

DDD Commission Meeting
April 9, 2019, 8:00 a.m.
The Lyceum, 124 Third Street

Attending: Eric Dexter, Scott Hensgens, Ric Kearny, Gordon LeBlanc,
Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Fran Gladden, Cheryl McCormick

Others in Attendance: Karron Alford, Sarah Amacker, Gary Anderson, Taylor Anderson, Paul Arrigo, James Avault, Shervisa Battley, David Beard, Nick BeJeaux, Robyn Belle, Gary Black, Ben Blackwell, Timothy Boone, Dawn Braud, Madelyn Bray, Michael Breaux, Kevin Broussard, Gayle Carnahan, Bubba Cashio, Melanie Couvillion, Suzette Crocker, Les Crooks, Lauren Crump, Sandra Daire, Catherine Daniel, Holly Duchmann, Chris Duncan, Daniel Espinoza, Felix Ezejiofo, Councilwoman Freiberg, Trevor Gauthreaux, Brooke Goodrich, Mack Gregorie, Blaine Grimes, Lauren Hatcher, Anita Hebert, John O. Hearin, Victoria Herrmann, Jamie Hernandez, Kelvin Hill, Wade Himel, Sam Karlin, Melinda Kyzar, Emily Jackson, Katelyn Johnson, John Kaufman, Emily Kay, John Kelton, Theresa Langlois, Jeannie Magdefrau, Michelle Mahaffey, Lauralyn Maranto, Mary Jane Marcantel, Brinkley A. Maginnis, B. J. Miletello, Aaron Mollura, Mikeila Morgan, Grant Murphy, James Newkirk, Chris Nichols, Shawn Nolan, Mary Olinde, Katie Pryor, Cokie Reed, Davis Rhorer, Jim Rigot, Fredrick Sargent, Whitney Sayal, Daniel Stetson, J.T. Sukits, Casey Tate, Pauline Tavera, Bryan Taylor, Alex Thibadeaux, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Wes Wilkerson, Cindy Wonderful

1. Mr. Scott Hensgens called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Scott Hensgens declared a quorum.
3. Mrs. Melanie Montanaro moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Ric Kearny seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Eric Dexter moved to approve the March 12, 2019 minutes, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked The Lyceum for hosting the meeting. Ms. Brinkley Maginnis welcomed attendees to the Lyceum and mentioned the recent renovations to the building. She also invited those wishing to host an event at the building to contact her.

Mr. Rhorer introduced the newly appointed Assistant CAO with the Mayor's Office, Mr. Kelvin Hill. Mr. Hill, CAO over the Public Works Departments, informed the Commission that he will be working on the collaboration between the City Parish and DDD. Mr. Hill introduced Mr. Felix Ezejiofo as the downtown code enforcement officer. Mr. Ezejiofo expressed his willingness to work with downtown stakeholders to improve code enforcement issues in the area.

5. **Board Action** – There was no board action.
6. **Governmental Issues** – There was no information to report.
7. **Update from Previous Board Meeting** – There was no information to report.

8. Development Initiatives – Developments Underway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current projects. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects:

- **Elysian II** – Reviewed the current construction photographs of the 100 residential unit development on Spanish Town Rd. 60% market rate / 40% affordable units.
- **Licensing Board of Contractors** – Reviewed the current construction photographs of the development under construction on the corner of 6th & North Streets.
- **Associated General Contractors** – The building at the corner of 7th and Main Streets is also undergoing a major renovation as part of the block redevelopment.
- **Spencer Calahan** – Reviewed the current construction photographs of the development under construction on the corner of St. Louis and South Blvd.

Downtown Library Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the library. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved an additional \$2.74 million to repair the building. Mr. Bubba Cashio, DPW, informed the Commission that remediation is underway and completion of the library is October 29, 2019.

State Legislation – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the Kress Building, EBR City-Parish blighted property open data list, and electric scooters. Each Commissioner received a copy of the bills. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following legislation:

HB 83 by Jimmy Harris - Extends the sunset of the Rehabilitation Tax Credits for Historic Structures to January 1, 2026

HB 466 by Paula Davis - Provides Relative to notice requirements for property that is subject to tax sales. Intended to speed up the time required to clear property title by limiting the requirement on the tax collector to demonstrate a reasonable effort to provide notice of the tax sale to the debtor

SB 91 by Senator Cortez - Provides relative to electric low-speed scooters.

HB 534 by Representative Pope - Provides relative to electric low-speed scooters

Bills seem to be developed in tandem and include similar language in regard to parish/municipal authority, traffic rules/duties, and allowing their use on bike paths, highways, and sidewalks. HB 534 specifically excludes electric scooter being defined as a "motorized vehicle." Other minor differences include operator age limit, helmet age, and equipment specifications.

