

DDD Commission Meeting
December 8, 2015, 8:00 a.m.
Hilton Capitol Center Baton Rouge, Heidelberg Ballroom, 201 Lafayette St.

Attending: Fran Gladden, Scott Hensgens, Ric Kearny,
Gordon LeBlanc, Cheryl McCormick,

Absent: Melanie Montanaro, Sevetri Wilson

Others in Attendance: Logan Anderson, Joe Anthony, Matt Beeson, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Shannon Blakeman, Timothy Boone, Maggie Bowles, Kevin Broussard, Ryan Broussard, Patrick Browne, Neva Butkas, Helen Butts, Sgt. Kyle Callihan, Gayle Carnahan, Mandy Cazedessus, Janee Chanet, Margaret Chappius, Catherine Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Melanie Couvillon, Ron Crum, Sandra Daire, Alex Daniell, Michael Day, David Deliman, Kristin Diehl, Peter Dieterich, Mary Durusau, Liz Eure, Lynley Farris, Judy Foust, Rannah Gray, Cyrus Greco, John O, Hearin, Marcus Hennigan, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Mark Hudson, Courtney Hunt, Fairleigh Jackson, Mary Johnson, John Kaufman, Bliss Kelley, Chris Knight, Stephanie Landry, Lori Lasseigne, Jason Lockhart, Staci Manning, Lauralyn Maranto, Mary Jane Marcantel, Suzanne McCain, Al McDuff, Patrick Michaels, B. J. Militello, Liz Murry, Chris Negulescu, Chris Nichols, Amy Norval, Mary Olinde, Jessica Ottaviano, Tamara Palmer, Melissa Parmelee, Michael Petty, Lluvia Peveto, Duane Pierce, Andy Pino, Eric Poche, Skipper Post, Margaret Read, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Chad Rigby, Susanne Romig, Steve Sanoski, David Santini, Fredrick Sargent, Bob Schmidt, Anna Schwab, LeAnn Shelley, Sarah Stafford, Emily Sulzer, Colleen Thomas, Lauren Lambert-Tompkins, Chris Trahan, Veach Tucker, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Doug Villien, Neill Wright,

1. Mrs. Fran Gladden called the meeting to order.
2. Mrs. Fran Gladden declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Gordon LeBlanc moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Ric Kearny seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the November 10, 2015 minutes, Mr. Ric Kearny seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Rhorer thanked the Hilton for hosting the meeting and encouraged everyone to view the recent renovations to the lobby.

5. Board Action – DDD 2016 Budget – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed 2015 projects. Each Commissioner received a copy of the proposed 2016 budget and performance measures. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the proposed budget for 2016 is \$656,360. The DDD continues to implement the performance measures. Mr. Rhorer highlighted upcoming projects for 2016 and expressed his gratitude for the public and private sectors support of downtown. Mr. Rhorer requested the DDD Commission adopt the 2016 budget as presented. Mrs. Gladden asked when the tax that passed in October goes into effect. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the tax goes into effect the beginning of 2017 for five years. In 2016 the DDD will begin planning work for the district. **Mr. Hensgens moved to adopt the 2016 Operating Budget and performance measures as presented, Mr. Kearny seconded and the 2016 Operating Budget was unanimously adopted.**

6a. Governmental Issues – Nominating Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DDD logo. Mrs. Gladden requested that the nominating committee for the recommendation of 2016 DDD officers consist of Mr. Scott Hensgens, Mr. Ric Kearny and Ms. Sevetri Wilson. The recommendation of officers will be presented at the January 12, 2016 board meeting.

6b. Development Initiatives – Water Campus – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the Water Institute of the Gulf. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the ground breaking for the Water Institute of the Gulf, the \$22 million iconic building on the old municipal dock, was held on Friday, November 13, 2015.

Festival of Lights – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs from December 4, 2015 Festival of Lights. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Festival of Lights was well attended and is the oldest holiday event in the city.

Butler Building – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the current construction located at 640 Main Street. Mr. David Santini, Chenevert Architects, briefed the Commission on the renovations to the one story 1920's building into office space. The demolition phase has begun and renovations are expected to be complete by the end of January 2016. The project has taken advantage of federal and state tax credits.

Saltz Building – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building located at 442 Main Street. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Kevin and Helena Cunningham will be utilizing historic tax credits to renovate the 1924 building located next to 442 Main Street. The development will consist of one and two bedroom units and renovations will begin January 2016. Mrs. Cunningham will attend the January 2016 board meeting to update the Commission on the project.

