

DDD Commission Meeting
November 13, 2008, 8:00 a.m.
State Library of Louisiana, 701 Fourth St.

Attending: Mark Bensabat, Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Fran Gladden, Van Mayhall, Chris Nichols

Absent: Cheri Morial Ausberry

Others in Attendance: Raymond Alexander, James Andermann, Joe Anthony, Stephen Arceneaux, Paul Arrigo, Debbie Ashe, Jo Landry Bagewell, Brad Bates, Danny Belanger, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Carolyn Bennett, Susannah Bing, Gary Black, Bill Blackwood, Philipa Blair, Dave Briggs, Carrie Broussard, Nancy Broussard, Dana Brown, Christina Bourg, Mike Bruce, Lacy Burris, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Gayle Carnahan, Nancy Carter, Ashley Casey, Lindsey Cavalier, Charles Coates, Tim Cockerham, Sonya Collins, Ronnie Comeaux, Todd Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Sara Courtney, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Chad Danos, Pete Darling, Andi DeJohn, Rachel DiResto, Huey Dugas, Lacey Dupre, Kendrick Eubanks, John Eblen, Kirk Edwards, Madeline Ellis, Jon Elvert, Matt Emory, Eric Engeman, David Farrar, Natalie Fielding, Derek Fitch, Carley Fleming, Joey Furr, Gail Gaiennie, Ed Gaskin, Carol Gikas, Debbie Gill, Brace Godfrey, Krista Goodin, Mark Goodson, Derek Gordon, Francis Grayson, Jill Green, Luren Gutierrez, Scott Hall, Rebecca Hamilton, John Hart, David Jacobs, John O. Hearin, Jerry Hebert, Kristin Hebert, John Helm, Mike Herschman, Walker Higgins, Kim Hodgeson, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Helen Holland, Virginia Holmes, Lael Holton, Kristi Howard, Alice Howe, Joe Hynes, David Jacobs, Staci Jamieson, Donnie Jarreau, Ingrid Payne Johnson, Ernest Junius, Jason Keller, Lanny Keller, Stafford Kendall, Eddie King, Joe Labbe, Mike Labat, Dana LaFonta, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Justin Lemoine, Stacey Levert, Tom Livesay, Paul Lockett, Diane Losavio, Sam Losavio, Steven Lumpkin, David Madden, Claire Major, Katie Maloney, Nikki Essix, Manuel, Nicole Marshall, Jill Martinez, Katherine Mason, Dee Mather, Danny McGlynn, Carrie Miller, BJ Mililello, Al McDuff, Marvin Mitchell, Penny Murray, Richard Neal, Dyke Nelson, Rod Nunez, Mike Odom, Janie Oldfield, Mary Olinde, Theresa Overby, Betsy Paille, Bill Palmer, Greg Palmer, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Joel Phillips, Eric Poche, Skipper Post, Vincent Price, Tina Rance, Dan Reed, Bill Reich, Daniel Rhodes, Janet Rhodus, Davis Rhorer, Sage Roberts, Erin Rolf, Troy Russ, Kristen Sanders, Samuel Sanders, James Schafer, John Schneider, Katherine Scherer, Ben Schultz, Joe Sciortino, Larry Selders, Lonnie Seals, Terry Serio, Darlene Shingleur, Pam Sills, Lorraine Slade, Lisa Smith, Mike Songy, Kathleen Spencer, Bill Stark, Mary Stein, John Stewart, Jerry Stovall, George Strain, Kristin Stutes, Cherry Talbert, Ben Taylor, Todd Teepeli, Jeremy Tennant, Ted Terrell, Christopher Toombs, Clark Vega, Barry Walls, Brad Way, Tara Wicker, Olivia Watkins, Emily Wharton, Matt Wilks, Bubba Willis, Michael Wilson, Kate Wilson, Beau Wolfe, Erin Wood

1. Mr. Derrell Cohoon called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Derrell Cohoon declared a quorum.

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

4. Mr. Chenevert moved to approve the October 14, 2008 minutes, Ms. Nichols seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Cohoon recognized and thanked Ms. Rebecca Hamilton for hosting the meeting at the library. Ms. Hamilton welcomed everyone and encouraged all to utilize the library. Ms. Hamilton informed the Commission that they will begin to increase their programming efforts by offering more programs to the public as well as a coffee shop on the first floor. The Louisiana Bound book store will re-open the first week of December.

5. Board Action

6a. **Governmental Issues – Introduction of Councilwoman-Elect Tara Wicker** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of Ms. Tara Wicker. Mr. Rhorer introduced Councilwoman-Elect Tara Wicker. Ms. Wicker expressed her appreciation to address the Commission and be a part of the development downtown.

Present 2009 Budget – The Commission viewed, via power point, photographs representing the goal areas of the DDD. Each Commissioner received a copy of the proposed 2009 Operating Budget and Goals & Objectives. Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the budget will increase 8% from 2008 and requested the Commission review the information and contact the DDD office with any comments or suggestions. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the goals and objectives with the Commission.

