

DDD Commission Meeting
December 14, 2010, 8:00 a.m.
Hilton, 201 Lafayette Street

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Fran
Gladden, Danny Montelaro, Van Mayhall, Chris Nichols

Absent: Cheri Ausberry

Others in Attendance: James Andermann, Gary Anderson, Chris Andrews, Heather Andricain, Stephen Arceneaux, Rita Baillie, Jeffrey Beck, Cory Belden, Carolyn Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Denver Benton, Gary Black, Rebecca Bonnet, Mignon Bosse, Dave Briggs, Mary Kay Brown, Mike Bruce, Eddie Budd, Jimmy Burland, Erin Bush, Chad Calder, Patricia Calfee, Wanda Calkins, Gayle Carnahan, Sarah Casper, Renee Chatelain, Erin Cocharn, Tim Cockerham, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Nedra Davis, Angela DeGravelles, Rachel DiResto, Maggie Drake, Kendrick Ebanks, Jennifer Eller, Jon Elvert, Betsy Fazekas, Derek Fitch, Judy Foust, Marston Fowler, Sarah Friedmann, Steve Fuller, Joey Furr, Bryan Gerace, Brian Goad, Jessica Golebiowski, Krista Goodin, Kathleen Gordon, Selena Grant, Ranah Gray, Francis Grayson, Jill Green, Ted Griggs, John Grove, Becky Gustafson, Charyl B. Hearin, Katherine Herald, Ryan Holcomb, Jake Holinga, Eric Holley, Mona Holthaus, Krista Howard, Nick Huff, Nicole Huffstetier, Ed Jenkins, John Kaufman, Bridget Kerley, Ashley LaBorde, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Rose Marie Leleaux, Jin Lee, Susana Lee, Rose Marie LeLeaux, Justin Lemoine, Tom Livesay, Jason Lockhart, Chris Maggie, Stephanie Manson, Dixon McMukin, Phyllis Meyer, Jeff Michie, BJ Militello, Bryce Moreland, Kristen Morgan, Robyn Morrison, Pauline Moss, Rose Mustain, Mikeila Nagura, Richard Neal, Gordon Nelson, Brent Nettles, Mikela Nagura, Ross Nugent, Abigail Omojola, Billy Overton, Ron Pascual, Emily Patrick, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Beth Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Michael Platte, Eric Poche, Sgt. Kenneth Pointer, Robert Poole, Skipper Post, Stuart Poulton, Taylor Rainey, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Doug Reed, Davis Rhorer, Sage Robert, Emmett Robbins, Erin Rolfs, Lindsey Roussel, Darlene Rowland, Kerry Ruiz, Samuel Sanders, David Savario, Scott Saylor, Kathy Scherer, John Schneider, Joseph Scott, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Darlene Shingleur, John Sills, Lorraine Slade, Lisa Smith, John Smith, Kelly Spell, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Dawn Starns, Jennifer Stenhouse, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Genny Nadler Thomas, Michael Thomassie, Sally Thompson, Archie Tiner, Clark Vega, Kiran Vemuri, Gabe Vicknair, Kathy Victorian, Teresa Vidrine, Elizabeth Weinstein, Adam Werth, Derek White, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Cannon Wiest, Bubba Willis, Erin Wood, Kelly Zimmerman

1. Mr. Van Mayhall called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Van Mayhall declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Ms. Fran Gladden moved to approve the November 9, 2010 minutes, Ms. Chris Nichols seconded and the minutes were approved.

Rev. Chris Andrews informed the Commission that the downtown churches are participating in the Christmas Carol Pilgrimage, December 19th at 6:00 p.m., starting at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Rhorer thanked the Hilton for hosting the December Commission meeting.

5. Board Action – Nominating Committee – The Commission viewed, via power point, an image of the DDD logo. Mr. Van Mayhall requested that Norman Chenevert and Chris Nichols serve with him on the nominating committee for the recommendation of 2011 DDD officers. The recommendation of officers will be presented at the January 11, 2011 board meeting.

Ms. Fran Gladden moved to approve the nominating committee as appointed, Mr. Danny Montelaro seconded and the nominating committee was unanimously adopted.

6a. Governmental Issues – Two-waying St. Louis and St. Ferdinand Streets – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of current flow of traffic. Mr. Mike Bruce, ABMB, informed the Commission that Metropolitan Council approved the project and bidding will go out in the spring of 2011. The project will coincide with the North Blvd. Town Square construction.

