

DDD Commission Meeting  
February 11, 2016, 8:00 a.m.  
Mentorship Academy, 339 Florida Street

Attending: Fran Gladden, Ric Kearny, Gordon LeBlanc, Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Scott Hensgens, Cheryl McCormick, Sevetri Wilson

Others in Attendance: Logan Anderson, Joe Anthony, Prescott Bailey, Alicia Baron, Matt Beeson, Bliss Kelley Bernard, Timothy Boone, Maggie Bowles, Kevin Broussard, Ryan Broussard, Mandy Cazedessus, Janee Chanet, Albert Chao, Margaret Chappius, Whitney Cooper, Ron Crum, Alex Daniell, Mary Darasau, Michael Day, Mary Deas Dunn, David Deliman, Kristin Diehl, Peter Dieterich, Paul Dominique, Mary Durusau, Liz Eure, Lynley Farris, Lanier Flanders, Perry Franklin, Brian Goad, Liz Goad, Rannah Gray, Cyrus Greco, Kim Haddox, Caitlain Hayes, John O, Hearin, Marcus Hennigan, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Cid Hollis, Lauren Hull, Courtney Hunt, Fairleigh Jackson, Mary Johnson, Talene Kaltakjian, John Kaufman, Chris Knight, Jack Koban, James Lachney, Joey Lambert, Stephanie Landry, Michael Lang, Jason Langlois, Lori Lasseigne, Sam Losavio, Michelle Mahaffey, Claire Major, Staci Manning, Mary Jane Marcantel, Jennifer Mayer, Suzanne McCain, Al McDuff, Robert McGuire, Patrick Michaels, Tommy Milazzo, B. J. Militello, Joe Mosby, Liz Murry, Mikeila Nagura, Chris Negulescu, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Mike O'Deoy, Mary Olinde, Lluvia Pevets, Sean Pharis, Ashley Powell, Sarah Powell, Margaret Read, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Chad Rigby, Stephanie Rivers, Fredrick Sargent, Illya Smirnov, Lisa Smith, Sarah Stafford, Mary Stein, Christina Stephens, Craig Stevens, Emily Sulzer, Casey Tate, Jon Thorning, Lauren Lambert-Tompkins, Chris Trahan, Veach Tucker, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Spencer Watts, Councilwoman Wicker, Neill Wright, Samear Zaitoon

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. Gordon LeBlanc seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mrs. Melanie Montanaro moved to approve the January 12, 2016 minutes, Mr. Ric Kearny seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Fran Gladden thanked Dr. Walles for hosting the meeting at the Mentorship Academy. Dr. Walles welcomed everyone and briefed them on the history of the school.

**5. Board Action – There was no board action.**

**6a. Governmental Issues – There was no information.**

**6b. Development Initiatives – Downtown East Developments** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the development map and photographs of the developments. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects proposed for downtown:

- **Lofts @6C** – The project goes before the Planning Commission February 15, 2016. Mr. John O Hearin will report on the project at the March Meeting
- **Sports Academy** – No update to report

- **Deville Apartments** – No update to report
- **Elysian II** – The proposed expansion is going before the Planning Commission February or March 2016.
- **Arkel** – Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Arkel is renovating the 16, 000 sq. ft. Schaffer & Associates building which will house the Division of Administrative Law. They are also adding another 10,000 sq. ft. building next to the Schaffer building which will house Arkel and 4 courtrooms.
- **Louisiana Avenue Connector** – No update to report

**Commerce Building** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the web page. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release. Mr. Michael Lang informed the Commission that construction should be completed in approximately thirty days. Mr. Lang briefed the Commission on the web site and encouraged everyone to visit the web site at [www.commercebldg.com](http://www.commercebldg.com). Mr. Lang introduced Ms. Katelyn Hayes, regional manager and Ms. Amanda Clavier, leasing agent. Ms. Clavier informed the Commission that residents will be moving in beginning Wednesday, March 30, 2016 and an open house is scheduled for today from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., refreshments will be provided by Magpie Café. Mr. Lang informed the Commission that Gaudet Bros and Magpie Café are scheduled to open on the first floor the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016. They are in the process of searching for rooftop tenants. Mr. Rhorer thanked everyone involved in the project.

**Red Stick Trolley** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the trolley. Ms. Christina Stephens, Covalent Logic, informed the Commission that they will be launching a public outreach and marketing effort to increase ridership of the Garden District Trolley. Ms. Stephens briefed the Commission on the trolley route and stops. CATS will be hosting a ride and learn day in March for the residents of the Garden District. Everyone was encouraged to stay connected via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

**Downtown Library** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of proposed renderings of the library. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Spencer Watts, director, briefed the Commission on the project and informed them that the construction documents are near completion and will be going out to bid this month. With a 30 month construction period a temporary space needs to be secured. The library board has viewed over 20 sites downtown and chosen the Kress building as the temporary space for the library. The Metropolitan Council has deferred the request and will vote on the item Wednesday, February 24, 2016. Councilwoman Tara Wicker expressed the importance of this project and encouraged everyone to contact their council representative and express their support of the library. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved in the project.

**Downtown Greenway** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed greenway. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council accepted the low bid from Rotollo Construction for the North Blvd portion and they will be moving forward to the kick off date. T. J. Jemison (formerly East Blvd.) portion is under 95% review with DOTD and the state historic preservation office.

**Downtown Bike Racks** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the proposed bike racks. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the City received a grant from Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality program in partnership with CRPC. The majority of the 70 bike racks will be installed on Third Street and Riverfront beginning this week.

