

DDD Commission Meeting
November 13, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
Capitol Park Welcome Center, 702 River Rd. North

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

Absent: Derrell Cohoon

Others in Attendance: Laura Acord, Tom Adamek, Gary Anderson, Paul Arrigo, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeffrey Beck, Kathryn Belanger, Carolyn Bennett, Frances Bennett, Charles Bennett, Debbie Bennett, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Suzanne Blanchard, Marcelle Boudreaux, Benjamin Bradford, Kevin Broussard, Nancy Broussard, Zach 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 D'Agostino, Sandra Daire, 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, Betsy Fazekas, Peyton Feigley, Heather Folks, 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, John O. Hearin, Kendall Hebert, Robert Hebert, Jan L. Herrington, Justin Hewitt, Quincy Hodges, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Pam Hotard, Courtney Hunt, Stacy Jamieson, Sadie Roberts Joseph, Danielle Kelley, Julia Kennedy, Hannah King, Tara Kistler, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Mathew Laborde, Leigh LaFargue, Laurence Lambert, Morgan Landry, Andee Lanier, Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Beverly LeBeau, Jin Lee, Donna LeBlanc, Rose Marie Leleaux, Justin Lemoine, 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, Maestro Overton, Melissa Parmelee, Renee Payton, Andrew Perry, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche, 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 Schillilng, 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, Rev. Suzie Thomas, Boo Thomas, Clark Vega, Mitch Verma, Gabe Vicknair, Ladonna Ward, Shane Warren, Rossie Washington, Brad Way, Jr., Pam Welsh, Emily Wharton, 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. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Mayhall seconded and the agenda was approved.

4. Mr. Van Mayhall moved to approve the October 9, 2012 minutes, Ms. Verni Howard seconded and the minutes were approved.

Rev. Suzie Thomas shared a few words of wisdom. Mr. Rhorer thanked Ms. Nancy Broussard for hosting the meeting at the Capitol Park Welcome Center.

5. Board Action – 2013 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 expressed his gratitude for the public and private sectors support of downtown. Mr. Rhorer requested the DDD Commission adopt the 2013 budget as presented. **Mr. Van Mayhall moved to adopt the 2012 Operating Budget as presented, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the 2013 Operating Budget was unanimously adopted.**

Ms. Fran Gladden moved to adopt the 2013 Performance Goals as presented, Mr. Van Mayhall seconded and the 2013 Performance Goals were unanimously adopted.

6a. Governmental Issues – Literary Capitol Research – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the 2012 Louisiana Book Festival. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that she has begun research on other cities that are known for their literary culture and has found that they have the following in common: strong cultural heritage; diverse cultural environment and the aspiration and vision to promote literary arts in the community. Ms. Cooper briefed the Commission on her findings. Mr. Van Mayhall commended Ms. Cooper on her report and requested the DDD board appoint a “Baton Rouge as a literary Capitol of Louisiana’s Committee”. Ms. Nichols requested that anyone interested in serving on the committee contact her and the committee will be announced at next month’s DDD meeting.

6b. Development Initiatives – Downtown Greenway Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed greenway. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission 9 proposals have been submitted and the solicitation for proposals ends today.

Galvez Plaza Stage Canopy Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the canopy under construction and the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the canopy is scheduled to arrive the week of November 15, 2012 with construction to be complete by the end of December. The canopy has been named “The Crest” and is designed to hang a truss system.

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. A ribbon cutting for Repentance Park will be held during the spring 2013. Mr. Vicknair also informed the Commission that the North Blvd. Town Square (NBTS) is in the process of being winterized with rye grass and the public is asked to remain off the lawn during the procedure. MayerIT is currently assisting with the programming of the beacon in NBTS.

Convention Street Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the park. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the BREC park is now open and the ribbon cutting will be scheduled for early December 2012. B. R. Walls will be painting a mural on the wall located on the north western portion of the park site. The DDD has requested that Department of Public Works improve the landscaping on the corner of Convention and 7th St. Mr. Rhorer mentioned that the park is a recommendation in PBR I and commended CPEX for their assistance with the property acquisition.

Commerce Building Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the charette. Mr. Michael Lang thanked the DDD for hosting the charette at the Design Resource Center and those who attended. The project is in the design phase and everyone was encouraged to provide input via emails to the following web site: commercebldg.com.

Design Resource Center – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the interior of the Design Resource Center (DRC). Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DRC has hosted the following events:

- Rhode Island School of Design
- Baton Rouge Bar Association
- LSU School of Landscape Architecture
- Southern University
- Commerce Bldg. Charette

Hartley Vey Studio Entrance – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed exterior entrance of the Hartley Vey Studio. Mr. Clark Gernon, architect, informed the Commission they have reviewed the bids and D. Honore is the low bidder, the state is currently in contract negotiation with the contractor. Construction is proposed to commence early December with a 240 day construction period. The improvements will include a new full service bar and a new entrance to the Hartley Vey Theatre.

Spanish Town Recognition – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint a photograph of the exterior of a Spanish Town home. Mr. Rhorer recognized Spanish Town neighborhood for being in the top 10 of the “Prettiest Painted Places in America”.

New Business – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Mud & Water Bar has opened at 174 South Blvd.

Jimmy Johns – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of logo. Mr. Rhorer announced that the restaurant located in the Third & Convention Street garage is scheduled to open December 18, 2012.

438 Main St. – Mr. Norman Chenevert informed the Commission that the 4 story LEED Certified apartment building is completed and applications are currently being accepted for the units.

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.

- BRAC & BREW – Nov. 14
- Belle of Baton Rouge Concerts – Nov. 16,23,30, Dec. 7,14,21,28
- Turkey Trot – Nov. 22
- Festival of Lights / Reindeer Run – Nov. 30
- A Christmas Tea – Dec. 1
- B.R. Arts Market – Dec. 1,8,15
- Christmas Parade / Santa Fun Run – Dec. 8
- B.R. Concert Band – Dec. 9
- FUMC Craft Sale – Dec. 9
- LASM
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- FHL/Old Governor’s Mansion
- River Center Events – BRSO

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 – Groundbreaking proposed for the 9 residential units the first quarter of 2013

438 Main Street – Discussed above

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

8. Ongoing Projects – Construction Updates – Discussed above

CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the CPEX logo. Ms. Elizabeth Thomas briefed the Commission on 7th Annual Smart Growth Summit scheduled for November 27 – 29 at the Manship Theatre, Shaw Center for the Arts. Ms. Thomas encouraged everyone to attend the Summit and to sign up for the newsletter “Planning in the News”.

BREDA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of BREDA logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland encouraged everyone to continue to support the market. Ms. Rowland thanked everyone who participated in the 2nd Annual Tailgating Throwdown. Ms. Rowland briefed the Commission on the following:

- Special market Wednesday, November 21 at the Pennington Location

8. Correspondence – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission of the following:

- Food Trucks – The office has received complaints regarding the food trucks downtown. The DDD has contacted the Police Department.
- Third & Convention Street Garage – Enforcing towing for those parking in reserved spaces. The DDD continues to meet with the state regarding the issue.

9. Public Comment – Ms. Nancy Broussard, Capitol Park Welcome Center, informed the Commission that the Welcome Center Parking Garage is available and tickets will be validated for those meeting at the Welcome Center.

Rev. Susie Thomas asked what the timeline was on the Greenway project. Mr. Rhorer reported that the construction on the project will realistically not begin for another year. The first phase of the project is the schematic design to be completed by the consultant selected for the EPA Greening America’s Capitols award to Baton Rouge, followed by DPW and DDD going through the Architectural selection process to hire a design team to do design development and construction plans.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.