

DDD Commission Meeting
December 13, 2016, 8:00 a.m.
Hilton Capitol Center Baton Rouge – Heidelberg Ballroom, 201 Lafayette Street

Attending: Eric Dexter, Fran Gladden, Ric Kearny, Gordon LeBlanc,
Cheryl McCormick, Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Scott Hensgens

Others in Attendance: Josh Allread, Gary Anderson, Bliss Bernard, Gary BlackTimothy Boone, Kevin Broussard, Sgt. Kyle Callihan, Gayle Carnahan, Jonathan Cary, Bubba Cashio, Albert Chao, Renee Chatelain, Derrell Cohoon, Whitney Cooper, Melanie Couvillion, Keith Dixon, Frank Duke, Heather Fatzinger, Phil Fernberg, Melony Fields, Remy Finn, Judy Foust, Barbara Freiberg, Adam Gautreaux, Carol Gikas, Ty Gose, Rannah Gray, Kayla Hayes, Corey Himes, Ryan Holcomb, Mayor Holden, Cid Hollis, Courtney Hunt, Stacy Jamieson, Mary Johnson, Mary Joseph, Sam Karlon, John Kaufman, Chris Knight, Jack Koban, David Kors, Beverly LeBeau, Lauralyn Maranto, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Lee Melancon, Tommy Milazzo, B. J. Militello, Donnie Miller, David Mock, Ben Moran, Damen Nabors, Mikela Morgan, Chris Neumann, Lisa Nice, Chris Nichols, Mary Olinde, Annie Ourso, Melissa Parmelee, Michael Petty, Rheesa Purpera, Tina Rance, Lauren Ray, Margaret Read, Davis Rhorer, Fredrick Sargent, Jane Skerkoske, Lisa Smith, Emily Sulzer, Ebru Sumer, Cherry Talbert, Casey Tate, Lauren Tompkins, Nancy Tran, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Marlon White, La Rui Yao, Counwilwoman Tara Wicker, Neill Wright, Samear Zaitoon, Adriana Zambrano

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. Mr. Gordon LeBlanc moved to approve the November 8, 2016 minutes, Mr. Ric Kearny seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Fran Gladden recognized Mr. Chris Knight and thanked the Hilton for hosting the commission meeting.

5. Board Action – Nominating Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DDD logo. Mrs. Gladden requested that the nominating committee for the recommendation of 2017 DDD officers consist of herself, Mr. Scott Hensgens and Mr. Ric Kearny. The recommendation of officers will be presented at the January 10, 2017 board meeting.

6a. Governmental Issues – Parking Strategy Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of parking meters and management personnel. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council will consider hiring Lanier Parking Solutions to manage downtown parking as a result of the parking strategy recommended by Fregonese & Associates. The parking strategy addresses the following issues:

- Modern Meters – Upgrade with new meters that can pay with card or phone
- Parking Guidance – Digital parking sign that will indicate how many spaces available and location

- Management – Privatize the system
- Garage Expansion – River Center garage could expand to the north and add 850 spaces

6b. Development Initiatives – Mayor Holden Recognition – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of Mayor Holden. Mr. Rhorer commended Mayor Holden for his support and leadership over the past twelve years. A tribute video was played for the audience and the Mayor was presented with a token of appreciation. Mayor Holden thanked the DDD for their partnership in downtown projects.

2016 Development Recap – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of 2016 development. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the list of 2016 downtown projects. Mr. Rhorer invited the Commission to the Lofts at 6C groundbreaking, December 22 at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of Florida and Sixth Streets. Mr. Rhorer recognized and congratulated Councilwoman Tara Wicker and Councilwoman Barbara Freiberg on their recent election success for their district representation on the EBR Metropolitan Council.

Zip Car – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a zip car. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the official launch for the Zip Car ribbon is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. at North Blvd. Town Square. There will be three zip cars located in the downtown area. Mr. Rhorer also informed the Commission that CATS has moved the downtown hub from the side of the Old State Capitol but the downtown trolley continues to run through downtown.

River House Apartments – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of proposed renderings. Mr. Ty Gose, Latter & Blum, informed the Commission the apartment complex is scheduled to open April 1, 2017 with 224 residential units for lease. A 32,000 sq. ft. office building is projected to be complete by May 2017 and 15,000 sq. ft. retail development will be complete by the third quarter of 2017.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the current construction and images of the renderings of the proposed improvements. Mr. Vicknair briefed the Commission on the progress of the North Blvd. portion of the greenway. The project is expected to be complete by December 25, 2016. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 5pm. Mr. Rhorer commended Michael Petty with Reich and Associates and Design Workshop for their work on the project.

