

DDD Commission Meeting  
August 13, 2013, 8:00 a.m.  
Capitol Park Welcome Center, 702 N. River Rd.

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Fran Gladden, Verni Howard , Ric Kearny, Van Mayhall, Jr., Chris Nichols

Others in Attendance: Laura Acord, Tom Adamek, Alicia Baron, Andy Allen, Ben Anderson, Gary Anderson, Josh Anderson, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeremy Baker, Joy Banks, Alicia Baron, Jeffrey Beck, Matt Beeson, Kathryn Belanger, Cory Belder, Anna Beller, Debbie Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Susannah Bing, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Shannon Blakeman, Suzanne Blanchard, Ben Blackwell, Julie Bondy, Timothy Boone, Benjamin Bradford, Jim Brandt, Chelsea Brasted, Kevin Broussard, Gary Burkett, Jimmy Burland, Rex Cabaniss, Gayle Carnahan, Margaret Chappuis, Louis Claverie, Cosimo Clements, Whitney Cooper, James Corry, Sara Courtney, Suzette Crocker, Ron Crum, Allison Crump, Zolton Csete, Scott D'Agostino, Lynn Daigle, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Patrick Danna, Nedra Davis, Tom Dawson, Angela deGravelles, Genny Denton, Rachael DiResto, Sgt. Distefano, Caroline Domecq, Jason Diu, Erin Ducote, Terri Dugas, Pat Duncan, Kendrick Ebanks, Kirk Elgin, Terry Elmore, Gwen Emick, Mark Entrekina, Randy Faucheux, Peyton Feigley, Cassie Felder, Chris Ferrari, Heather Folks, Clayton Forbes, Bill Fountain, Robin Fountain, Perry Franklin, Mac Freeman, Joey Furr, Rob Gann, Celeste Gill, Aaron Glaser, Brian Goad, Selena Grant, Lisa Gray, Ashanti Green, Hunter Hall, Jennifer Hall, Gaye Hamilton, Brandon Hargrave, Angela Harms, Debra Harris, Stephen Hazel, Daniel Hawthorne, Holcomb, Eric Vaughn Holowacz, Pam Hotard, Courtney Hunt, Patricia Husband, Chad Jackson, John Jackson, David Jacobs, Stacy Jamieson, Jennifer Jenkins, Martin Johnson, Teresa Johnston, Claire Juneau, Tara Kistler, Irene Kotval, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Mathew Laborde, Robert Lacinak, Kenneth Landry, Andee Lanier, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Jeremy Lapeyrouse, Beverly LeBeau, Gordon LeBlanc, Jason Lockart, Anna Long, Diane Losavio, Mario Lozanov, Mary Jane Marcantel, Lauralyn Maranto, Nicole Marshall, Mark Martin, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Eunice McCarney, Murray McCullough, Jason Miller, Bob Mirabito, Ashley Montagnino, Rebecca Moses, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Lucio Nunez, Mary Olinde, Ashley Ortego, Maestro Billy Overton, Vertina Overton, Renee Payton, Garland Pennison, Andrew Perry, Casey Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Andy Pine, Eric Poche, John Price, Lee Prieto, Jere Quinn, Margaret Read, Dan Reed, Bill Reich, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Jason Richards, Tanya Roberson, Jenny Rozas, Sgt. Craig Russell, LeAnn Russo, Stephen Rust, Robyn Ryan, Diana Samuels, Sam Sanders, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Jamie Setze, Shay Schillilng, Darlene Shingleur, Katie McKay Simpson, John Smith, Lisa Smith, Loryn Smith, Anna Snyder, Tyler Spears, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Mary Stein, Peter Summerlin, Jan J. T. Sukits, Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Justin Tassin, Casey Tate, Patrick Terito, Elizabeth Thomas, Reverend Susie Thomas, Katie Thompson, Michael Trufant, Alkis Tsolakis, Clark Vega, Rossie Wahington, Jr., Spencer Watts, Brad Way, Pam Welsh, Emily Wharton

1. Ms. Chris Nichols called the meeting to order.
2. Ms. Chris Nichols declared a quorum.
3. Ms. Fran Gladden moved to approve the agenda, Ms. Verni Howard seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the July 9, 2013 minutes, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the minutes were approved.

Fr. Pat Mascarella shared a few words of wisdom. Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked Mr. Jason Miller for hosting the meeting at the Capitol Park Welcome Center.

**5. Board Action** – There was no board action.

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

**6b. Development Initiatives – Hampton Inn Ribbon Cutting** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the ribbon cutting ceremony. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Hampton Inn was well attended. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved in the \$17 million private sector investment. This makes the fourth hotel downtown and over 830 rooms available downtown.

**Commerce Building Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the exterior of the building and images of the renderings for the Commerce building. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the project is proceeding.

**Downtown Greenway Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the survey results. Each Commissioner received a copy of the contracts. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the following items will go before the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2013.

