

DDD Commission Meeting

February 9, 2010, 8:00 a.m.

Kean Miller Conference Center, One American Place, 301 Main Street

Attending: Cheri Morial Ausberry, Derrell Cohoon, Norman Chenevert,  
Van Mayhall, Chris Nichols

Absent: Fran Gladden

**Others in Attendance:** Lt. Raymond Alexander, Raymond Allmon, James Andermann, Chris Andrews, Joe Anthony, Stephen Arceneaux, **Rene Areng**, Paul Arrigo, Annabelle Armstrong, Brandon Badinger, Jo Landry Bagwell, Susan Bailey, Ed Batson, Mary W. Baus, Kyle Beall, Michael Beck, Danny Belanger, Cory Belden, Carolyn Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Carla Bergeron, Jennifer Berniard, Ricky Besson, Gary Black, Jenny K. Branton, Brittany Bland, Mary Boston, **Steve Boutwell**, Linda Bowsher, Lula Breaux, Kayla Brewer, Dave Briggs, Jeremy Broussard, Kevin Broussard, Deron Brown, Christina Bourg, Dana Brown, Mike Bruce, Erin Brush, Lyles Budden, Jimmy Burland, **Troy Bunch**, Jason Burns, Lacy Burris, Rex Cabaniss, Patricia Calfee, Gayle Carnahan, Nancy Carter, Ashley Casey, Trey Castleberry, Lindsey Cavalier, Jack Chapman, Linda Chauviere, Jennifer Chighizola, Charles Coates, Erin Cocharn, Tim Cockerham, Sonya Collins, Ronnie Comeaux, Cpl. Don Coppola, Todd Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Paul Counce, Sara Courtney, Ron Crum, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Pete Darling, Kim Daugherty, Miriam Davey, Emmett David, Nedra Davis, , Angela DeGravelles, Andi DeJohn, Rachel DiResto, Lauren Dodds, Patrick Downs, **Mark Drennen**, Tom DuBos, Huey Dugas, Jeff Duhe, Katherine Dunstan, Lacey Dupre, Mary Durusau, Ryan Dwyer, Scott Dyer, Kelli Eason, Kendrick Ebanks, John Eblen, Eric Engeman, Nikki Essix, Pauline Ewing, Bart Farmer, Natalie Fielding, **Derek Fitch**, Carley Fleming, Jessica Foleg, Janatha Forrest, Leslie Foster, Carole Fredrickson, Steve Fuller, Gail Gaiennie, Ed Gaskin, Susan Gavrelis, Bryan Gerace, Josh Gettys, Lydia Gikas, Debbie Gill, Brian Goad, Brace Godfrey, Krista Goodin, Derek Gordon, Gary Graham, Selena Grant, Jill Green, Matt Gregory, Blaine Grimes, Becky Gustafson, Lauren Gutierrez, Rev. Howard Hall, Jennifer Hall, Jill Hancock, Tyelise Harrison, John Hart, Dawn Hebert, Michelle Hebert, Kristin Hebert, John Helm, Vida Henderson, Walker Higgins, Kim Hodgeson, Robert Hodges, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Jeff Holeman, Jake Holinga, Helen Holland, Eric Holley, Capt. Virginia Holmes, Mona Holthaus, Lael Holton, Danielle Honeycutt, John Hough, Marielle Howard, Alice Howe, Rose Hudson, Nicole Huffstetier, Joe Hynes, David Jacobs, Lt. Stephenia M. Jackson, Staci Jamieson, Ted James, Ingrid Payne Johnson, Tammy Johnston, Brian Jones, Emma James, Ernest Junius, Billy Kelley, Bridget Kerley, Patte Keogh, Eddie King, Ashley Laborde, Leigh Lafarque, Dana LaFonta, Mark Landry, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Rashad Lave, Kevin Lawson, Beverly LeBeau, Gordon LeBlanc, Rosemary LeLeaux, Justin Lemoine, Jin Lee, Stacey Levert, Eric Lewis, Chris Loan, Terrence Lockett, Jason Lockhart, Sarah Lomax, Khrystina London, Diane Losavio, Sam Losavio, David Madden, Katie Maloney, Nicole Marshall, Rachel Marionneaux, Brian Marshall, Katherine Mason, Dee Mather, Jeanne McCollister, Al McDuff, John Melancon, Tommy Milazzo, Alice Miller, **Ellen Miller**, Jason Miller, BJ Militello, Donna Mitchell, **Todd Mitchell**, Sonia Morales, Karen Moreau, Micah Morgan, Robyn Morrison, Penny Murray, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Rose Mustain, Richard Neal, **Lisa Nice**, Steven Noel, Rod Nunez, Jennifer Ocken, **Mary Olinde**, Billy Overton, Greg Palmer, Glenda Parks, Melissa Parmelee, Tom Parsons, Ron Pascual, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Beth Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche, Mitch Poche, Kenneth Pointer, Regina Porter, **Skipper Post**, Stuart Poulton, Mike Prejean, DeDe Preno, Vincent Price, Tina Rance, Eric Relle, Daniel Rhodes, **Davis Rhorer**, Malcolm Richard, Tina Righteous, Chris Rinaudo, Bob Robe, Sage Roberts, Darryl Robertson,

