BJ Militello, Travis Moore, Bryce Moreland, Pauline Moss, Fr. Pat Muscarella, Mikeila Nagura, Richard Neal, Gordon Nelson, Brent Nettles, Ross Nugent, Mary Olinde, Abigail Omojola, Rose Marie LeLeaux, Johnny Palazzotto, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Beth Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Stuart Poulton, Tina Rance, Davis Rhorer, Erin Rolfs, Darlene Rowland, Kerry Ruiz, Samuel Sanders, Jack Savario, David Savario, Joseph Scott, Larry Selders, Steve Sellars, Casey Sessums, Ann Shaneyfelt, Darlene Shingleur, Lisa Smith, John Smith, John Snow, Kelly Spell, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Mary Stein, Jennifer Stenhouse, Kelly Stutes, Cherry Talbert, Michael Thomassie, Sally Thompson, Archie Tiner, Jr., Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Kathy Victorian, Jonathan Walker, Elizabeth Weinstein, Adam Werth, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Mike 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. Fran Gladden moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the July 13, 2010 minutes, Ms. Fran Gladden seconded and the minutes were approved.
5. **Board Action** – There was no board action.

Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked Mr. Brian Dixon for hosting the meeting at the Mentorship Academy.

6a. **Governmental Issues – Downtown Street Synchronization** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the downtown traffic signals.

Mr. Rhorer reported that representatives with DPW were unable to attend the meeting today but read a statement from Sarah Edel providing an update on the progress on the downtown signal timing plan. A representative will be attending the September board meeting to provide a more detailed update.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful Grant – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Keep Louisiana Beautiful logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. The DDD submitted a grant request to Keep Louisiana Beautiful which cleared through Finance & Executive committee and will proceed to the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, August 11, 2010. The grant will allow for the purchase of up to 20 new trash cans for downtown.

6b. Development Initiatives – Mentorship Academy – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of students. Mr. Brian Dixon announced that the school has been in session for 4 weeks and approximately 300 students are learning about project based learning. The school is a work in progress and Mr. Dixon expressed his appreciation for everyone's support. Mr. Dixon encouraged anyone to get involved by work shadowing or mentoring a student. A tour of the school will follow the meeting.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of conceptual graphic. Each Commissioner received a copy of the award letter. Mr. Jacob Holinga informed the Commission that the Downtown Greenway was awarded \$91,790 from the Department of Cultural Recreation and Tourism to go towards the implementation of the 2.73 mile greenway, which will expand from Memorial Stadium to City Park. Mr. Holinga announced that he and Mr. James Andermann are currently working on the Scope of Services and Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for the downtown greenway. The RFQ will go out within the next two weeks.

North Blvd. Town Square Phase / Galvez Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of NBTS renderings. Mr. Andermann informed the Commission that the DDD will receive the Notice to Proceed today followed by a 60 day design process that will allow the project to go out to bid in September 2010. Mr. Andermann reviewed the proposed projects and reminded the Commission that the Request for Qualifications for Repentance Park is due August 12 and on August 19 the selection board will receive all the RFQ applicants. Mr. Mayhall asked when the 19th JDC would be completed. Mr. Rhorer commented that the fence will be removed in September 2010 and full operation of the court house by October 2010. The goal is to have the projects completed by December 2011.

Housing Initiatives – River House – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial photograph indicating the project. Each Commissioner received a copy of the executive summary. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the mixed use development near Oklahoma Street, River House, will target the “post-graduate” world of urban, young working professionals, LSU graduate and/or married students, along with more established professionals who are involved with state government or LSU, but who do not maintain their primary residence in Baton Rouge (such as visiting professors, researchers, legislators, lobbyists and state association members), and empty-nester or LSU alumni looking for close proximity to cultural,