The East Blvd. portion is expected to begin construction in the early spring of 2017.

River Road Multi-Use Pathway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed renderings. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the project will include the following:

- Bike lane west side of River Rd.
- Overlay roadway
- 8' bike lane
- Landscape buffer

A Project Kick off meeting with DOTD will be scheduled following the bid selection and the project letting on December 16, 2016.

Riverfront Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of proposed improvements. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that Carbo Landscape has completed the schematic designs. The Professional Services Agreement with CARBO Landscape to provide continued design services is being presented to the Metropolitan Council for approval Wednesday, December 14, 2016. Once approved Carbo Landscape will move forward with final designs and construction drawings. Construction is proposed to begin in the 1st quarter of 2017 with a six month construction period. Funding from State Sales Tax Rebate funds dedicated to Riverfront Improvements has already been approved for this project; which includes design and implementation. Mr. Rhorer commended Mayor Holden for his support of this project.

City Hall Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the bid received by Arrighi Construction for City Hall Plaza Renovations is being presented to the Metropolitan Council for approval Wednesday, December 14, 2016. The project will be funded with State Sales Tax Rebate funding dedicated to riverfront improvements. This project is the final component of Plan Baton Rouge II's Central Green recommendation which involves creating a contiguous system of greenspaces surrounded by the City's civic and cultural attractions. The plaza area has not seen any substantial improvements in forty years.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of a current maintenance issue. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission the recent overall maintenance meeting was held last month. A meeting is scheduled Thursday, December 15 with EBR Trash companies to discuss ways to improve the dumpster issues. The "We Live It" campaign was successful and Ms. Cooper commended everyone involved with the campaign.

Red Stick Revelry – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the flyer for the event. Ms. Rannah Gray briefed the Commission on the Red Stick Revelry to be held Saturday, December 31 at North Blvd. Town Square and thanked the sponsors. The Champagne Stroll held last week was the kick off and fund raiser for the event. The Red Stick Revelry is also the kick off for the Baton Rouge Bicentennial. Ms. Gray encouraged everyone to attend the event and for more information visit www.redstickrevelry.com.

New Business – Downtown Healthcare & Wellness – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that Dr. Sicard will be locating his dentistry in the offices of Downtown Healthcare & Wellness. Dr. Sicard will begin taking appointments December 2016.

Regal Nails – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Ms. Nancy Tran briefed the Commission on their services and encouraged everyone to visit the salon at 222 Convention Street.

Cocha – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a menu item. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the restaurant located at 445 Sixth Street will open December 19, 2016.

Milford's – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a menu item. Mr. Adam Gautreaux, Watermark General Manager, informed the Commission that the restaurant features several family recipes and is open for breakfast and lunch. Beginning January 2017 online ordering will be available.

Southern University – Preston Castille, president of Southern University Alumni Federation, informed the Commission that Southern University has entered into a collaborative agreement with Mentorship Academy to utilize the building for Southern University's downtown campus to offer evening law classes. The law classes will begin the first week in January 2017. Mr. Castille also mentioned there will be a larger announcement in January 2017.

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.

- Lunchtime Advent Study – December 14,21
- Baton Rouge Arts Market – December 17
- FUMC Christmas Concert / First Presbyterian Live Nativity – December 18
- Opera Louisiane – December 19
- Red Stick Revelry – December 31
- Belle of Baton Rouge
- Preserve Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- USS Kidd

Mr. Rhorer commended Ms. Carol Gikas with LASM for her support of downtown.

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 residential and retail development along Third Street as well as green space.

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

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Emily Sulzer informed the Commission that the markets will be closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Everyone was encouraged to visit one of the mobile markets.

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

- Working on new web site
- December 14 – DBA Coffee Chat Scheduling the events for 2017
- January 17 – DBA assisting with the Baton Rouge 200 event.
- LAF commences April 2017
- Thanked Mayor Holden for his support of downtown events and projects

8. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

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9. **Public Comment** – Councilwoman Wicker expressed excitement for being re-appointed as Councilwoman for District 10.

Councilwoman Elect Barbara Frieberg expressed her commitment to representing the city-parish and District 12.

Mrs. Gladden commended Mayor for his years of service and wished him good luck with his future endeavors.

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 at 9:00 a.m.