Federal Railroad Administration Grant Application – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the existing rail line. Mr. Mark Goodson requested authorization by the Commission to submit a grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration specifically to mitigate the negative effects of rail lines in cities. The grant would address pedestrian safety, economic development, and overall quality of life with the existing Canadian National rail crossings in downtown Baton Rouge. Mr. Mayhall requested that Commission receive a copy of the application. **Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved that the Commission go on record authorizing the DDD to pursue the grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration, Mr. Van Mayhall seconded, the motion was unanimously approved.**

Mr. Goodson requested the authorization of the Commission to submit a grant application to the office of Cultural Development for the cultural district designation applications. The applications are due December 1 and would allow artists to sell original works of arts with no sales tax in the district. **Mr. Norman Chenevert moved that the Commission go on record authorizing the DDD to proceed with the grant application to the Office of Cultural Development for cultural district designation application, Ms. Chris Nichols seconded, the motion was unanimously approved.**

6b. Development Initiatives – OneEleven – The Commission viewed, via power point, photographs of the interior of the units. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the grand opening for OneEleven was held on Sunday, November 9, and was well attended.

Drehr Hall – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the building. Ms. Chris Nichols informed the Commission that she, Darryl Gissell and Rob Miller purchased the building at 827 America Street approximately two years ago. The building consists of 18 bedrooms, shared baths, common kitchen, dining room and living areas. The rooms are currently being rented out with shared utilities.

North Boulevard Town Square Update – The Commission viewed, via power point, renderings of the proposed concepts. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Ms. Dana Brown, Brown + Danos, informed the Commission that the four concepts were presented at the public presentation and are available online to view and enter comments. Mr. Joseph Furr informed the Commission that they have been conducting meetings with downtown stakeholders to obtain their input as well. All comments will be reviewed and the final plan presented in 2009. Construction is scheduled to be completed by 2010. Mr. Rhorer commended Ms. Brown and Mr. Furr on their work for this project.

East Baton Rouge Parish Library System Director – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the existing River Center Library and Mr. David Farrar, the new Library System Director. Mr. Farrar expressed his excitement to be a part of the development downtown and encouraged everyone to visit the River Center Library at 120 St. Louis St.

Plan Baton Rouge Phase II Update – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an aerial photograph of downtown. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Cabaniss informed the Commission that meetings continue with consultants and the open house is scheduled for Dec. 10 at the Louisiana State Museum. Mr. Cabaniss encouraged everyone to view the PBR II link on the DDD website at www.downtownbatonrouge.org. Mr. Cabaniss introduced Mr. Troy Russ, urban planner with Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin. Mr. Russ conducted a walking audit of downtown to learn and recommend new ways to look at the streets. The information will be used to provide transportation recommendations.

Baton Rouge Green – The Commission viewed, via power point, photographs of the Baton Rouge Green logo. Ms. Diane Losavio, Baton Rouge Green, informed the Commission that they have formed a partnership with DPW to replace trees in the downtown tree wells. The tree planting will begin on Saturday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m. on the corner of Third and Florida Streets. A press conference is scheduled for Dec 2 at the Shaw Center plaza to announce the corporate sponsor. Baton Rouge Green is currently working on a map that will indicate the type and location of the trees. Concerns were expressed regarding the maintenance of the tree wells and the type of trees being planted. Ms. Losavio re-assured the Commission that the trees selected would complement the buildings downtown. There was concern expressed by the Commission regarding the maintenance of the tree wells in connection with the planting of the trees. Discussion ensued.

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Events – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the logos for the following events. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following events.

American Diabetes Association – Saturday, November 15, 9:00 a.m., Galvez Plaza.

Port Visit by the Bounty – November 25 – Dec. 7 – USS Kidd

Turkey Trot – Thursday, November 27, 7:30 a.m. – Galvez Plaza

Star of Bethlehem – Nov. 28 – Jan 4, Louisiana Arts and Science Museum

Holiday Music Magic – Nov. 29 – Dec. 26, Louisiana Arts and Science Museum

Downtown Festival of Lights – Friday, December 5, 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Forum 35 Reindeer Run – Friday, December 5, 6:00 p.m., 4th & North Blvd.

Baton Rouge Arts Market – December 3,10,17, 8:00 a.m. – 12noon

Downtown Christmas Parade – Saturday, December 13, 5:00 p.m.

Capital One’s Skating on the River – Dec. 5, 4:00 p.m. River Center Plaza and during Dec. 19-31 at the River Center.

7. Ongoing – Plan Baton Rouge / Center for Planning Excellence – Mrs. Rachel Diresto encouraged everyone to attend the Plan Baton Rouge II open house on Dec. 10 at the Louisiana State Museum.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via power point, the BREADA logo. Mr. Davis Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following events:

Dec. 3,10, 17 – “Jingle Bell Wednesday’s”

November 17 – Cooking Class

8. Correspondence – No information to report.

9. Public Comment – No information to report.

Meeting adjourned.