artistic, educational and athletic venues nearby. Apartment rents are expected to range between \$900 and \$1,210 per month. The project will be constructed to be “eco-friendly” and in accordance with LEED principals utilizing energy efficient and green building techniques, materials, products and vendors. The landscaping plan is also consistent with the stormwater best management practices requirements for East Baton Rouge Parish. At the front of the development site are two (2) commercial/retail pads. The corner pad is designated for retail development of 15,000 sq.ft, ideally suited for a drug store, a bank and a coffee shop, or alternatively for a strip/franchise retail tenant. The other pad is designated for a 34,000 sq.ft. three (3) story commercial building which can accommodate street level retail and/or professional office space. The project will also have a pool amongst the many other amenities offered by the project. River House has received HUD approval.

Levee-top Bike Path Phase II – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an aerial photograph indicating the proposed bike path. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council accepted the bids for the 2nd phase which extends the path from Skip Bertman Drive to Farr Park. The extension will add 2.5 miles from downtown to Farr Park, providing you with 5 miles of contiguous bike path.

Third Street Garage – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the building exterior of the proposed Police Storefront space. Mr. James Andermann announced that the bids are opening today for the build out of the Police Storefront space. The construction process is 60 days and should be completed by December 2010.

Itinerant Vendors / Pedi-cabs amendment proposal – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of itinerant vendors. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the following itinerant vendors have visited downtown and surrounding areas. The DDD will be working with the itinerant vendors to avoid any conflict or confusion. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that there is an ordinance that is in the works for Pedal Express to regulate the service through the Taxi Cab Commission. Mr. Joseph Scott, Assistant Parish Attorney, informed the Commission that the Parish Attorney’s office is researching the city requirements for itinerant vendors and revising the taxis law to address the pedicabs. The pedicabs need to be insured and hiring regulated. The draft ordinance will be forwarded to the taxi commission for revisions. Following is the list of itinerant vendors that have been downtown:

BBQ Kickers
Ninja Snowball
Pedal Express
Southern Dawgs
Taco de Paco
Ya-Ya Crepes

Historical Preservation Commission / Demolition by Neglect Ordinance – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph indicating a neglected house. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Historical Preservation committee continues to work on the proposed demolition by neglect ordinance.

Councilwoman Tara Wicker reported that the committee will meet this week for final revisions of the ordinance, proceeding to the Planning Commission for final approval, followed by approval of the Metropolitan Council.

Hollydays Run – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the logo for the event. Each Commissioner received a flyer for the event. Ms. Brooke Barnett informed the Commission that Hollyday's brings approximately 12,000 attendees downtown yearly and the Jr. League raised \$425,000 in 2009 with Hollydays. This year's event will include the Hollydays Hustle 5K and 1mile fun run. The event will be held downtown on October 14, 6:00 p.m. and runners will be invited to visit the market after the run.

New Downtown Business – Third Street Businesses – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an aerial photograph of the locations of the businesses. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Steve Sellars informed the Commission that Lake Quick Care, a medical clinic affiliated with OLOL will be opening at 307 Third Street. The clinic will provide care for minor illness on a walk in basis with services provided by a nurse practitioner. The clinic is scheduled to open during the month of November 2010 with operating hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Avoyelles – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the storefront of Avoyelles. Mr. Jonathan Walker, a commercial realtor with Maestri-Murrell, informed the Commission that the owner of Serrano's on Highland, Andy Blouin and Sean Malone purchased the Avoyelles restaurant building. The 9,200 sq. ft. building includes a restaurant and bar area. The owners do not have any current plans for the space. Mr. Jay Dykes, previous owner of Avoyelles, briefed the Commission on the history of the restaurant and thanked everyone for their patronage. Mr. Rhorer thanked the Dykes family for their contribution to the community.

The Little Village – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the proposed floor plan. Mr. Derek Fitch announced that the Little Village restaurant will be locating in the Kress building at the corner of Third and Main St. Mr. Wayne Stabler will attend the October meeting to further update the Commission. Mr. Fitch also made the following announcements:

- Retail space is available in the Kress building on the frontage of Third Street.
- Hotel Indigo will be locating their offices on Main Street
- Arts Council art gallery will be locating on Main Street

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.

- River Center Library Forum – August 16
- Smart Growth Summit – August 19 - 20
- Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference – August 18-20
- Live After Five Concert Series – Sept. 10
- LSU Museum of Art Exhibit
- LASM – Kid's Saturday / Perseid Meteor Shower Program

- Fete Rouge – Aug. 26 -28
- Huey Long Symposium – Aug. 28 - 29
- Manship Theatre Events
- River Center Events

7. Ongoing – **Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)** – Ms. Rachel DiResto informed the Commission that the 5th Annual Smart Growth Summit is scheduled August 19 – 20 at the Shaw Center for the Arts. Ms. DiResto encouraged everyone to take advantage of the early registration and register by Thursday, August 12, 2010. Ms. DiResto briefed the Commission on the following schedule for the event and thanked the Downtown Business Association for sponsoring the Wednesday night key note address:

- Wednesday, August 18 – Key Note Address featuring Senator Mayor Landrieu and Mayor Holden at the Old State Capitol.
- Thursday, August 19 – Sessions and Great Places Award program – Reception
- Friday – August 20 – Sessions and Great Places Award presentations
- Saturday, August 21 – Leisurely bike ride – downtown greenway
- Saturday, Sept. 11 – Building Blocks (Kids planning day) –10:00 a.m. Shaw Center for the Arts

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

- Aug. 14 – Jazz Processional for old tables and unveiling of the new tables
- August 28 –Toyota Farms to Table Tour

Plan Baton Rouge II – Discussed above in Greenway topic.

8. Correspondence –

9. Public Comment – Fr. Pat Muscarella requested that the itinerant vendor’s ordinance take into consideration persons with disabilities. Fr. Muscarella also requested that the physical address be mentioned when discussing locations.

Fluer Du Jour – Mrs. Lani Guilbeau thanked everyone for their support of the downtown businesses and announced that the florist has expanded their hours and are open Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12noon. Mrs. Guilbeau invited everyone to stop by and visit the florist and stated that she will announce in October the date of the Open House.

Mrs. Frances Bennett invited everyone to attend the wine and cheese reception on Tuesday, September 7, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Louisiana State Museum. The event will kick off the membership drive for Louisiana State Museum friends.

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Ms. Kathy Fletcher Victorian, program director of City Hall Fellows, informed the Commission that the program was founded by Baton Rouge native Bethany Rubin Henderson and was launched in Baton Rouge on Monday, August 2, 2010. Ms. Emily Patrick, city fellow, informed the Commission that they are happy to be placed working within the city departments and will identify projects to assist with and learn how vital the private and public sectors are in the interplay. Ms. Fletcher introduced the city fellows and encouraged everyone to visit www.cityhallfellows.org for more information.

Mr. Jared Loftus, co –owner of Ninja Snowballs and Taco de Paco, informed the Commission that as an itinerant vendor he is willing to work with everyone and make this addition to downtown a positive one.

Councilwoman Tara Wicker made the following announcements:

- District 10- leadership council meeting will be held tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.
- Mrs. Wicker also mentioned a new initiative “District 10 Policy Academy”. The academy will allow community leaders the chance to review policy issues of departments in City Parish Government and make policy recommendations.
- District 10 garage sale is scheduled for Sept. 25 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The garage sale will raise funds for the District 10 Community Care Campaign. The campaign raises funds for neighborhood activities. Donations for the garage sale are being accepted at the Leo S. Butler center. The 2011 fund raising event will be the cutest baby contest.

Mrs. Wicker expressed that she is honored to be council person for District 10 and mentioned that any company that would like to sponsor refreshments for the District 10- leadership council meeting would be welcomed.

Mr. Van Mayhall recognized the City Police and commended them for their service.

Meeting adjourned.