- Memorandum of Understanding – BREC Expressway Park
- TCSP – 1.4 million CEA – North Blvd. Promenade
- Acceptance of funds – EBRMFA Planning Grant
- Florida Street Lafayette Improvements

**Florida Street Levee Access / River Road Path** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed improvements. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the proposed streetscape improvements. The project will allow access to the levee at Florida and River Rd. for bikes and pedestrians and a pathway to the LASM. Plans are to have a September groundbreaking.

**CATS – Interim Director** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the CATS Trolley. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Bob Mirabito, Interim CEO, expressed his commitment to making transit better for Baton Rouge and downtown. CATS is moving forward with the new system which will include an express service from the airport to downtown and transfer points for downtown. The Touchdown Express will return with a \$10 round trip fee. Mr. Rhorer expressed the need for successful public transportation to have a successful downtown.

**The Crest** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of The Crest. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the scaffolding is being removed and the ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 29 at 6pm. The first Live After Five concert will be Friday, Sept. 6, 2013.

**River Center Library Schematic Design** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the schematic designs. Mr. Spencer Watts, library director, reviewed the floor plan for the library and thanked everyone for their support of the downtown library. Mr. Rex Cabaniss, architect, briefed the Commission on the design of the building and expressed that they wanted a building that would be prominent. Plans are to also to incorporate an exterior 20' x 28' digital message board.

The project is currently in the pricing phase, with schematic design development scheduled for Fall 2013 and construction documents completed by January 2014. The project is scheduled to go out for bid spring 2014 with a 24 month construction period. Discussion ensued regarding parking options. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD is in the process of upgrading the software for the NBTS beacon and installing web cams

**BR Walls – Installation #7** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the wall behind Mapp Construction building. Mr. Casey Phillips, BR Walls, informed the Commission that BR Walls have completed their 7<sup>th</sup> installation on the exterior wall of the Mapp Construction building. Mr. Phillips thanked Mapp Construction & Lamar Advertising for their support. The organization is in the process of fund raising and their next two big projects will be downtown.

**Downtown Residential Checklist** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of residences in Central Business District and Beauregard Town. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the committee has met with several agencies regarding the issues identified by the committee. There is a meeting scheduled in September with agencies and residents to create a resource for the downtown residents. Ms. Chris Nichols commended the DDD staff for their work on the project. Ms. Nichols expressed that the purpose of this initiative is to make the quality of life to be the best it can be in downtown Baton Rouge.

**Mayor’s Healthy City Initiative** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Andy Allen, Healthy City Initiative outreach officer, informed the Commission that their mission is to identify and coordinate efforts aimed at healthy living and an active lifestyle into a unifying commitment to better health. Mr. Allen also met with Downtown Grocery to discuss their successes and issues to supplying healthy foods.

**New Business – Lou’s Barbershop** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the interior of the barber shop. Mr. Lou Claverie informed the Commission that he has opened a barbershop located in the State National building at 263 Third Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor. He serves all nationalities and is opened Tuesday through Saturday and after hour appointment are available.

**City Gelato** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the City Gelato stand. Mr. Mario Lozanov informed the Commission that he operates the City Gelato stand outside the Main Street Market and on North Blvd. near the courthouse.

**Events** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Casey Tate briefed the Commission on the following events.

- Belle of Baton Rouge Concerts – Aug. 16, Sept. 6
- B. R. Sickle Cell Community Fun Run / 5K – Aug. 17
- Live After Five Concerts – Sept. 6,13,20, 27, Oct. 4, 11,18,25
- FUMC Cambodia Craft Sale – Sept. 8
- Living Legacy – Sept. 10
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol Exhibit
- Foundation for Historical Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- River Center Events
- LASM

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**7. Strategic Plan – Plan Baton Rouge II** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the PBR II cover. The DDD continues to implement the plan with the mention of the residential developments

**8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Mrs. Rachel DiResto introduced Eric Vaughn Holowacz, Arts Council director, and Perry Franklin, consultant. Mr. Holowacz informed the Commission that the Arts Council has partnered with CPEX and EBRRA on a new initiative to restore the culture of Old South Baton Rouge and hired Lord Cultural Resources Group. Mr. Perry Franklin, part of the planning team, spoke about his connection to the project and the cultural attributes existing in Old South Baton Rouge. The project includes an economic feasibility study, master implementation plan, and replicable community model.

**BREADA** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Mrs. Darlene Rowland encouraged everyone to continue to support the market and briefed the Commission on the following events:

- Farm to Table Tops Program ([tabletopsbr.org](http://tabletopsbr.org))
- La Treasurer’s Gift Shop opened in market

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

**9. Public Comment** – Fr. Pat Mascarella encouraged those concerned about public transportation to join Baton Rouge Transit Coalition. Fr. Mascarella also encouraged everyone to support the Spanish Town Market.

Ms. Elizabeth Thomas encouraged everyone to consider supporting the Metropolitan Council in regards to the CATS board member selection process.

Ms. Chris Nichols recognized the City Police department and their continued support of downtown.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.**