Rotary Centennial Project – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed art piece. Mr. Skipper Post, Post Architects, informed the Commission that as part of the Rotary 100th year celebration the DDD is partnering with the Rotary Club to construct a public sculpture on the improved riverfront. The Rotary Centennial Committee met with the three finalists for the project and selected Po Shu Wang and the Living Lenses team. Mr. Post reviewed the proposal submitted by Mr. Wang. The art piece will consist of three large spheres surrounded by two rings coming out of the ground and will be an interactive piece that will include lighting and sound. The design and installation will be documented and the art piece will be unveiled in 2018.

Capitol Park Building – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the construction site. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the site is where the old Insurance building was located and it abuts Spanish Town neighborhood. Mr. Rhorer reported that Capitol facilities director Mr. Pat Pickens informed him that this is strictly an idea and there are no buildings planned at this point. If plans change and they plan to proceed Mr. Pickens will inform the DDD.

City Hall Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the renderings of the conceptual design for City Hall Plaza. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that a final page-turn walkthrough of the 90% Construction Documents with the DPW, DDD and Design Team has been scheduled for December 10, 2015 as well as a demonstration of lighting the Crest is scheduled for that evening. \$3.9 million has been requested in the 2016 budget for improvements to City Hall Plaza and if approved, construction is expected to commence January 2016.

Repentance Park – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the current construction. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that plants should be going into the ground this week.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed greenway. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that North Blvd is currently being advertised by DOTD. East Blvd. portion is under 95% review with DOTD.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo for “We Live It” campaign. The full committee meeting was held Thursday, November 19, 2015. The subcommittees will meet during the month of January 2016.

Florida and Lafayette Streetscape – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering of the proposed improvements. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the low bid for the project was awarded to Hard Rock Construction. The bid will go before the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, December 9, if the bid is accepted the next step will be to draft the contract. The streetscape improvements will include replacing trees along Lafayette and Florida Streets and adding seating areas along Florida Street.

Forgotten Baton Rouge – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the cover of the book. Mr. Doug Villien briefed the Commission on the book he published that started with the photo album that was handed down by his grandmother. The book contains photographs of the capital city from the 1890’s – 1930’s, which inspired him to research the history and write the book. Mr. Villien thanked Mr. Rhorer for writing the foreword for the book.

Holiday Shop Hop – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the map for the event. Each Commissioner received a copy of the flyer. Ms. Maggie Bowles, Visit Baton Rouge, informed the Commission that Visit Baton Rouge, DDD, Arts Council, DBA and Destination Downtown have partnered to bring Holiday Shop Hop downtown. There are 24 host locations downtown and 55 local artists featured. The first inaugural event is scheduled December 10 from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

New Businesses – ‘1913’ – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the interior of the building. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the music venue held their grand opening Saturday, December 5, 2015.

Ms. Rannah Gray briefed the Commission on the Champagne Stroll scheduled for December 10, 5:30 p.m., beginning at Visit Baton Rouge. Everyone was encouraged to visit the website at www.redstickrevelry.com to purchase the tickets.

Ms. Gray briefed the Commission about Red Stick Revelry 2015 New Year's Eve event and encouraged everyone to visit www.redstickrevelry.com for more information and to purchase VIP tickets.

Events – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Gabe Vicknair briefed the Commission on the following events.

- Champagne Stroll / Holiday Shop Hop – December 10
- BRSO – Holiday Brass – December 11
- Christmas Parade / Kiwanis Santa Fun Run – December 12
- B.R. Arts Market – December 12, 19
- FUMC Christmas Concert / First Presbyterian Church – December 20
- Red Stick Revelry – December 31
- 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 the greening of downtown.

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. There was no information to report.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Emily Sulzer briefed the Commission on the following:

- Baton Rouge Arts Market – Dec.12,19
- Market Closures for holiday season
- LSU Museum of Art Christmas Craft Activity – Dec. 19

Downtown Business Association (DBA) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the next DBA membership meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2016 at the River Center.

8. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

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

Ms. Rannah Gray briefed everyone on the book she wrote “Familiar Evil”, and announced she will have a community conversation Wednesday, December 9th at the Goodwood Library.

- Ms. Fairleigh Jackson briefed the Commission on the following events:
 - Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act Throughout 2016. Celebration will kick off January 14 at the Old Governor's Mansion in collaboration with the heritage lecture on Poverty Point.
 - FHL is also coordinating an Exhibition: "Preservation Wins and Loses"

- Mrs. Fran Gladden congratulated Mr. Rhorer and the DDD staff for a successful year and thanked the City Police for their service downtown.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.