

DDD Commission Meeting
April 11, 2017, 8:00 a.m.
Capitol Park Museum, 660 N. Fourth Street

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

Absent: Cheryl McCormick

Others in Attendance: Gary Anderson, Joe Anthony, Calli Baio, David Beard, George Becnel, Bliss Bernard, Gary Black, Ben Blackwell, Shannon Blakeman, Timothy Boone, Shaun Braud, Chris Brooks, Kevin Broussard, Capt. Tim Browning, Gayle Carnahan, Jonathan Cary, Bubba Cashio, Albert Chao, Renee Chatelain, Whitney Cooper, Melanie Couvillion, Suzette Crocker, Lauren Crump, Shelby Daugherty, Michael Day, Angela DeGravelles, Alex Deshotels, Rachel DiResto, Frank Duke, Mary Durusau, Ashley Fabre, Phil Fernberg, Joey Furr, Adam Gautreaux, Brian Goad, Rannah Gray, Sgt. Leonard Harry, Kayla Hayes, Anita Hebert, Ryan Holcomb, Courtney Hunt, Stacy Jamieson, Mary Johnson, Mary Joseph, Sadie Roberts Joseph, John Kaufman, David Kors, Jeff Kuehny, Morgan Landry, Katie Lauder, Beverly LeBeau, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Kristy Mayes, Nicole McAlister, Michael McDuff, B. J. Militello, Ben Moran, Grant Murphy, Chris Neumann, Capt. Kevin Newman, Shawn Nolan, Mary Olinde, Melissa Parmelee, Michael Petty, John Pierre, Erin Porche, Skipper Post, Tina Rance, Lauren Ray, Margaret Read, Davis Rhorer, Theo Richards, Gabrielle Roussel, Fredrick Sargent, Lisa Smith, Bill Stark, Daniel Stetson, Emily Sulzer, Ebru Sumer, Casey Tate, Tom Tanne, Norman Theriot, Elizabeth Thomas, Lauren Tompkins, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Danny Watts, Lindsey West, Paige Whittington, Samaer Zaitoon

1. Mr. Ric Kearny called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Ric Kearny declared a quorum.
3. Mrs. Fran Gladden moved to approve the agenda, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Eric Dexter moved to approve the March 14, 2017 minutes, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Kearny recognized Mr. Bill Stark, Director of Capitol Park Museum, and thanked him for hosting the Commission meeting. Mr. Stark welcomed everyone to the museum and briefed the Commission on the current exhibits and upcoming events.

5. Board Action – Budget Supplement – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of expanded boundary, current website and map of the central green. Each Commissioner received correspondence outlining the budget supplement. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD has built up a fund balance of \$412,870 and is requesting approval to utilize \$100,000 of those funds for the following three items:

- Master Plan for the expanded DDD territory – \$50,000
- Redesign and enhancement of the DDD website – \$30,000
- Schematic planning for Riverfront Master Plan projects – \$20,000

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

Mr. Rhorer thanked the Commission for their support and informed them the request will be presented to the Metropolitan Council on Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

6. Governmental Issues – There was no information to report.

7. Update from Previous Board Meeting – There was no information to report.

8. Development Initiatives – Development Underway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current projects. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following 15 projects that are currently underway.

- Associated General Contractors
- Beauregard Quarters
- Belvedere Townhomes
- Cane Land Distillery
- City Dock Shade Structure
- City Hall Plaza
- Deville Apartments
- Elysian II Apartments
- Downtown Library
- Lofts @ 6C
- Courtyard Marriott
- Maritime One Apartments
- River House
- Sonic
- Water Campus

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the greenway. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that iris bulbs have been ordered for the North Blvd. portion of the greenway and will be planted within two weeks. The East Blvd. portion of the Downtown Greenway has completed 95% construction drawings. Those drawings have been submitted to DOTD for review and have received environmental clearance from SHPO.

North Blvd. Town Square Phase II – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, rendered images of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the original plan for the St. Phillip promenade was a 16' wide walkway but has since increased to 24' wide. The change was decided following meetings with the Old State Capitol to maintain the original width for logistical purposes. The project is expected to be bid out in July 2017. Mr. Rhorer thanked the Secretary of State and Mrs. Mary Durusau.

Dock Shade Structure – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of proposed shade structures. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the contract has been signed and the material is being fabricated. The Notice to Proceed was issued and the projected date for installation is June or July 2017.