Mr. Rhorer forwarded the information to the Mayor's Office, Parish Attorney's Office and Department of Public Works.

Downtown Public Transportation – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the new CATS and LSU First Transit route. Rhorer informed the Commission that DDD is creating a map for the River Road/ Riverfront Plaza Visitor's Kiosk.

Mrs. Whitney Sayal informed the Commission that the DDD is working with CATS to redefine the trolley routes and updating the trolley signs.

FlixBus – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a FlixBus. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that FlixBus offers services to several cities and is currently staging on the corner of Florida and Lafayette St. FlixBus is currently working with DPW for approval to operate in the public-right-of way.

Downtown East Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Hotel Lincoln and the exterior of Red Stick Social. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Hotel Lincoln project goes before the Planning Commission for rezoning on April 18, 2019. The Electric Depot is expected to open April 15, 2019. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved with the project.

Gotcha Bike Share – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Gotcha bicycle and an aerial indicating the proposed bike station locations. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Ms. Cokie Reid, Gotcha Community Manager, informed the Commission that Gotcha bike share will launch May 8, 2019. There will be fifteen stations installed downtown. The equipment will be installed next week and they are waiting on final EBR City-parish approvals. Ms. Reid reviewed the list of sponsors and will keep the Commission apprised of the project.

Riverfront Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current improvements. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the fountain repairs are complete and are ready to be refilled. The meadow area, landscape plantings and accent lighting has been installed. The stairwells are being painted and the DDD is currently working on the wayfinding signage for the riverfront.

Town Square Phase II – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current construction. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that Princeton Elms will be planted in the tree wells and table and chairs will be incorporated along the improvements. Mr. Rhorer expressed that the promenade links the riverfront museums and transforms St. Phillip into a pedestrian friendly promenade.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering for East Boulevard improvements. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that a construction kick off meeting will be scheduled within the next 2 weeks.

Downtown Maintenance / Code Enforcement Official – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the April Distinction Award Recipient, The Heron Downtown. Mrs. Hoffman Sayal informed the Commission that The Heron Downtown was the award recipient in the Residential Development category. Mr. John O. Hearin expressed his appreciation for the recognition and encouraged everyone to tour the apartments. Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Hearin for maintaining the tree wells bordering his complex. Mr. Hearin encouraged all property owners to follow suite and maintain the tree wells adjacent to their properties.

9. New Business – T& T Café – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the bakery located in the 300 block of Third Street is scheduled to open in May 2019.

10. Events – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Casey Tate thanked Baton Rouge City Police for the assistance with the events and briefed the Commission on the following events.

- St. James Gumbo – April 12
- Live After Five – April 12, 26 & May 3, 10,17
- Fest For Life – April 13
- Blues Festival – April 13 & 14
- Sunday in the Park – April 14,28 & May 5,12,19
- Outdoor Way of the Cross – April 19
- First United Methodist Church Easter Service / Purpose Church – April 21
- OLOL Downtown Day – April 23
- Walk for Humanity / Wine on the River – April 27
- BRSO Pictures At An Exhibition – May 2
- Crawfish King Cookoff – May 3
- Corked 5K / MS Walk – May 4
- 4Forty Fitness Matherne’s Grocery Store Tour – May13, June 10
- Preserve Louisiana/Old Governor’s Mansion
- Manship Theatre
- LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- USS Klidd

11. Ongoing Projects – BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to continue to support the market.

DBA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to continue to attend Live After Five.

12. Correspondence – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission of correspondence he received from Beauregard Town Civic Association regarding their desire to become local historic district and issues with abandoned/blighted properties

The DDD received an email from a concerned Spanish Town citizen regarding the Hotard busses traveling through the narrow streets in Spanish Town causing damage to the trees, sidewalks and streets. Mr. Rhorer forwarded the email to Traffic Engineering for review.

13. Public Comment – Nicholas BeJeaux, LASM Audience Engagement & Public Relations Manager, thanked the Arts Council for the partnership for the Ebb and Flow Festival. LASM had increased attendance and activity during the event.

Mr. Daniel Stetson, LSU Museum of Art Executive Director, briefed the Commission on the exhibit “Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism through the French Lens.” The exhibit will be on display from March 7 – June 9, 2019.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that he met with representatives of the downtown hotels to discuss marketing and tourism.

Mr. Frederick Sargent with Electronic Media briefed the Commission on his business and encouraged businesses or anyone wanting to promote an event to contact him after the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: