

DDD Commission Meeting
September 11, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
The City Club, 355 North Blvd.

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon,
Van Mayhall, Chris Nichols

Absent: Fran Gladden, Verni Howard

Others in Attendance: Laura Acord, Tom Adamek, Copper Alvarez, Gary Anderson, Iron Archie, Paul Arrigo, Ben Babin, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeffrey Beck, Frances Bennett, Charles Bennett, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Suzanne Blanchard, Marcelle Boudreaux, Benjamin Bradford, Erin Brush, Gary Burkett, Jimmy Burland, Chad Calder, Gayle Carnahan, Sarah Casper, Christy Chachere, Renee Chatelain, Cosimo Clements, Allison Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Sara Courtney, Suzette Crocker, Ron Crum, Scott D'Agostino, Melissa Daly, Patrick Danna, Chad Danos, Nedra Davis, Genny Denton, Rachel DiResto, Jason Diu, Erin Ducote, Kendrick Ebanks, Kirk Elgin, Terry Elmore, Gwen Emick, Mark Entrekin, Betsy Fazekas, Judy Foust, Mac Freeman, Joey Furr, Clark Gernon, Aaron Glaser, Brian Goad, Trey Godfrey, Krista Goodin, Selena Grant, Francis Grayson, Ashanti Green, Katie Guasco, Jennifer Hall, Brandon Hargrave, Debra Harris, Daniel Hawthorne, Charyl Hearin, John O. Hearin, Kendall Hebert, Robert Hebert, Jan L. Herrington, Justin Hewitt, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Pam Hotard, Courtney Hunt, Sadie Roberts Joseph, Danielle Kelley, Julia Kennedy, Hannah King, Tara Kistler, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Mathew Laborde, Leigh LaFargue, Laurence Lambert, Andee Lanier, Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Beverly LeBeau, Jin Lee, Donna LeBlanc, Pierre LeGrand, Rose Marie Leleaux, Jason Lockhart, Anna Long, Lauren Marschall, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Ferris McDaniel, Al McDuff, Jason Miller, B.J. Militello, Ashley Montagnino, Rebecca Moses, Gordon Nelson, Shawn Nolan, Mary Olinde, Ashley Ortego, Billy Vertina Overton, Maestro Overton, Melissa Parmelee, Renee Payton, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche, Skipper Post, Jere Quinn, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Susan Ringwald, Tanya Roberson, Darlene Rowland, Jenny Rozas, LeAnn Russo, Robyn Ryan, Kris Sanchez, Beth Sansovich, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Shay Schilling, Darlene Shingleur, Brian Sleeth, Karen Stagg, John Smith, Anna Snyder, Bill Stark, Jennifer Stenhouse, Lacy Strohschein, Jan Sumrall, Casey Tate, Boo Thomas, Rev. Susie Thomas, Clark Vega, Mitch Verma, Gabe Vicknair, Shane Warren, Rossie Washington, Jr., Pam Welsh, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Kyle Wilkinson, Matt Wilks, Vanisia Winston

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. Mr. Van Mayhall moved to approve the August 14, 2012 minutes, Mr. Derrell Cohoon seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Davis Rhorer requested a few moments of silence to acknowledge the recent death of Mr. Derek Gordon, Arts Council director and the Anniversary of 9-11.

Fr. Pat Mascarella shared a few words of wisdom. Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked The City Club for hosting the meeting and introduced City Club manager, Mr. Pierre LeGrand. Mr. LeGrand welcomed everyone to The City Club.

5. Board Action – No board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – There was no information.

6b. Development Initiatives – Downtown Greenway Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed greenway. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that there will be an announcement tomorrow, Wednesday, September 12, 2012 regarding funding for the Greenway. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved with this recent proposal submission.

Galvez Plaza Stage Canopy Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed riverfront improvements Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the canopy is currently under construction in Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Rhorer and other members of the project development team will make a site visit to view the construction of the stage canopy.

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 Department of Public Work is waiting on the finalization of the CORPS of Engineers approval and Canadian National Railroad approval on the project and that the construction plans were submitted to DOTD. These improvements are a direct recommendation from PBR II.

Repentance Park Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the current construction site. Mr. Gabe Vicknair briefed the Commission on the construction progress and informed the Commission that the project remains on schedule for the completion date of November 2012.

Commerce Building Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a 1955 photograph of the Commerce building. Mr. Michael Lang informed the Commission that he will be serving as the representative of the 5th floor Company and private investors that recently purchased the Commerce building. The Commerce building was built in 1955 and Mr. Lang encouraged anyone that may have stories or pictures of the building to make those available. A community charette is scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2012 to gather feedback on the project. Mr. Lang commended everyone involved with the project. Mr. Rhorer announced that the charette will be held in the Design Resource Center of the new DDD offices at 247 Florida St.