**Downtown Bike Share** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the bike share site in Birmingham, Alabama. Ms. Cooper informed the Commission that representatives from the DDD, BRAF, LSU, BREC, CPEX and CRPC will be attending a site visit to Birmingham, Alabama to learn about their successful bike share program. The visit will take place at the end of February 2016.

**Downtown Maintenance Committee** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a street sweeper. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission the subcommittees will meet the following dates:

Ordinance Sub Committee – February 16 – Finalizing a draft of the sidewalk café ordinance  
Full Maintenance Committee – Next meeting is scheduled Thursday, March 17

The committee is researching a variety of ideas that other cities have used to improve street maintenance.

**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 Metropolitan Council awarded the contract to Hard Rock Construction. The kick off meeting should be scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2016. The streetscape improvements will include replacing trees along Lafayette and Florida Streets and adding seating areas along Florida Street.

**Public Hearings – I-10 Meetings** – 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:

Monday, February 22, 6pm at McKinley Middle Magnet School

Tuesday, February 23, 6pm at Addis Community Center

Thursday, February 25, 6pm at Baton Rouge Marriott

Everyone was encouraged to attend one of the meetings and share their input and to stay informed by visiting [www.i10br.com](http://www.i10br.com)

**TramLinkBR** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the public meeting flyer. Each Commissioner received a copy of the flyer. Ms. Rannah Gray informed the Commission that a public workshop to discuss the proposed tram is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the LASM. The workshop led by Future BR planner John Fregonese will be an interactive, hands-on workshop with maps and key-pad polling for instant results. The proposed modern streetcar system will connect downtown with LSU campus and points in between. Everyone was encouraged to attend the meeting and for more information visit [www.TramLinkBR.com](http://www.TramLinkBR.com).

**Development Toolkit** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the cover. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the Development Toolkit is an inventory of where we are economically downtown and briefed them on the contents. Mr. Rhorer commended the staff for their work on the piece.

**New Business – Another Broken Egg** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Ms. Mary Dunn, regional manager, informed the Commission that Another Broken Egg has signed a lease to locate in the IBM building. The restaurant will be opening on the first floor of the building in the fourth quarter of 2016. Plans are to be open seven days a week for breakfast and lunch.

**Compose** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Ms. Sarah Powell, owner, informed the Commission that her Communication Design Firm has located their offices in Beauregard Town at 522 Europe Street. Everyone was encouraged to visit the web site at [www.composedigital.com](http://www.composedigital.com)

**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.

- St. James Glory and Gumbo – February 12 – March 18
- Mardi Gras Mambo / Red Stick Roux Rally – February 13
- Dr. Everett D. Gibson book discussion – February 16
- Live After Five Reveal Party – February 17
- OLOL 5K / B. R. Arts Market – March 5
- OLOL Half Marathon – March 6
- 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:

- February 13 – Red Stick Sprouts
- February 13 – Chef Brant Palazzo is the guest chef for Fresh from the Market cooking demonstration and later this month the demonstration will feature chefs from Fresh Kitchen and Hotel Indigo

**Downtown Business Association (DBA)** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mrs. Alicia Baron informed the Commission that the Downtown Business Association has approximately 150 members and briefed the Commission on the following upcoming events:

- February 17 – Life After Five Line Up Reveal Watch Party
- February 17 – Hotel Indigo 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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

9. **Public Comment** – Ms. Mary Durusau encouraged briefed the Commission on the exhibit by James Michalopoulos, an American painter, sculptor and entrepreneur. Everyone was encouraged to view the exhibit; it will be on display from February 18 through April 30, 2016.

Ms. Jennifer Meyer, CASA, briefed the Commission on the upcoming fundraisers:

- April 11 – Terracon Golf Benefit for CASA at the University Golf Club Course.
- March 31 – Fundraiser at Kendra Scott — 10% off purchase and 10% of proceeds to benefit CASA. For more information on either of these events visit [www.casabr.org](http://www.casabr.org).

Mrs. Liz Goad, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, briefed the Commission on the upcoming events:

- February 17 – Jazz Listening Room performance by saxophonist Christian Winther
- April 2 – Fest for All

Everyone was encouraged to visit [www.artsbr.org](http://www.artsbr.org) for more information on these events and upcoming events.

The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the interior of the building. Mrs. Claire Major informed the Commission that her family purchased the North Side Motor Exchange building on the corner of Scenic Hwy. and Gayosa Street. Mrs. Major has relocated her business “Artvark” into the showroom of the building and changed the name to Artvark, Ltd at Northside. There is 6,600 sq. ft. available for lease or rent and the grand opening is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2016 from 12noon – 6:30 p.m.

Mr. John Thorning briefed the Commission on the Red Stick Roux Rally scheduled for Saturday, February 13 at Galvez Plaza. The gumbo cook-off is a fundraiser to benefit Youth Oasis, a local children’s homeless shelter. Everyone was encouraged to support this fundraiser and visit [www.rouxrally.com](http://www.rouxrally.com) for more information.

Dr. Walles thanked everyone for attending the meeting at the school and informed the Commission that Mentorship Academy is a project based learning school that prepares students for college, career and citizenship. They are the only school in the city that will offer Airforce Jr. ROTC beginning next year.

Ms. Mary Stein, EBRP Library, informed the Commission that the One Book / One Community Book read for the Spring is Kingfish: The Reign of Huey P. Long.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.**