

DDD Commission Meeting  
May 11, 2010, 8:00 a.m.  
Hollywood Casino, 1717 River Road North

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

Absent: Cheri Morial Ausberry

Others in Attendance: James Andermann, Chris Andrews, Joe Anthony, Stephen Arceneaux, Rene Areng, Paul Arrigo, Jo Landry Bagwell, Susan Bailey, Jay Basist, Ed Batson, Mary W. Baus, Kyle Beall, Michael Beck, Danny Belanger, Cory Belden, Carolyn Bennett, Frances Bennett, Carla Bergeron, Jennifer Berniard, Ricky Besson, Susannah Bing, Gary Black, Tara Bradford, Jenny K. Branton, Brittanny Bland, Mary Boston, Linda Bowsher, Tara Bradford, Lula Breaux, Kayla Brewer, Dave Briggs, Jeremy Broussard, Kevin Broussard, Deron Brown, Christina Bourg, Linda Bowsher, Mike Bruce, Erin Brush, Eddie Budd, Lyles Budden, Jimmy Burland, Jason Burns, Lacy Burris, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Patricia Calfee, Gayle Carnahan, John Carpenter, Nancy Carter, Ashley Casey, Trey Castleberry, Lindsey Cavalier, Jack Chapman, Linda Chauviere, Jennifer Chighizola, Pete Clements, Charles Coates, Erin Cocharn, Tim Cockerham, Sonya Collins, Ronnie Comeaux, Todd Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Paul Counce, Sara Courtney, Ron Crum, Melissa Daly, Chad Danos, Pete Darling, Kim Daugherty, Miriam Davey, Emmett David, Nedra Davis, Gerritt Dawson, Angela DeGravelles, Andi DeJohn, Rachel DiResto, Brian Dixon, Lauren Dodds, Patrick Downs, Tom DuBos, Huey Dugas, Jeff Duhe, Patricia Duncan, Gary Dunn, Katherine Dunstan, Lacey Dupre, Mary Durusau, Ryan Dwyer, Scott Dyer, Kelli Eason, Kendrick Ebanks, John Eblen, Kirk Edwards, Bridger Eglin, Jon Elvert, Eric Engeman, Nikki Essix, Pauline Ewing, Bart Farmer, Cassie Felder, Natalie Fielding, Derek Fitch, Carley Fleming, Jessica Foleg, Janatha Forrest, Flynn Foster, Judy Foust, Carole Fredrickson, Steve Fuller, Joey Furr, Mike Futrell, Ed Gaskin, Brian Gates, Susan Gavrelis, Bryan Gerace, Josh Gettys, Carol Gikas, Gary Gilbert, Debbie Gill, Brian Goad, Trey Godfrey, Krista Goodin, Derek Gordon, Gary Graham, Selena Grant, Jill Green, Blaine Grimes, Becky Gustafson, Lauren Gutierrez, Rev. Howard Hall, Jennifer Hall, Jill Hancock, Tyelise Harrison, John Hart, Kristel Hawkins, 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, Krista Howard, 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, Emma James, Sadie Roberts Joseph, Ernest Junius, Billy Kelley, Dan Kennedy, Bridget Kerley, Patte Keogh, Eddie King, David Kors, Ashley Laborde, Leigh Lafarque, Dana LaFonta, Laurence Lambert, Mark Landry, Michael Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Rashad Lave, Kevin Lawson, Beverly LeBeau, Justin Lemoine, Jin Lee, Stacey Levert, Derek Lewis, Tom Livesay, Chris Loan, Terrence Lockett, Jason Lockhart, Sarah Lomax, Khrystina London, Diane Losavio, Sam Losavio, David Madden, Katie Maloney, Todd Mance, Lauralyn Maranto, Nicole Marshall, Rachel Marionneaux, Katherine Mason, Dee Mather, Jeanne McCollister, Kelley McCormick, Al McDuff, John Melancon, Tommy Milazzo, Alice Miller, Jason Miller, BJ Militello, Donna Mitchell, Todd Mitchell, Kirt Monte, Travis Moore, Sonia Morales, Karen Moreau, Micah Morgan, Robyn Morrison, Penny Murray, Fr. Pat Muscarella, Rose Mustain, Richard Neal, Gordon Nelson, Steven Noel, Rod Nunez, Jennifer Ocken, Mary Olinde, Chad Ortte, Billy Overton, Bill Palmer, Glenda Parks, Rose Marie LeLeaux, Melissa Parmelee, Tom Parsons,