City Hall Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed improvements and photographs of current construction. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the construction is proceeding ahead.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the exterior of the Watermark. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that Watermark located at 150 3rd Street, was awarded the April Downtown Distinction Award for the outstanding business in the Hospitality category. Mr. Adam Gautreaux, General Manager, accepted the award and expressed his appreciation for the recognition. The winners are promoted on social media outlets and the category for May is education. Ms. Cooper briefed the Commission on the upcoming meetings:

April 17 – Planning Commission will be voting on a new signage ordinance

April 20 – Ordinance sub-committee is meeting to amend the Arts and Entertainment ordinance to the downtown overlay district ordinance. It is not an expansion of the A & E

Rotary Centennial Project – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a picture of the meeting with Mr. Po Shu Wang and renderings of the proposed sculpture. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Mr. Po Shu Wang, project artist, recently made a site visit and met with the Centennial committee. Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Skipper Post for his involvement with the project. The sculpture is projected to be installed fall 2018, which marks Rotary's centennial anniversary.

Development Toolkit Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the cover for the toolkit. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the DDD is in the process of updating the development toolkit. The development toolkit is an inventory of where we are economically downtown. The proposed date for completion is the end of April 2017. Mr. Vicknair will present the updated version at the May board meeting and it will be available on the DDD website.

New Business – Iberia Bank – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the exterior and interior of the bank. Mr. Norman Theriot, Branch Manager, informed the Commission the bank is the 8th location in the Baton Rouge market and is located at the corner of Third and Convention Street. Mr. Theriot expressed his excitement to be downtown and encouraged everyone to visit the branch.

Sonic – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the restaurant is open and located at Government and 10th Street.

9. Events – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Rhorer congratulated everyone involved with events downtown this weekend, which brought record crowds. Unfortunately, over the weekend, three of the sculptures were vandalized and 19 light poles on the riverfront were damaged. The City Police have increased patrols and are reviewing surveillance cameras. Mr. Casey Tate congratulated DBA and The Blues Festival on first class events and commended the Department of Public Works for their work with the events. Mr. Tate briefed the Commission on the following events.

- Live After Five – 14, 21, 28
- First Baptist Church Family Day – April 15
- FUMC Easter Sunrise Service – April 16
- The 3rd Annual Third Street Songwriters Festival – April 22
- OLOL Driving The Future – April 27
- MS Walk/Happy's 5K – April 29
- Boys and Girls Club Field Day – May 5
- Baton Rouge Arts Market – May 6
- Preserve Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- USS Kidd

Ms. Courtney Hunt, Visit Baton Rouge, informed the Commission that the 2017 USBC Women's Championships will be held at the Raising Cane's River Center from April 23 – July 9 2017. Ms. Hunt encouraged downtown merchants to welcome the participants by placing a welcome poster in their window.

10. 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.

11. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Mrs. Rachel DiResto noted the tremendous amount of progress of PBR II. She also commented upon the opportunities with the boundary expansion and recognizing the partnerships necessary to plan and redevelop the area. Mrs. Diresto also noted an improvement of maintenance in the downtown area and commended the Downtown Maintenance Committee for their efforts.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Emily Sulzer informed the Commission that sponsorships are available for the 2017 Fresh Fest. The annual ten week summer festival begins May 27 and ends July 29, 2017.

Downtown Business Association (DBA) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mrs. Lauren Tompkins reviewed the line-up for the Live After Five concerts and briefed the Commission on the upcoming Coffee Chat scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 8:00 a.m. at the Old State Capitol. Mrs. Tompkins commended the Department of Public Works for their assistance with the concerts as well as the other partnerships.

12. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

13. Public Comment – Sgt. Leonard Harry informed the Commission that first community meeting was held March 21, 2017 and the next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall, 9th floor, #905.

Mrs. Mary Durusau, director of Old State Capitol, briefed the Commission on the upcoming exhibit at the Old State Capitol, "The Power of Children". Everyone was encouraged to visit the powerful exhibit which will be on display through May 25, 2017.

DDD Commission Mtg.
April 11, 2017
Pg. 5

Mrs. Sadie Roberts Joseph, curator of the Odell S. Williams Now and Then Museum of African-American Museum, encouraged everyone to visit the museum and view the exhibit commemorating the 200th anniversary of the City of Baton Rouge. The museum is highlighting the Baton Rouge bus boycott.

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.

Mr. Daniel Stetson, Executive Director of the LSU Museum of Art, briefed the Commission on the opening exhibits. Mr. Stetson commended the lay out of the Blues Festival and encouraged everyone to attend the museum and gift shop.

Mr. Kearny thanked Mr. Bill Stark for hosting the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.