

DDD Commission Meeting  
October 9, 2012, 8:00 a.m.  
First United Methodist Church, Conference Center, 930 North Blvd.

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Fran Gladden, Verni Howard  
Van Mayhall, Chris Nichols

Others in Attendance: Laura Acord, Tom Adamek, Copper Alvarez, Gary Anderson, Iiron Archie, Paul Arrigo, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeffrey Beck, Frances Bennett, Charles Bennett, Debbie Bennett, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Suzanne Blanchard, Marcelle Boudreaux, Benjamin Bradford, Kevin Broussard, 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, Suzette Crocker, Ron Crum, Scott DAgostino, Melissa Daly, Patrick Danna, Chad Danos, Nedra Davis, Genny Denton, Rachel DiResto, Jason Diu, Erin Ducote, Pat Duncan, Kendrick Ebanks, Kirk Elgin, Terry Elmore, Gwen Emick, Mark Entrekin, Allen Eskew, Betsy Fazekas, Peyton Feigley, Judy Foust, Mac Freeman, Joey Furr, Clark Gernon, Aaron Glaser, Brian Goad, Krista Goodin, Selena Grant, Francis Grayson, Ashanti Green, Katie Guasco, Jennifer Hall, Brandon Hargrave, Debra Harris, Stephen Hazel, Daniel Hawthorne, Charyl Hearin, David Guillory, John O. Hearin, Kendall Hebert, Robert Hebert, Jan L. Herrington, Justin Hewitt, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Pam Hotard, Courtney Hunt, Stacy Jamieson, Sadie Roberts Joseph, Danielle Kelley, Stafford Kendall, Julia Kennedy, Hannah King, Tara Kistler, Jackie Kreutzer, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Mathew Laborde, Leigh LaFargue, Laurence Lambert, Morgan Landry, Andee Lanier, Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Beverly LeBeau, Jin Lee, Donna LeBlanc, Pierre LeGrand, Rose Marie Leleaux, Jason Lockhart, Anna Long, Nicole Marshall, Lauren Marschall, 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, Andrew Perry, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche, Skipper Post, Jere Quinn, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Dan Reed, Bill Reich, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Jason Richards, Brooke Riglin, Susan Ringwald, Tanya Roberson, Darlene Rowland, Jenny Rozas, LeAnn Russo, Robyn Ryan, Carlos Sanchez, Sam Sanders, Beth Sansovich, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Shay Schilling, Darlene Shingleur, Brian Sleeth, Karen Stagg, John Smith, Anna Snyder, Tyler Spears, Bill Stark, Jennifer Stenhouse, Lacy Strohschein, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Casey Tate, Ben Taylor, Boo Thomas, Clark Vega, Mitch Verma, Gabe Vicknair, Ladonna Ward, Shane Warren, Rossie Washington, Brad Way, Jr., Pam Welsh, Rev. Brady Whitton, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Kyle Wilkinson, Matt Wilks

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. Mayhall seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the September 11, 2012 minutes, Ms. Fran Gladden seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked First United Methodist Church for hosting the meeting. Rev. Brady Whitton welcomed everyone to the facility and shared a few words of wisdom.

**5. Board Action – No board action.**

**6a. Governmental Issues – 2013 DDD Budget** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the budget and performance measures. Each Commissioner received a copy of the proposed 2013 budget and performance measures. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the proposed budget for 2013 is \$620,070 and the DDD continues to implement the performance measures.

Mr. Rhorer requested the Commission review the information and take action on the 2013 budget during the November Commission meeting.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the North Blvd. Town Square has received the 2012 International Downtown Association Public Spaces Award, which makes the seventh award for the space. Ms. Nichols commended Mr. Rhorer and the staff for their commitment to downtown.

**DPW Maintenance Report** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of downtown streets. Mr. David Guillory, Acting DPW Director, informed the Commission that DPW is currently conducting an assessment of the downtown area including the streets and infrastructure. Mr. Guillory briefed the Commission on the current scheduled repairs for the downtown area. Discussion ensued. Mr. Guillory informed the Commission that the 2013 City Parish Budget will include a maintenance contract for the North Blvd. Town Square and Repentance Park area as well as garbage collection and side walk cleanup for Third, Fourth and Fifth Streets.

**6b. Development Initiatives – Downtown Greenway Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed greenway. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Greenway received an EPA Green America's Capital's planning assistance Grant. Mr. Rhorer commended Gabe Vicknair for his work on the project. Funding is in place for planning and implementation of Phase I & II. EPA will solicit proposals and hire a design team for the schematic plans for the greenway. The solicitation will be underway within the next month. DPW & DDD will follow with an Architectural selection process and hire designers for implementation of the construction documents. The project will kick off with public meetings and design charettes.

**Galvez Plaza Stage Canopy Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the canopy under construction. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that he and other members of the project development team made a site visit to view the construction of the stage canopy. The canopy is scheduled to arrive the week of November 15, 2012 and will take approximately two weeks to assemble. The canopy is designed to hang a truss system.