George Robins, Emmett Robbins, Erin Rolfs, Darlene Rowland, Kerry Ruiz, Thomas Ryan, Scott Saltmarsh, Allision Saunders, Shane Sandefer, Kristen Sanders, David Savario, James Schafer, John Schneider, Ben Schultz, Larry Selders, Lonnie Seals, Casey Sessums, Tim Seymour, Ann V. Shaneyfelt, Katrina Shaw, Darlene Shingleur, Pam Sills, Lorraine Slade, Lisa Smith, John Smith, John Snow, Michael Songy, Kathleen Spencer, Lorelle St. Aime, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Mary Stein, Jennifer Stenhouse, John Stewart, George Strain, John Streva, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, Lauren Sylvest, Cherry Talbert, Claiborne Tanner, Suzie Thomas, Matthew Thomas, John Sykes, Michael Thomassie, Katie Thompson, Anna Thibodeaux, Archie Tiner, Jr., Suzie Thomas, Roger Tijerino, Christopher Toombs, Berry Trascher, Vertina Underwood, Pat VanBurkleo, Clark Vega, Kiran Vemuri, Barry Walls, John Walters, Brad Way, Elizabeth Weinstein, Adam Werth, Hampton West, Jay Westerfield, Emily Wharton, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Bubba Willis, Seveti Wilson, Kate Wilson, Beau Wolfe, Erin Wood, Renee Woods, Melissa Woolridge

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. Davis Rhorer requested to add First United Methodist Church to the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved as amended.
4. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the January 12, 2010 minutes, Ms. Cheri Ausberry seconded and the minutes were approved.
5. **Board Action** – There was no board action.

Mr. Rhorer thanked Mr. Steve Boutwell, Kean Miller, for hosting the meeting. Mr. Matt Gregory, Kean Miller, informed the Commission that the firm will be re-locating to II City Plaza on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Convention Street.

6a. **Governmental Issues – 2011 Appropriations request** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial of bike path and proposed rendering of the existing dock. Each Commissioner received a copy of the projects submitted for funding request. Mr. Jacob Holinga briefed the Commission on the following projects:

- (1) Baton Rouge, Louisiana River Center Plaza Raised Crosswalk  
(\$1,000,000 - to commence the design documents and begin implementation)
- (2) Baton Rouge, Louisiana New River District Master Plan  
(\$1,000,000 - to commence the design documents)
- (3) Municipal Dock  
(\$2,000,000, to initiate design and begin implementation)
- (4) Baton Rouge, Louisiana Downtown Greenway  
(\$1,000,000 – to commence the design)
- (5) Baton Rouge, Louisiana Desoto Park Raised Crosswalk  
(\$1,000,000 - The funds requested will be utilized to commence the design)
- (6) Baton Rouge, Louisiana Convention Street Raised Crosswalk  
(\$1,000,000 to begin design and construction)
- (7) Riverfront Redevelopment Transportation Improvements

- (\$1,000,000 to continue design)
- (8) Extension of the levee-top bike path  
(\$1,500,000 – for design and construction of the pedestrian/bike path)

**6b. Development Initiatives – First United Methodist Church** – Rev. Chris Andrews informed the Commission that First United Methodist Church has broken ground on a new Youth and Conference Center. The three story facility will cost approximately \$6 million and take between 18 to 24 months to construct.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD has identified approximately 150 -200 parking spaces under the Interstate, that can be utilized by the public.

**New Riverfront Project** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed iconic shade structure for the Riverfront. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Administration has chosen to construct an iconic structure on the Riverfront that will provide shade on hot summer days and will also serve a social function for the River Center. The funding for the project will come from the funds dedicated to the River Center Expansion.

**North Blvd. Town Square (NBTS)** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, North Blvd. related slides. Mr. James Andermann informed the Commission that the DDD has received 90% construction drawings for the North Blvd. Town Square. Mr. Andermann will be meeting with the Department of Public Works to review the drawings. The DDD attended a DOTD kick off meeting regarding the requirements for the transportation enhancement funds. Mr. Andermann will be meeting with City of Baton Rouge Information Systems regarding the Wi-Fi possibilities in the Town Square. The DDD staff will be traveling to Houston to meet with Guy Hagstette, Executive Director of Discovery Green, to obtain information regarding programmatic aspects for the Town Square, as well as maintenance issues as they relate to the North Boulevard Town Square.

Following is the timeline for the project:

March 12 –100% CD's are due  
May 20 – Construction begins

**Downtown Wayfinding Signage** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of one of the damaged wayfinding signs. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the mixture of recent rains and freezing temperatures have caused damage to the signs. The original contractor, AGI, has agreed to repair the signs on site.

**River Center Library Committee** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, renderings of the new designs proposed for the River Center Library. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Library Board has appointed a committee to assess the schematic work for the River Center library. The proposed design for the downtown library by Trahan Architects will be recognized nationally by Architect Magazine at an awards reception in New York at the end of the month.

