

DDD Commission Meeting
August 14, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
The Woman's Club, 259 East Blvd.

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Verni Howard,
Chris Nichols

Absent: Fran Gladden, Van Mayhall

Others in Attendance: Laura Acord, Tom Adamek, Gary Anderson, Iron Archie, Paul Arrigo, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeffrey Beck, Frances Bennett, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Suzanne Blanchard, Marcelle Boudreaux, Benjamin Bradford, Erin Brush, Gary Burkett, Jimmy Burland, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Gayle Carnahan, Sarah Casper, Christy Chachere, Renee Chatelain, Cosimo Clements, Allison Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Sara Courtney, Ron Crum, Melissa Daly, Patrick Danna, Nedra Davis, Genny Denton, Jason Diu, Erin Ducote, Kendrick Ebanks, Terry Elmore, Gwen Emick, Mark Entrekin, Betsy Fazekas, Derek Fitch, Judy Foust, Rev. Brad Franklin, Mac Freeman, Joey Furr, Clark Gernon, Aaron Glaser, Brian Goad, Krista Goodin, Selena Grant, Rannah Gray, Francis Grayson, Ashanti Green, Katie Guasco, Jennifer Hall, Brandon Hargrave, Debra Harris, Daniel Hawthorne, Charyl Hearin, John O. Hearin, Kendall Hebert, Jan L. Herrington, Justin Hewitt, Ryan Holcomb, Mayor Holden, Courtney Hunt, Danielle Kelley, Julia Kennedy, Tara Kistler, Jackie Dreutzer, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Mathew Laborde, Leigh LaFargue, Andee Lanier, Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Beverly LeBeau, Jin Lee, Donna LeBlanc, Rose Marie Leleaux, Jason Lockhart, Anna Long, Kyle Lynch, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Ferris McDaniel, Al McDuff, Carolyn McKnight, Jason Miller, B.J. Militello, Ashley Montagnino, Rebecca Moses, Gordon Nelson, Shawn Nolan, Mary Olinde, Ashley Ortego, Billy Overton, Renee Payton, Casey Phillips, Ashley Pierce, , John Price, Jere Quinn, Margaret Read, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Reed Richard, Brooke Riglin, Susan Ringwald, Tanya Roberson, Darlene Rowland, Jenny Rozas, Kerry Ruiz, LeAnn Russo, Robyn Ryan, Kris Sanchez, Beth Sansovich, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Shay Schillilng, Darlene Shingleur, Brian Sleeth, Karen Stagg, John Smith, Lisa Smith, Bill Stark, Jennifer Stenhouse, Lacy Strohschein, Jan Sumrall, Casey Tate, Boo Thomas, Rev. Susie Thomas, Clark Vega, Mitch Verma, Gabe Vicknair, Rossie Washington, Jr., Brad Way, Pam Welsh, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Kyle Wilkinson, Matt Wilks, Vanisia Winston, Molly Woodland

1. Ms. Chris Nichols called the meeting to order.

2. Ms. Chris Nichols declared a quorum.

3. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved.

4. Ms. Verni Howard moved to approve the July 10, 2012 minutes, Mr. Derrell Cohoon seconded and the minutes were approved.

Rev. Brad Franklin, assistant pastor at First United Methodist Church, shared a few words of wisdom. Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked Woman's Club for hosting the meeting and introduced Ms. Jackie Krueger welcomed everyone to the Woman's Club and introduced Ms. Nell Mitchell Doughty briefed the Commission on the history of the facility.

5. Board Action – No board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – Riverfront Development – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of proposed implementation projects. Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the budget supplement action items on the following projects:

- Lafayette Street / Streetscape improvements – \$200,000
- Wayfinding in North Blvd. Town Square – \$30,000
- Riverfront Gateway improvements I-110 Interstate to Mississippi River – \$100,000
- Lighting for the canopy structure – \$50,000

Mr. Rhorer congratulated Mayor Holden on receiving the Louisiana Municipal Association award for the North Blvd. Town Square.

6b. Development Initiatives – Downtown Greenway Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial photograph indicating the boundaries of the proposed greenway. Mayor Holden thanked the Woman’s Club for hosting the meeting and informed the Commission that today is the Spirit of 45’, observance to honor our World War II veterans. Mayor Holden commended everyone involved with the development downtown. Mayor Holden announced that the greenway project has been awarded \$1,144,547 million in Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program (TCSP) funds for implementation. The project is a functional green network of pedestrian bike paths. The grant will help connect North Boulevard Town Square with the planned greenway along I-110 via the North Boulevard Promenade – a multi-use pathway that will be constructed in the median under the beautiful North Boulevard Live Oaks. The connection is a very important piece in the overall greenway concept that plans to connect 7 BREC parks and neighborhoods along the greenway with LSU, Downtown, and the levee bike path. Mayor Holden commended the federal highway administration for their assistance with this grant. The TCSP grant award, along with numerous other successful grant applications, will bring the total dollars for construction to \$3 million. NBTS is receiving awards and the project is not complete. Mayor Holden expressed the need to compliment the businesses and offices that have committed to downtown. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the aerial indicating the boundaries of the proposed greenway and thanked East Baton Rouge Mortgage Finance Authority for agreeing to assist with the funding of the planning of the Downtown Greenway.