6b. Development Initiatives – River Center Library Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, site rendering of the location of the River Center library and images of libraries across the country. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the funding for the construction of a new downtown library. Mr. Rhorer thanked the DDD Commission and everyone that expressed their support for the library. The Request for Qualifications will be submitted in Spring 2011. Mr. Van Mayhall commended the DDD for their efforts with the library project.

DDD Projects Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of proposed North Blvd. Town Square (NBTS) and Repentance Park. Mr. Davis Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects:

North Boulevard Town Square

Low bid was awarded by the Metropolitan Council to Arrighi Construction, Inc. for the construction of Phase I of the Town Square project. The amount of the low bid was \$5,736,537.00. Phase II of the Town Square is currently under review by DOTD.

Repentance Park

Metropolitan Council authorized the contract for Reed Hilderbrand Associates to design the Repentance Park. Contract negotiations are underway and should be complete early January 2011.

19th Judicial District Courthouse – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the new 19th Judicial District Courthouse. Mr. Skipper Post informed the Commission that the 19th JDC is open and encouraged everyone to visit the building.

Mr. Post expressed that it is a great civic building and the south side bookend of downtown. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held early January.

Riverfront Shade Structure – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the proposed Riverfront Shade Structure. Mr. Skipper Post informed the Commission that Post Architects is designing an iconic structure that will extend from the crosswalk at the River Center to the levee; the structure will provide shelter from the sun or rain.

2010 Downtown Project Recap – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images pertaining to the 2010 downtown projects. Mr. Davis Rhorer briefed the Commission on the 2010 projects.

2010 Awards – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the listing of 2010 awards. Mr. Davis Rhorer briefed the Commission on the 2010 awards. Mr. Rhorer thanked the DDD Commission and downtown stakeholders for their continued support and acknowledged the DDD staff for their hard work.

Entergy Lighting Analysis – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the inventory of street lights that were not working. Mr. James Andermann informed the Commission that he has met with Mr. Ingolf Partenheimer, Traffic Engineering, and confirmed that all street lights indicated on the list have been repaired.

South Blvd. Foreign Language Academic Immersion Magnet – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the school. Ms. Susana Lee informed the Commission that the school applied for a playground grant from KaBoom was selected to receive a \$10,000 for a new playground. Following was the criteria for the grant:

- School had to sponsor a play date and refurbish the current playground.
- The play date events were recorded and submitted to KaBoom.
- A panel of judges selected the top 10 schools nationally to receive funding.
- Final round open to public to vote on line

Ms. Susana Lee briefed the Commission on the curriculum of the school and encouraged everyone to visit the school.

New Downtown Businesses – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the exterior of the business. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article.

Yookoso – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Japanese restaurant is located in the former location of the China House at 431 Third Street.

UEP Gulf Coast – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the logo and web page. Mr. Gary Anderson informed the Commission that UEP Gulf Coast is a program of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the program has been created to assist businesses increase their size and become most successful. The office is located at 327 North Blvd.

Events – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following events.

- Arts Council – Arts Council / Exhibit
- Ice Skating on the River
- LSU Museum of Art
- LASM
- Manship Theatre Events
- River Center Events
- USS Kidd – Children’s Christmas Movies
- New Year’s Eve

7. Ongoing – **Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the CPEX logo. Mrs. Rachel DiResto informed the Commission that Connect will be issuing a series of policy briefs and look at the economic benefits of connecting the two regions. (Baton Rouge and New Orleans) CPEX will also be working with Reconnecting America, an agency that has an expertise in passenger rail projects across the nation.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of BREADA’s logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland informed the Commission of the following:

- The markets will be closed December 24 & 25 and December 31 and January 1
- The Battleship movie will film at the market this Saturday, December 18, 2010.

PBR II – The DDD continues to implement initiatives of PBR II.

8. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

9. Public Comment

Ms. Rose Marie Leleaux announced that the EBR Parish Children’s Chorus, children choir comprised of children in EBR Parish school system, has been invited to perform at various locations in England during the month of July 2011. Anyone interested in sponsorships to help assist with the cost of the trip is encouraged to contact Ms. Rose Marie Leleaux or the EBR Parish Children’s Chorus.

Meeting adjourned