

DDD Commission Meeting  
December 9, 2014, 8:00 a.m.  
Old State Capitol, 100 North Blvd.

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Fran Gladden, Scott N. Hensgens, Ric Kearny, Chris Nichols

Absent: Sevetri Wilson

Others in Attendance: Rachel Alexander, Gary Anderson, Tara Aucoin, Jenny Aucoin, Alicia Baron, Charles Bennett, Carolyn Bennett, Frances Bennett, Tom Bergman, Greg Bivin, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Shannon Blakeman, Ben Blackwell, Timothy Boone, Jessica Boone, Stefan Boone, Benjamin Bradford, Jim Brandt, Kelli Branigan, Chelsea Brasted, Chris Brooks, Kevin Broussard, Jimmy Burland, Rex Cabaniss, Steve Carleton, Gayle Carnahan, Rusty Clark, Kelly Connelly, Whitney Cooper, Lydia Corie, Sara Courtney, Suzette Crocker, Nancy Curry, Mary Darusau, Lauren Davis, Tom Dawson, Angela deGravelles, Genny Denton, Kristen Diehl, Peter Dieterich, Greg Dole, Terry Elmore, Jon Elvert, Heather Fatzinger, Peyton Feigley, Cassie Felder, Brian Goad, Rannah Gray, Jason Hargrave, Rebecca Harris, Jason Haynes, Ben Herrington, Patrick Hodgkins, Ryan Holcomb, Courtney Hunt, David Jacobs, Melody Joachin, Mary Johnson, Alex Juan, John Kaufman, Douglas Kennedy, Nicole Kennelly, Tara Kistler, Ashley LaBorde, Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Jeremy Lapeyrouse, Beverly LeBeau, Shannon LeDuff, Justin Lemoine, Nancy Little, Cindy Littlefield, Jason Lockhart, Sam Losavio, Lisa Lymuel, Ben Martinez, Michael Mashburn, Dee Mather, Ed McConnico, Jeanne McNeil, Michael Mayer, Cheryl McCormick, Josh Meeks, Rev. David Melville, Chris Meyers, BJ Milatello, Norman Morris, Andrew Moses, Melanie Motanano, Dyke Nelson, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Mary Olinde, Ashley Ortego, Trey Ourso, Billy Overton, Vertina Overton, Kelli Parker, Melissa Parmelee, Renee Payton, Marsha Perkins, Lluvia Peveto, Diane Pierce, Sara Ann Pierson, Eric Poche, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Bill Reich, Chris Reid, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Reed Richard, Darlene Rowland, Stephen Rust, Sam Sanders, Ray Scriber, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Jamie Setze, Darlene Shingleur, Lisa Smith, Karen Stagg, Ben Stalter, J.T. Sukits, Jan Sumrall, Dustin Sutton, Karla Swacker, Casey Tate, Jeremy Theriot, Lakeisha Theriot, Patrick Terito, Michael Trufant, Veach Tucker, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Quinn Welsch, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Neill Wright

1. Mr. Norman Chenevert called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Norman Chenevert declared a quorum.
3. Ms. Chris Nichols moved to approve the agenda, Mrs. Fran Gladden seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the November 13, 2014 minutes, Ms. Chris Nichols seconded and the minutes were approved.

Rev. David Melville shared a few words of wisdom. Mr. Rhorer thanked Suzette Crocker for hosting the meeting at the Old State Capitol.

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

**6a. Governmental Issues – Recognition of Board Members** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of board members Chris Nichols, Derrell Cohoon and Norman Chenevert. Mr. Rhorer acknowledged the outgoing board members Chris Nichols, Derrell Cohoon and Norman Chenevert and commended them on their dedication to downtown.

**Downtown Bike Rack Grant** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of existing bike racks. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the DDD partnered with Capital Region Planning Commission and applied for a grant to purchase bike racks. The grant was awarded and Request for Proposal will be submitted January 2015. There will be 75 bike racks installed downtown within the Central Business District. Mr. J. T. Sukis, CRPC, expressed his excitement to be a part of this project.

**2014 Development Recap** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of 2014 projects. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the 2014 development projects and expressed his gratitude for the public and private sector's support of downtown.

**6b. Development Initiatives – Commerce Building** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the exterior and interior of the residential units. Mr. Michael Lang informed the Commission that construction has commenced on the interior of the building and the exterior will be painted next year. Construction is expected to be complete in first quarter 2016.

**440 on Third Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the exterior and proposed signage for Matherne's. Mr. Dyke Nelson informed the Commission that Matherne's will officially be open January 5, 2015. Matherne's will have entrances on Third and Fourth Streets. Of the 65 residential units, 58 units are leased and there are 112 secured parking spots for the residents. Mr. Nelson is currently working on securing 40 additional parking spots for residents. US Agencies will occupy the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> floors and there is also additional office space available for lease. Mr. Nelson announced that he is moving forward with securing financing to upgrade the building at 500 Laurel which will include 30,000 sq. ft. of office space. Lafayette House project will break ground the first quarter of 2015. The proposed development will include 20 apartment units behind the Tessier building.

**City Hall Plaza** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the meeting and a rendering of the proposed improvements. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that final component of the central green will include improvements that will connect Galvez Plaza and Repentance Park to produce a great green space. The design process will be complete in approximately 5 months.

**Downtown Library** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the exterior of the proposed library and the schematic design. Each Commissioner received the newspaper article. Mr. Rex Cabaniss reviewed the renderings and expressed that the library will be a full service community center. The construction documents are expected to be complete by spring 2015. Construction is expected to commence summer 2015 and completion by first quarter 2017. Mr. Cabaniss commended everyone involved with the project.

**North Blvd. Town Square** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Festival of Lights. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the event was a tremendous success and thanked everyone involved.

**Riverfront Gateways / River Road Improvements** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the current construction on River Road in front of LASM, Repentance Park and Florida Street & River Road improvements.

Mr. Vicknair briefed the Commission on the current improvements that have been made to the riverfront gateways and River Road:

- River Road - improvements are part of the Central Green implementation and will make a better pedestrian environment.
- River Road and Florida – Improvements are ADA Accessible and is culmination of greenway.
- LASM – Improvements along the north side of plaza – Contract is signed and the project will kick off once the work on River Rd is complete. Project is expected to commence January 2015 with a six month construction period.

**Florida Street and Lafayette Street Improvements** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of proposed improvements. Mr. Vicknair briefed the Commission on the proposed improvement for Florida and Lafayette Street:

- Replace street trees
- Sidewalk / crosswalk improvements
- Traffic calming

Bids are expected to go out early February 2015 with a six month construction process.

**Downtown Maintenance Committee** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the meeting and an image of the flow chart. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the maintenance committee held their second meeting and have assigned issues to sub committees. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2015.

**Downtown Greenway Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the DDD staff bike ride on the greenway and photographs of improvements to Expressway Park. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that Phase I and Phase II is expected to be complete by the end of December 2014. Walk On's sponsored basketball court is currently being installed. Ms. Chris Nichols recommended that BREC install lighting in the park. Design Workshop, the consultants selected for the next planning stages of the greenway, held a kick off meeting with the DDD and biked the greenway. Planning is expected to be complete mid 2015. The DDD is also working with Government Street consultants to link the greenway to the planned Government Street bike paths.

**Louisiana Realtors** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the ground breaking and proposed rendering. Each Commissioner received the newspaper article.

Mr. Norman Morris informed the Commission that Louisiana Realtors broke ground last week on their new headquarters at 821 Main Street. Mr. Morris is excited to be a part of downtown and thanked everyone involved with the project. The renovation and construction process will take approximately 10 – 12 months to complete.

**New Businesses – Atkins** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Atkins, an engineering firm, has located at 445 North Blvd.

**Enclave** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Ms. Shannon LeDuff, co-owner, informed the Commission that they are rebranding the nightclub 600 Main Street and it will now be called “Enclave”. The club will host a variety of events.

**One Heart Yoga Center** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the yoga studio has opened at 340 St. Joseph Street.

**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.

- Mid City Predevelopment Planning Project – December 11
- B. R. Arts Market – December 13, 20
- Christmas Parade – December 13
- Red Stick Revelry – December 31
- Laurel Street Palooza – January 9
- Foundation for Historical Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- BRSO
- LASM
- USS Kidd

**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.

**8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. There was no information to report.

**BREADA** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland encouraged everyone to visit the Red Stick Farmers Market for their cooking needs.

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**Downtown Business Association (DBA)** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mrs. Alicia Baron briefed the Commission on the following event:

- Thursday, January 8, Members Meeting, Old Governor's Mansion

Mrs. Baron encouraged businesses to join the DBA and informed everyone that Live After Five begins April 2015.

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

**9. Public Comment** – Mr. Steve Carleton informed the Commission that the Downtown Kiwanis Club is the longest service organization in Baton Rouge and encouraged everyone to join the club. The club provides service projects for under privileged children in Baton Rouge. Meetings are held every Thursday, 12noon at the Woman's Club.

Ms. Rannah Gray informed the Commission that the Champagne Stroll was a tremendous success. Ms. Gray briefed the Commission about Red Stick Revelry and informed them that VIP tickets are available for the event and encouraged everyone to visit the website at [www.redstickrevelry.com](http://www.redstickrevelry.com).

Mr. Chris Brooks, manager of Lucy's, encouraged everyone to try out the revised menu at Lucy's and the brunch served on Saturday and Sunday. Lucy's also provides catering and is a great place to host a party.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.**