Ron Pascual, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Beth Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche, Mitch Poche, Sgt. Kenneth Pointer, Johnny Palazzotto, Regina Porter, Skipper Post, Stuart Poulton, Katie Prechter, 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, Samuel Sanders, Kristen Sanders, James Schafer, Ben Schultz, Ann Shaneyfelt, Larry Selders, Lonnie Seals, Casey Sessums, Tim Seymour, Ann V. Shaneyfelt, Katrina Shaw, Darlene Shingleur, Pam Sills, Lorraine Slade, Ed Smith, John Smith, John Snow, Michael Songy, Kelly Spell, 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., Christopher Toombs, Berry Trascher, Vertina Underwood, Clark Vega, Kiran Vemuri, Randy Verdier, Cindy Verdin, Gabe Vicknair, Barry Walls, John Walters, Elizabeth Weinstein, Adam Werth, Hampton West, Jay Westerfield, Emily Wharton, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Lonnie Wilkinson, 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. Ms. Chris Nichols moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Ms. Fran Gladden moved to approve the April 13, 2010 minutes, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the minutes were approved.
5. **Board Action** – There was no board action.

Mr. Rhorer thanked Mr. John Smith, Community Affairs Director, for hosting the board meeting.

**6a. Governmental Issues – River Park Development District** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs ribbon cutting and renderings of the proposed mixed use development. Each Commissioner received a copy of the Senate Bill 611 and newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Senate Bill 611 passed through the Senate Finance Committee and continues to move through the legislative process. The bill will create an economic development district which would capture revenue and allow a TIF for development of the property. Mr. Mayhall expressed the need for mixed use development on the north side of downtown and encouraged everyone to support the legislation.

**6b. Development Initiatives – A.Z. Young Park Development** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, proposed renderings of the development. Mr. Gary Dunn, GD Architecture, informed the Commission that his firm has joint ventured with Noland & Wong, JFDS and Cramer Engineering to design the park at the site of the former AZ Young building.

The park will create a bookend for the north end of Third Street. Mr. Joey Furr, landscape architect, briefed the Commission on the design of the park that will include benches, seat walls and planters as well as electrical outlets that can be utilized for events. The project is in the contract negotiation phase and is schedule to be complete with six months. Mr. Rhorer recognized architect Mr. Skipper Post, the master planner for Capitol Park.

Mr. Van Mayhall reminded the Commissioners that there is filing deadline on Friday, May 15 to submit the financial disclosures forms.

**First Presbyterian Church Park** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, renderings of the proposed improvements. Rev. Gerritt Dawson, Senior Pastor, expressed his appreciation for the DDD’s recognition of the role of churches downtown. Rev. Dawson briefed the Commission on \$5 million in improvements that are underway for First Presbyterian Church. The improvements include the entire campus, sanctuary, a new playground, and an outdoor fireplace.

**Memorial Stadium Master Plan** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, renderings of the proposed development. Mr. Bill Palmer, BREC, announced that BREC has plans to create a park, sports academy, bike trail connecting downtown to Memorial Stadium and track at the Memorial Stadium site. Funds are available to implement the track area which could begin as soon as next year.

**Northdale Community – Visioning Workshop** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the previous community meetings. Each Commissioner received a copy of the information sheet. Ms. Susannah Bing, East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority (RDA), informed the Commission that RDA has kicked off the community improvement plans for five districts with a series of workshops. The workshops will allow the residents the opportunity to convey their recommendations for their district. The first workshop for the Northdale Community is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 5:30 p.m. at 1555 Madison Avenue.

