DDD Commission Meeting April 14, 2015, 8:00 a.m. River Center Library, 120 St. Louis St. Street, 4th Floor

Attending: Scott Hensgens, Fran Gladden, Ric Kearny, Gordon LeBlanc, Melanie Montanaro, Sevetri Wilson

Absent: Cheryl McCormick

Others in Attendance: Sam Allgood, Gary Anderson, Alicia Baron, Tom Bergman, Susannah Bing, Greg Bivin, Gary Black, Ben Blackwell, Shannon Blakeman, Timothy Boone, Robert Boudreaux, Chelsea Brasted, Johnathan Cary, Whitney Cooper, Rebecca Croner, Tom Dawson, Michael Day, Angela deGravelles, Eric Dexter, Kristen Diehl, Mary Durusau, Michael Echols, Liz Eure, Heather Fatzinger, Christine Forsman, Brian Goad, Lisa Gray, Gaye Hamilton, Daniel Hernandez, Edwin Hightower, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Rebecca Jacobs, Melody Joachim, Mary Johnson, Douglas Kennedy, Nicole Kennelly, Tara Kistler, Ashley LaBorde, Lori Lasseigne, Mary LeBlanc, Ron LeBouef, Marisa Lingoni, Jason Lockhart, Lisa Lymuel, Staci Manning, BJ Militello, Brandon Morgan, Jennifer Myer, Amy Norval, Mary Olinde, Melissa Parmelee, Michael Petty, Duane Pierce, Andy Pino, Eric Poche, Skipper Post, Margaret Read, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Stephanie Riegel, Lakeisha Robichaux, Ray Scriber, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Jamie Setze, Darlene Shingleur, Kay Solar, Karen Stagg, Casey Tate, Jeremy Theriot, Jude Trahan, Mark Trahan, Veach Tucker, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Quinn Welsch

1. Mrs. Fran Gladden called the meeting to order.

2. Mrs. Fran Gladden declared a quorum.

3. Mrs. Melanie Montanaro moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Scott Hensgens seconded and the agenda was approved.

4. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the March 10, 2015 minutes, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked the he River Center, Mayor's Office and everyone involved with the recent Blues Festival. Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked River Center Library for hosting the meeting. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that in approximately 2½ years the construction of the new library will be completed. The committee is currently reviewing construction design which is expected to go out to bid summer 2015. The \$19 million project will take 1½ years to construct.

5. Board Action – There was no board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – Old State Capitol – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Old State Capitol. Mrs. Mary Durusau informed the Commission that the Old State Capitol foundation has allocated funds that will allow the Old State Capitol to remain open Tuesday through Saturday through June 2015. The state is proposing to cut the operation of the Capitol to three days a week with a skeleton crew. Ms. Durusau encouraged everyone to contact their representatives.

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6b. Development Initiatives – **St. Louis** / **St. Ferdinand Two-Way Project** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the map indicating the two-waying. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the conversion is complete with the exception of wayfinding signage to be installed to the entrances of the River Center Garages. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the changes to the flow of traffic.

Louisiana Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center. Each Commissioner received an informational flyer. Mr. Michael Echols, Chairman of Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation, briefed the Commission on the importance of the tax credits for the success of economic development. Everyone was encouraged to contact their state representative and legislator to express their support for House Bill 387 and Senate Bill 150. Mr. Rhorer expressed that the resurgence of Third Street is an example of use of tax credits.

Rotary Centennial Project Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the project site, Rotary logo and photographs of examples of art pieces. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Request for Qualifications has been advertised. Mr. Skipper Post informed the Commission that the Rotary Foundation has set aside an additional \$50,000 for the foundation cost of the art piece. April 30, 2015 is the deadline for submissions from designers. Mr. Rhorer expressed the importance of this project for the beginning of the downtown greenway project and entrance to the levee.

Nicholson Streetcar Project – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed route and a photograph of a tram. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Request for Qualifications has been submitted and May 1, 2015 is the deadline for submissions. The proposed project will link a number of projects from downtown, water campus and LSU.

City Hall Plaza Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the conceptual design for City Hall Plaza and before and after images. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved a supplemental agreement for \$58,000 to construct a Third Street extension bridge to include ADA accessibility.

LASM North Courtyard Renovations – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the current construction. Mr. Goad informed the Commission that the project is underway and is expected to be complete by June 23, 3015. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the ribbon cutting will be held for this project and the riverfront gateway summer 2015.

Riverfront Improvements – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the current construction on River Road in front of LASM and Repentance Park. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the current improvements that have been made to the riverfront gateways and River Road to create a new image for River Rd. The DDD has identified funding to install an irrigation system along River Rd. between the riverfront gateway and LASM Courtyard renovations. The seating and umbrellas will be installed on the riverfront this summer.

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Parking Lot Screening – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed parking lot screening. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that as part of streetscape improvements the Downtown Development District (DDD) is looking at ways to screen surface parking lots on Florida St. and River Rd. and Florida and Lafayette St. The DDD is working with WHLC and Walls Project to select the screening that will be installed by the end of 2015

Riverfront Dock – The city has submitted a Request for Qualifications for expansion and modifications of the dock to accommodate multiple boats. The deadline for submissions is April 16, 2015. The proposed revisions to the dock will meet the demands of the increase in visits of river boats.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the previous Maintenance committee meeting. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the individual subcommittees will continue to meet before the next Maintenance Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2015. Mr. Rhorer complimented the committee on their efforts.

Downtown Greenway Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of proposed improvements. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the consultants are moving along with the designing improvements. Mr. Vicknair reviewed the proposed improvements that include:

- Garden promenade with Garden Rooms
- Path to experience the trees and gardens
- Night component & lighting
- Safe crossings for bicycle and pedestrian with midblock crossings

Bike Share – Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the City in partnership with DDD, CRPC, BRAF and CPEX has received a grant to obtain a bike share development strategy for downtown. The committee will have their kick off meeting within the next few weeks to schedule workshops with the consultants in approximately 2 - 3 months. The May DDD board meeting will be held at Expressway Park as well as a ribbon cutting ceremony for the greenway portion at Expressway Park.

New Businesses – Fishman Haygood – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the interior. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Fishman Haygood will be locating their offices in the IBM tower.

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.

- Live After Five April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 21
- MS Walk April 18
- Louisiana Earth Day April 19
- Sunday in the Park April 19, 26, May 3, 10
- March for Babies / Songwriter Festival April 25

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- Driving the Future April 30
- Crawfish King Cookoff May 1
- Baton Rouge Arts Market May 2
- Global Community Day May 3
- Happy's 5K May 9
- Foundation for Historical Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- o Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- o Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- o BRSO
- o LASM
- o 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 with the two-waying of St. Ferdinand and St. Louis.

8. **Ongoing Projects** – **CPEX** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the resolution to form the Complete Streets Advisory Committee.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. The Commission was briefed on the upcoming events:

- Strawberry Jam Saturday, April 18, 2015
- Red Stick Sprouts Special activity Saturday, April 28, 2015
- Red Stick Farmers Mobile Market will resume April 22, 2015
- Mobile Markets at Exxonmobil YMCA May 5 & 19

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

- Friday, April 17 Live After Five Spring
- May 7, Lunch and Learn
- June 4, DBA Social Visit Baton Rouge
- July 9, DBA Monthly Meeting Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center
- June board election

8. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

9. **Public Comment** – Ms. Kay Solar informed the Commission that she is producing the Third Street Songwriter's Festival modeled off of the successful event held in Florida. The event will be held Friday, April 25, 2015. Everyone was encouraged to attend the event.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.