Florida Street and River Rd. Levee Access / LASM Improvements – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial image indicating the area for improvements and proposed renderings. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that federal funds are being used for phase one of the gateway at Florida Street and River Rd. Levee access. The gateway will be designed in house by the Department of Public Works with assistance by Washer Hill Lipscomb Cabaniss Architecture. The LASM plaza area will be designed by Suzanne Turner and Associates. The plan proposes a bike trail head access at River Rd. and Florida.

Repentance Park Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the current construction site. Mr. Gabe Vicknair briefed the Commission on how the project will enhance the pedestrian flow from Repentance Park to the NBTS. The project is on schedule for the projected completion date of November 2012.

BREC Convention Street Park Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering and photographs of the current construction site. Ms. Carolyn McKnight, BREC Superintendent, expressed her excitement to be involved in the downtown park and commended the DDD on the proposed greenway. Mr. Reed Richard briefed the Commission on the design of the Convention Street Park and expressed that the park will be a complement to the other projects downtown. The completion date has been extended to early October 2012.

CATS – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the Touchdown Express flyer. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release. Ms. Vanisia Winston, CATS, informed the Commission that CATS will provide a game day shuttle “Touchdown Express” for the LSU home games

at a cost of \$4.00 per round trip. The shuttle begins 4 hours before the game and 1 hour after the game. Ms. Winston thanked the DDD for their assistance with the service. Following are the locations you can purchase tickets and catch the shuttle:

Tickets – Hotel Indigo, Hilton, Belle of Baton Rouge, Marriott

Shuttle Pick up – Lafayette & Convention, NBTS, Belle of Baton Rouge, Florida Blvd. at I-110 underpass and L'Auberge

The Elysian – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the 100 residential unit development by developer Donnie Jarreau is currently under construction.

Downtown Residential Façade Grant Program Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the house exterior. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the Residential Façade Grant committee awarded nine grants to applications submitted. There are a few more grants available and Mr. Vicknair encouraged anyone interested to submit their application.

Downtown Anti-Litter Initiatives – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of cigarette butt receptacles placed at downtown entities. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD office has distributed cigarette butt receptacles to a number of downtown entities.

Commerce Building Acquisition – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Commerce building. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Michael Lang expressed his excitement to be a part of the continued development downtown and informed the Commission that he will be serving as the local development lead for developer T. J. Iarocci. Mr. Lang commended Vision City for their assistance with the transaction of the building. Mr. Lang informed the Commission that downtown stakeholders will be invited to attend a charette that will be scheduled for late fall 2012. The plans for the building are in the preliminary stages but will include residential, retail space and possibly a rooftop venue.

Grocery Store Survey – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD will be sending out a Grocery Store survey later this week. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to participate in the survey.

New Business Announcements – City Bar – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the interior of the establishment on Third Street. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the establishment is now open.

Ameritas Technologies – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the Chase Tower. Each commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the company will be locating in the Chase Tower commended everyone involved in this project.

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.

- Women and Wine on Wednesday's – Aug. 15
- Mixture – August 17
- Belle Summer Concert Series – Aug. 17 & 24
- B. R. Sickel Cell Community Fun Run / 5K – Aug. 25
- Smart Growth Summit – Aug. 27 – 29
- Kress Gallery & BR Walls Project

-
- B. R. Arts Market – Sept. 1
- Live After Five Concerts – Sept. 7,24, 21, 28,Oct. 5,12,19,26
- FUMC Cambodia Craft Sale – Sept. 9
- Realtor’s Expo – Nov. 1
- LASM
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- Old State Capitol Exhibit
- FHL / Old Governor’s Mansion – Heritage Lecture
- River Center Events

7. **Strategic Plan – Plan Baton Rouge II** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the PBR II cover. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that he will engage the Future Implementation Team on the implementation of the Greenway project.

8. **Ongoing Projects – CPEX** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the CPEX logo. Ms. Jennifer Stenhouse briefed the Commission on the following:

- 7th Annual Smart Growth Summit scheduled for Aug. 27 – 29 at the Manship Theatre, Shaw Center for the Arts.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of BREADA logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland encouraged everyone to continue to support the market. Ms. Rowland briefed the Commission on the following:

- Saturday, 8/18/12 – Live Zydeco music and Announcing winners of the 2nd Annual Canning Competition, Fresh from the Market cooking demonstration
- Oct. 20 – 2nd Annual Tailgating Throwdown

Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to visit the Beauregard Community Garden.

8. **Correspondence** – There was no information.

9. **Public Comment** – Ms. Elizabeth Thomas encouraged everyone to attend the panel discussion at the Smart Growth Summit Wednesday, August 29 at 10:15, regarding the Transit System in El Paso Texas.

Mr. Brad Way encouraged everyone to participate in the Old Governor’s Mansion Gala, October 11, 2012.

Ms. Renee Payton, LSU Museum of Art, encouraged everyone to attend a Wine & Cheese reception Thursday, August 14, 2012 followed by the documentary Louisiana 200 years of Statehood.

Ms. Nichols commended the B.R. City Police and Councilwoman Tara Wicker for their service to the city.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.