Spanish Town Investment – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the residential properties. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that there have been 13 properties acquired in Spanish Town that will be renovated. Mr. Ben Babin, Spanish Town resident, informed the Commission that he and Mr. Lance Bennett have purchased five properties in Spanish Town and are in the process of renovating them. The renovations are projected to be complete by November 2012 and will be available for rent. Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Babin on his investment in downtown Baton Rouge.

Downtown Grocery Store Survey – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the survey. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the survey received 1200 respondents and reviewed the survey results. The DDD is proposing to commission a market study for a grocery store. Mr. Rhorer expressed that a downtown grocery store was recommended in PBR II.

BR Walls Project – Wall #2 – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that BR Walls has begun the second project at Harrington's Café, 329 Florida Street.

Events – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Casey Tate updated the Commission on the events at the North Blvd. Town Square and briefed the Commission on the following events.

- o Out of the Box Bridal Events Present: An Engaging Cocktail Party – Sept. 12
- o John Wax /Katie Knoeringer /Michael Secor Opening Reception – Sept. 13
- o Live After Five Concerts – Sept. 14,21,28, Oct. 5,12,19,26
- o Belle of Baton Rouge Concerts – Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5,12,19,26
- o Keep Baton Rouge Beautiful Beach Sweep – Sept. 15
- o Baton Rouge Concert Band – Sept. 16
- o Zombie Bash 5K – Oct. 5
- o Yappy Halloween Walk / 5K Run – Oct. 6
- o B.R. Arts Market – Oct. 6
- o Columbus Day Fiesta – Oct. 7
- o Sunday in the Park – Oct. 7,14,21,28, Nov. 4,11
- o 2012 Jambalaya Jam – Oct. 11
- o FUMC Cambodia Craft Sale – Oct. 14
- o Realtor’s Expo – Nov. 1
- o LASM
- o Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- o Old State Capitol - Exhibit
- o FHL/Old Governor’s Mansion – “Masquerade at the Mansion” Oct. 11
- o River Center Events

7. Strategic Plan – Plan Baton Rouge II – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the PBR II cover. Ongoing implementation projects discussed in above agenda items.

8. Ongoing Projects – Construction Updates – Mr. Rhorer updated the Commission on the following projects and encouraged to visit the construction sites to view the progress.

BREC Convention Street Park Update – The BREC park is scheduled to be complete by the end of October 2012.

438 Main Street – Construction continues on the 22 residential units with completion scheduled for end of September 2012.

Hampton Hotel – Construction continues with completion scheduled for end of January 2013

CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the CPEX logo. Mrs. Rachel DiResto briefed the Commission on the following:

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

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

- Louisiana Small Farm Survival Fund
- Oct. 20 – 2nd Annual Tailgating Throwdown

Ms. Copper Alvarez informed the Commission that the Office of State Buildings initiated the recommendation to update the market. Commercial Design Interiors group and a team of LSU students redesigned the market to better meet the needs of the vendors and the public. The plan will be presented Tuesday, Sept. 18, 6pm at the LSU School of Design.

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

9. **Public Comment**

Mr. Rhorer introduced Ms. Whitney Cooper, DDD development project director.

Mr. Trey Godfrey informed the Commission that Springboard in partnership with Vision City Development Group is announcing the formation of Capitol Region Venture Partners, which will be a Venture Capitol Group. A luncheon is scheduled for Friday, September 14, 12noon at the Kress Gallery to officially unveil the venture. The venture fund is being established with \$5 million founding member subscription, more than \$1 million has already been subscribed. The principal purpose of raising \$5million is for seed capitol for initial funding for these entrepreneur start ups as well as seed capitol and initial funds for several real estate projects. Springboard will unveil the 4 companies that will start into the Springboard entrepreneur accelerator program in the fall 2012 and introduce three potential real estate development projects in and around downtown. The future speaker at the luncheon is James Digby, expert in entrepreneurship and startup facilitator. Anyone interested in attending the luncheon was encouraged to email at info@sprinbgoardbr.com or contact Vision City. Mr. Godfrey thanked everyone in the project.

Ms. Rose Marie Leleaux acknowledged the downtown radio station and encouraged everyone to listen to the station.

Mr. Van Mayhall mentioned the number of pot holes downtown and recommended that the DDD invite a representative from Department of Public Work to the next DDD board meeting to update the Commission on the maintenance of downtown streets.

Ms. Pam Hotard informed the Commission that she has recently purchased the Capital Corner Market located at the corner of 5th & Main Street and encouraged everyone to visit the market.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.