**Florida Street and River Rd. Levee Access / LASM Improvements** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Department of Public Works received approval from the Corps of Engineers and Canadian National Railroad on the project. The project will provide pedestrian and bicycle access to the levee. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved with the project.

**Repentance Park Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs 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 at the end of November 2012.

**Commerce Building Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Commerce building. Mr. Michael Lang encouraged everyone to attend the charette for the Commerce Building that is scheduled for Thursday, November 1 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Design Resource Center of the new DDD offices at 247 Florida St. Mr. Lang announced that Eskew+ Dumez+ Ripple has been selected as the architect for the Commerce Building and introduced Mr. Allen Eskew, principal of the firm. Mr. Eskew briefed the Commission on his experience and shared some components of current projects that he plans to incorporate in the Commerce Building.

**Design Resource Center** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the interior of the Design Resource Center. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the renovation of the Design Resource Center. The space will be available for use by the public and private sector. Mr. Rhorer acknowledged Mr. Ben B. Taylor, Mr. Rex Cabaniss and Mr. Gabe Vicknair for their involvement with the project.

**Hilton Hotel** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the Hilton Hotel. Ms. Tanya Roberson, Director of Sales & Marketing, announced that the Hilton has been acquired by Rockbridge, LLC and is now under new management by Prism Hotels and Resorts. The hotel will be undergoing a \$7.1 million renovation. Ms. Roberson will keep the DDD apprised on the progress of the renovations.

**BR Walls Project – Wall #2** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint a photograph of the exterior of Harrington Café. Mr. Casey Phillips informed the Commission that BR Walls will be unveiling the next project Tuesday, October 16. The event is in conjunction with the Harrington’s reunion dinner and International Book launch by Dr. Brian Dixon at the Mentorship Academy.

**New Business** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. T. J. Woodard, informed the Commission that he will be opening a pharmacy “Prescriptions to Geaux”, in the 300 Block of Third St. Mr. Woodard is currently working with an architect for the space and plans are to open the pharmacy the first of January 2013. The pharmacy will offer delivery service and Mr. Woodard requested that anyone with suggestions or recommendations to contact him.

**The Times Picayune / NOLA Media Group** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Carlos Sanchez, manager editor, announced that NOLA Media group will be locating downtown in the first floor of One American Place. NOLA Media will be focusing on digital delivery and will be an additional news source for the community.

**Solid Grounds Innovations** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of logo. Mr. Rhorer announced that Solid Grounds Innovations will be locating at 227 Florida St.

**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.

- 13<sup>th</sup> Gate & Necropolis
- Live After Five Concerts – Oct. 12,19,26
- Belle of Baton Rouge Concerts – Oct. 12,19,26
- Sunday in the Park – Oct. 14,21,28, Nov. 4,11
- 2012 Jambalaya Jam – Oct. 11
- FUMC Craft Sale – Oct. 14
- White Cane Day – Oct. 17
- Grandparents Day at St. Joseph Cathedral – Oct. 21
- Hollydays – Oct. 24 – 27
- Halloween Parade / Louisiana Book Festival – Oct. 27
- Realtor’s Expo – Nov. 1
- B.R. Arts Market – Nov. 3
- Capitol Park Museum
- LASM
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- Old State Capitol – Gift Shop Hop / Castle Creepfest – Oct. 29
- FHL/Old Governor’s Mansion – “Masquerade at the Mansion” Oct. 11
- River Center Events

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**7. Strategic Plan – Plan Baton Rouge II** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the PBR II cover. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects:

**Lafayette House** – Applications actively being accepted for the 16 residential unit project behind the Tessier Building.

**BREC Convention Street Park Update** – The park is scheduled to be complete by the end of October 2012. The project is part of the Plan Baton Rouge I initiative.

**438 Main Street** – Construction continues on the 22 residential units with completion scheduled the end of the week.

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

**8. Ongoing Projects – Construction Updates** – Discussed above

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

- 7<sup>th</sup> 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:

- Oct. 20 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tailgating Throwdown / Special Kids zone
- Nov. 3 – Red Stick Farmer’s Market 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Main Street Market 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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

**9. Public Comment** – Mr. John Smith, Downtown Business Association, informed the Commission of the Downtown Museum Gift Shop Hop, scheduled for October 16-19. Visit four of the six downtown museums and be entered into a drawing for prizes.

Ms. Judy Faust informed the Commission of the Cambodia Craft sale scheduled for November 9 & 10 at the First United Methodist Church inside the gym. All proceeds are returned to the Cambodia women.

Mr. Brad Way encouraged everyone to support the Foundation for Historical Louisiana’s annual fundraiser gala “Masquerade at the Mansion”, Thursday, October 11, 2012.

Ms. Chris Nichols thanked Councilwoman Tara Wicker for her services. Councilwoman Wicker commended everyone involved with the development downtown.

Mr. Van Mayhall informed the Commission that he will submit at the November board meeting a proposal to move Baton Rouge to being the literary capitol of Louisiana.

Ms. Chris Nichols encouraged everyone to tour the new conference center at First United Methodist.

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