**Passenger Rail** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of other passenger rail services. Ms. Thomas, CPEX, informed the Commission that the Capital Region Legislative Delegation requested that a committee be formed to raise a constituency that would support the

passenger rail between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. CPEX has received a grant to raise a coalition of grass roots constituents who could benefit from the transportation service. The coalition would also be raising a grass tops coalition. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact DDD or CPEX.

**Future EBR** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the kick off presentation. Each Commissioner received a copy of the flyer. Mr. Troy Bunch, Planning Commission Director, informed the Commission that the original master plan, The Horizon Plan, was adopted in 1992 with a 20 year life span. With the affects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita the Mayor requested that the Plan be updated. Fregonese Associates have been selected as the lead consultant to update the EBR Comprehensive Plan. Following is the timeline for the 18 month process.

- Parish wide workshops – Tuesday, March 2, 6pm – 8:30 pm at the River Center
- Parish wide workshops – Thursday, March 4, 6pm – 8:30 pm at Redemptorist High School & Woodlawn High School
- Planning districts open houses will be scheduled late spring 2010 and early summer 2010.
- The parish vision for the plan will be unveiled in September 2010.
- Fall 2010 – presentation of policy creation and small area workshops
- Spring 2011 – Plan is proposed to be adopted by the Metropolitan Council

Mr. Bunch encouraged everyone to become involved in the process and stated that more information may be found regarding the Plan can be found at [www.futurebr.com](http://www.futurebr.com).

**Plan Baton Rouge Phase II** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the Plan Baton Rouge Phase II press conference. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the press conference was well attended and emphasized that some components of the PBR II Plan will be incorporated into the EBR Comprehensive Plan.

**Capital City South Apartments Community Input Meeting** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the project. Ms. Lisa Nice, Post Architects, introduced project manager, Roger Tijerino, and informed the Commission that Post Architects has been chosen to develop the project. Ms. Nice encouraged everyone to participate in one of the two community input meetings scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 11 & Friday, February 12, 6:00 p.m. at the McKinley Alumni Center located at 1520 Thomas Delpit. The existing building will be demolished and some of the material will be recycled to achieve LEED certification. Ms. Nice briefed the Commission on the proposed design of the project which includes mixed-use development.

**River Center Expansion** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the proposed rendering. Ms. Nice informed the Commission that the construction is currently out for bid. Ms. Nice briefed the Commission on the proposed expansion that will include the following:

- Creation of a proper entry into the facility
- 22,000 sq. ft of new space
- Renovating 22,000 sq. ft. of existing space
- Expansion of the galleria, exhibit space and meeting rooms
- Adding an escalator
- Outdoor social space

**New Downtown Businesses – New mixed-use components in the Kress** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Kress Building. Mr. Brace Godfrey informed the Commission that he is opening a restaurant in the Kress Building, Fete Viande. The restaurant will feature smoked beef, pork, fowl and fish and will be open for lunch and fine dining in the evening. The build out for the restaurant has begun and is scheduled to be open April 2010. Mr. Godfrey also informed the Commission that the Kress residential is full and has a waiting list. Mr. Derek Fitch informed the Commission that Third Street Boutique is a collaborative between several local boutiques of Baton Rouge. The boutique will be located at Third and Main Street and is scheduled to be open April 2010. The Main Street side of the Kress will house the office for Hotel Indigo and the model room for the Hotel. Also located on the Main Street side of the Kress will be the Kress Memorial Gallery which will feature a space designed to commemorate the lunch counter sit in by Southern University students 50 years ago. Mr. Godfrey announced that the King Hotel is scheduled to be complete by mid November 2010.

**Roly Poly** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Third Street parking garage and the Roly Poly logo. Mr. Brad Way, Latter & Blum, informed the Commission that Roly Poly will build out a portion of the garage's first floor retail space for their restaurant. Construction is scheduled to be complete in approximately 4 months.

**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.

- Lecture: Lincoln the Politician, Feb. 11, Old Governor's Mansion
- Jump Start Your Heart
- Mardi Gras Parades
- Manship Theatre Events
- River Center Events

Mr. Derek Gordon, Arts Council, announced that following events:

- Tuesday, February 26, Listening Room jazz concert featuring Laurence Hobgood, Lyceum, 124 Third St. at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 9, Wynton Marsalis jazz orchestra at the River Center Theatre

7. Ongoing – **Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)** – There was no information to report

**BREADA** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the Red Stick Farmer's Market. Ms. Darlene Rowland briefed the Commission on upcoming events:

- New vendors will be in the Main Street Market this week offering gifts for Valentine's.
- Flu du Jour flower shop will have flowers available at the market on Friday February, 12.
- Main Street Market will close at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13 due to the Spanish Town parade and the Farmer's Market hours will be from 7:30 am. – 10:30 a.m.

**8. Correspondence** – No information to report.

**9. Public Comment** – Ms. Robyn Morrison informed the Commission that her janitorial company, V & R Services, L.L.C., is planning to move downtown in the spring of 2010. The company employs women in need through the program “Connections for Life”. Councilwoman Tara Wicker announced that the District 10- leadership council meeting will be held tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

**Meeting adjourned.**