

DDD Commission Meeting
August 11, 2015, 8:00 a.m.
Holiday Inn Express, 400 North Blvd.

Attending: Fran Gladden, Ric Kearny, Cheryl McCormick, Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Scott Hensgens, Gordon LeBlanc, Sevetri Wilson

Others in Attendance: Mike Airhart, Joe Anthony, Jo Landry Bagwell, Alicia Baron, Tom Bergman, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Ben Blackwell, Shannon Blakeman, Timothy Boone, Robert Boudreaux, Michael Brassett, Chelsea Brasted, Zach Broussard, Kevin Broussard, Mike Bruce, Neva Butkas, Helen Butts, Gayle Carnahan, Johnathan Cary, Mandy Cazedessus, Carey Chauvin, Brad Cobb, Whitney Cooper, Suzette Crocker, Craig Davidson, Tom Dawson, Michael Day, Angela deGravelles, Philip Dempsey, Kristen Diehl, Rachel DiResto, Elaine Disher, Dominic Distefano, William Doran, Heather Fatzinger, Christine Forsman, Judy Foust, Perry Franklin, Jason Haynes, Daniel Hernandez, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Courtney Hunt, Rebecca Jacobs, Melody Joachin, Mary Johnson, Alex Juan, Bliss Kelley, Douglas Kennedy, Nicole Kennelly, Tara Kistler, Ashley LaBorde, Lori Lasseigne, Steven LeBlanc, Beverly LeBeau, Diane Losavio, Lisa Lymuel, Michelle Mahaffey, Staci Manning, Lauralyn Maranto, Mary Jane Marcantel, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Rev. David Melville, Ryan McKnight, Tommy Milazzo, BJ Militello, Debbie Mire, Brandon Morgan, Jennifer Myer, Mikela Nagura, Tim Nesmith, Lisa Nice, Chris Nichols, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Donna Odom, Mary Olinde, Tamara Palmer, Melissa Parmelee, Sgt. Joel Pattison, Michael Petty, Lluvia Peveto, Duane Pierce, Andy Pino, Eric Poche, Skipper Post, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Stephanie Riegel, Stephanie Rivers, Lakeisha Robichaux, Fredrick Sargent, Stacy Schlieve, Bob Schmidt, Ray Scriber, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Darlene Shingleur, James Slaton, Lisa Smith, Shannon Smith, Karen Stagg, Craig Stevens, Emily Sulzer, Casey Tate, Ben Taylor, Jeremy Theriot, Chris Trahan, Veach Tucker, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair,

1. Mrs. Fran Gladden called the meeting to order.
2. Mrs. Fran Gladden declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Ric Kearny moved to approve the agenda, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mrs. Melanie Montanaro moved to approve the July14, 2015 minutes, Mr. Ric Kearny seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Fran Gladden thanked the River Center for hosting the meeting. Mr. Michael Day welcomed everyone to the River Center and briefed them on the upcoming events. Rev. David Melville shared a few words of wisdom.

5. Board Action – There was no board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – Courtyard by Marriott – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering for the Courtyard by Marriott. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council voted against the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the Courtyard by Marriott. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the KPMG report and the TIF. The DDD will continue to work with Windsor Aughtry in hopes of re-introducing the item before the Metropolitan Council at a later date.

6b. Development Initiatives – Mid Year Report – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the cover of the Mid Year Report. Each Commissioner received the report on USB. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to view the report online and thanked the Commission for their continued support.

DDD New Website – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the new DDD web page. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to view the new DDD web site at www.downtownbatonrouge.org, which will be launched by the end of this week.

UDC Design Level 5 – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of design changes. Mr. Frank Duke, Planning Commission Director, informed the Commission that the Planning Commission is in the process of upgrading the design levels in the Arts and Entertainment Overlay District with the new Downtown Design Level. The guidelines will address design issues such as parking, sidewalk benches and building facades.

Rotary Centennial Project Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the project site, Rotary logo, photographs of examples of art pieces from the top 3 finalists and timeline. Mr. Skipper Post informed the Commission that they have narrowed the proposals down to the top 3 finalists. Within the next month the finalists will be brought to Baton Rouge to tour the installation site and meet with the Rotary Centennial Committee.

500 Laurel – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that construction is progressing and the project is expected to be completed in the 1st quarter of 2016. Business First Bank will be located in the building.