**Downtown Greenway** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the logo for Capital Region Planning Commission. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Greenway project connects the inner city neighborhoods together. Mr. Rhorer will be giving a presentation to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee and Transportation Policy Committee. The DDD will be applying for grants through Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and has applied with the State Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism.

**Downtown Ring** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, maps indicating locations of residential development. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the following are redevelopment initiatives that are currently underway.

- Gracie District – 100 unit residential, mixed income proposal seeking HUD funds, on Spanish Town Road

- Gulf Coast Housing – residential development focused on homeless population with support services.
- Capital City South Redevelopment (LHFA) – Mr. Skipper Post informed the Commission that the development is located on the east side of North Blvd. overpass – 68 mixed income residential units, community center, fitness center, café, green roof, green space. Groundbreaking scheduled for fall 2010.
- Lincoln Theatre Redevelopment
- The Gateway Redevelopment
- New River District Redevelopment

**Downtown Living Piece** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of residential email. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD sent out an email promoting residential living in the downtown area.

**Arts & Entertainment District Improvement** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of examples of construction screening, gateways and proposed rendering from DVAP. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD has been exploring ideas of improving the visual quality of downtown and ways to define the Arts & Entertainment District. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission the DDD has been looking at recommendations in the Downtown Visitors' Amenity Plan (DVAP) for streetscape improvements and gateway structures. The gateway structures would be implemented at the entrances of the district. The DVAP recommends providing seating areas along Third St. Mr. Vicknair presented a rendering utilizing the space within the loading zones / fire zones. The DDD is also working with Downtown Business Association to obtain funds for flower pots in the downtown area.

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

**Dearman's** – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Dearman's will locate on the bottom floor of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court and will be open for breakfast and lunch. The restaurant will open when the courthouse opens in late fall 2010.

**McDonald's** – The Government Street McDonald's has re-opened after damage from a fire.

**CASA** – CASA has re-located to their newly constructed office located at 848 Louisiana Ave.

Mr. Van Mayhall welcomed Ms. Cassie Felder, attorney, and informed the Commission that she has opened her law office at 263 Third Street.

**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.

- Baton Rouge Green
- Live After Five
- Sunday in the Park
- Candlelight Memorial Walk

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- Run for the Children
- Manship Theatre
- River Center Events

7. Ongoing – **Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX)** – Ms. Rachel DiResto informed the Commission that CPEX will be relocating their offices into the Shaw Center for the Arts.

**BREADA** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the BREADA logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland briefed the Commission on upcoming events:

- May is Garden month
- May 29<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Gary Ross, naturalist and lepidopterist will speak on butterfly gardening.
- Farms Table Top Program – Sponsorships available

**Plan Baton Rouge II** – Mr. Rhorer announced that the DDD is applying for grants to continue the concept of reaching out beyond our borders with the Downtown Greenway project.

Mr. Rhorer introduced Mr. Scott Rogers and Mr. Stuart Poulton with the Downtown Show.

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

**9. Public Comment** – Mr. John Schneider briefed the Commission on an ISPUD application that was submitted for property in Beauregard Town to convert into a law office. Mr. Schneider requested that the DDD take a position on this matter.

Mr. Rhorer expressed that the master plan for downtown encourages residential development in the two historical neighborhoods. Ms. Chris Nichols expressed that the BTCA will always recommend regulations by DPW and Planning Commission be followed as stated currently.

Mr. Brian Goad, Beauregard Town Civic Association (BTCA), informed the Commission that a meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 12 at First United Methodist Church for the developer to answer questions. Mr. Goad commented that BTCA is in full support as far as a balance of residential and commercial areas in Beauregard Town and follow the recommendations in the PBR II Master Plan.

**Meeting adjourned.**