Maritime One – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the building is currently under renovation and will include 24 residential units.

DPW Reorganization – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the reorganization chart. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Carey Chauvin, acting DPW Director, briefed the Commission on the changes to DPW. There are now 6 independent departments each with a department head. They have already seen improvements with the new structure of the department.

Riverfront Improvements – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the improvements and proposed signage. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that Department of Public Works is working on the Request For Proposals for the wayfinding signage. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the DDD is working on updating the pedestrian wayfinding signage on the riverfront and installing 15 maps. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD will introduce the Levee Loop, a .5 mile and 1.5 mile loop that can be used by walkers, joggers and bicyclists. The loop is completely lit and incorporates the top of the levee from Florida Street to South Blvd. and the new pathway along River Rd.

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 full Maintenance Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2015. The subcommittees are working on the following issues:

Enforcement Committee – Monitoring the updated 311 system
Ordinance Committee – Reviewing the ordinance applicable to sidewalk and street
Education Committee – Working on a streetscape flyer / street sanitation campaign
Volunteer / Funding Committee – Possible partnership with Mentorship Academy for the Ambassador like program.

Downtown Greenway Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of greenway. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that East Blvd. is due in three weeks with 95% to DOTD. North Blvd 95% complete construction documents currently being reviewed by DOTD. Design consultants are currently finalizing signage and construction is expected to begin early 2016.

Downtown Bike Racks / EPA Bike Share Program – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the bike ride. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that CRPC is currently reviewing the bids. The bike racks are projected to be installed the end of 2015. EPA is expected to submit the final recommendations for the bike share plan in a few months.

I-10 Corridor Improvement Study – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the flyer. Each Commissioner received a copy of the informational sheet. Mr. Perry Franklin briefed the Commission on the I-10 Corridor Improvement Study. Following are the dates for the Open House Public Meetings:

- **Aug. 31, 6:00 p.m. – Baton Rouge River Center**
- **Sept. 1, 6:00 p.m. – WBR Community Center**
- **Sept. 3, 6:00 p.m. – Crown Plaza Hotel Ballroom**

525 Lafayette Street – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Ms. Tina Rance, Commercial Properties, informed the Commission that the first resident is moving in to the apartments September 2015. The units offer great views and the leasing is going well.

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Everyone was encouraged to look at the web site for 525 at www.525lafayette.com. There is space available on the first floor for retail. Mrs. Rance also mentioned that the Water Campus development is moving along. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Lafayette Street is closed between Florida and Convention as part of the Downtown Sewer Rehabilitation Construction.

New Businesses – 1010 Nic – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the interior of the building. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that several of the businesses are now open.

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.

- Twilight Classic – August 15
- Le'Moine Live – August 18
- Sickle Cell Walk – August 22
- Big River Regional – August 29
- Live After Five – September 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23
- B.R. Arts Market – September 5
- 13th Gate Escape / Louisiana's Ultimate Escape Game
- Foundation for Historical Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- 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 Third Street development.

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Mrs. Rachel DiResto briefed the duties of the Complete Street Advisory Committee. The committee meets to monitor the implementation of the Complete Streets policy adopted by the Metropolitan Council. Mrs. DiResto also informed the Commission that the Louisiana Smart Growth Summit is scheduled for November 3 – 5, 2015. Everyone was encouraged to visit www.summit.cpep.org for more information.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Emily Sulzer thanked the chefs that participated in the Fresh Fest cooking demonstrations. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to visit the market during the week.

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:

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- August 26 – DBA Open House
- September 3 – DBA Social – Draft House
- September 4 – Live After Five begins

8. **Correspondence** – There was no correspondence.

9. **Public Comment** – Fr. Pat Mascarella expressed his concern with the following items:

- Wheel chair accessibility on the downtown paths and sidewalks
- The curb on River Road is high not ADA Accessible

Fr. Mascarella expressed the importance to include ADA Accessibility in all projects. Mr. Davis Rhorer said it is duly noted.

Ms. Rebecca briefed everyone on the 2nd Annual Charcuterie, Pâtés & Rosés. The event will be held at The Roux House on August 20th from 6pm-9pm. This is a grand tasting event benefiting The Ronald McDonald House Charities in Memphis donating in honor of Team Parker.

Frederick Sargent with Electronic Media encouraged businesses or anyone wanting to promote an event to check out his walking billboards.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.