

DDD Commission Meeting  
January 10, 2008, 8:00 a.m.  
Kean Miller Conference Room, One American Place, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor

Attending: Cheri Morial Ausberry Mark Bensabat, Derrell Cohoon, Brace Godfrey, Van Mayhall, Chris Nichols

Absent: Norman Chenevert

Others in Attendance: Sandra Abchire, Hays Alexander, Joe Anthony, Kathy Barry, Brad Bates, Jeff Bell, Carolyn Bennett, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Michelle Bohan, Tim Boone, Steve Boutwell, Maria Bowen, Carrie Brantley, Danny Breaux, Dave Briggs, Mike Bruce, Sean Byers, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Gayle Carnahan, Charles Coates, Cpl. Don Coppola, Todd Copper, Sara Courtney, Chad Danos, Jay Dardenne, Pete Darling, Steven Davis, Angela deGravelles, Kim Denson, Rachel DiResto, Chris Donley, Kendrick Ebanks, Beth Fagurski, Tress Fereday, Derek Fitch, Jeff Fluhr, Scott Gaskin, Debbie Gill, Brian Goad, Kristin Goodin, Mark Goodson, Francis Grayson, Scott Hall, Cleve Hardman, Tripp Hawthorne, John O. Hearin, Mike Herschman, Kim Hodgeson, Harvey Hoffman, Mayor Holden, Beth Hughes, Staci Jamieson, Michael Joyce, Stafford Kendall, Lorraine Kolego, Dana LaFonta, Chris Laureles, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Justin Lemoine, Tom Livesay, Paul Lockett, Cathy Maddox, Jill Martinez, Dee Mather, Sandra McDougall, John McDougall, Al McDuff, Jeremy Meighan, Sara Meighan, Carrie Miller, Debbie Mire, Todd Mitchell, Al McDuff, Danny McGlynn, Jason Morris, Clifton Mount, Richard Neal, Dyke Nelson, Mike Odom, Janie Oldfield, Mary Olinde, Mary Ostrowe, Theresa Overby, Skipper Post, Mary Louise Prudhomme, Tina Rance, Davis Rhorer, Jay Robicheaux,, Erin Rolf, Kerry Ruiz, Shane Sandefer, Samuel Sanders, John Schneider, Larry Sciacchetano, Ricky Simon, Jackie Smith, Lisa Smith, Leslie Steele, John Stewart, Kelly Stutes, Thomas Summerville, Cherry Talbert, Debbi Taylor, Elizabeth Thomas, Pat VanBurkleo, Clark Vega, Cindy Verdin, Ben Vincent, Karen Vingello, Lauren Walker, Brad Way, Emily Wharton, Bubba Willis, Erin Wood , Fr. Young

1. Mr. Derrell Cohoon called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Derrell Cohoon declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Godfrey moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Mayhall seconded and the agenda was approved as amended.
4. Ms. Nichols moved to approve the December 11, 2007 minutes, Mr. Bensabat seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Rhorer thanked Steve Boutwell with Kean Miller for hosting the Commission meeting.

**5. Board Action – DDD Nominating Committee** – Each Commissioner received a copy of the slate of nominees for 2008 officers. Mr. Bensabat presented the slate of nominees for the 2008 officers as follows: Derrell Cohoon, Chairman; Van Mayhall, Jr., Vice Chairman; Cheri Ausberry, Treasurer; Christine Nichols, Secretary. **Mr. Cohoon moved to adopt the nominees as presented, Mr. Godfrey seconded and the nominees were unanimously approved as presented.** Mr. Rhorer thanked the DDD Commission for continued support and the commitment to serve on the board.

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

**6b. Development Initiatives – Mayor President Kip Holden – 2008 Outlook** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the downtown skyline. Mayor Holden said that this is exciting time in Baton Rouge. We are moving at a pace that was unimaginable and there are many projects to implement for downtown Baton Rouge. The Mayor emphasized that the city needs to look at other ways of financing in order to execute projects. He is proud to be a partner with the DDD, and to take on challenges to move the city forward. Mr. Derrell Cohoon commended the Mayor for his support of downtown.

**Secretary of State Jay Dardenne – Old State Capitol** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the Old State Capitol. Secretary of State Jay Dardenne informed the Commission that the Old State Capitol will be bringing in some new exhibits within the next few months. The exhibits will relate to Louisiana politics and political history. Plans are to engage a national group to devise a long-term master plan for the Old State Capitol exhibits, as well as merge the beauty of the existing structure with state of the art concepts for exhibits. The master plan will be a public/private partnership. Mr. Dardenne expressed that they will coordinate landscaping efforts with plans for the riverfront and downtown. The restoration of the fence is on schedule to be completed by May 2008.

**Riverfront First Phase** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph indicating the location of the North Blvd. Town Square. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that funding is in place for the first phase of the Riverfront Development Plan. The Request For Proposals for the North Blvd. Town Square will be issued in February.

**Arts & Entertainment District Update** – The Commission viewed, via power point, an aerial photograph of the proposed Arts & Entertainment District. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Fluhr informed the Commission that the committee would meet weekly in January to discuss the draft ordinance. The goal is to present the draft ordinance to the Planning Commission and Metropolitan Council by March 2008. Committee members met with the Chamber of Commerce to move forward with the economic partnership and discuss the economic incentives to assist with implementation of the design guidelines. Mr. Cohoon commended everyone involved with the Arts & Entertainment committee.

**Baton Rouge Area Chamber Business Guide** – The Commission viewed, via power point, the logo for the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Mike Odom informed the Commission that the web site for the Baton Rouge Area Chamber now includes a Business Guide. Mr. Odom briefed the Commission on the contents of the site. This aspect of the Chamber site will assist anyone with information on entrepreneurship and existing businesses in becoming more competitive.

**Sunshine Pages – 2008 Downtown Directory** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the cover page and downtown insert for the Sunshine Pages downtown directory. Ms. Cathy Maddox informed the Commission that the 2008 downtown directory has been well received and grown to an independent distribution of 20,000 copies. The directory is a guide to promote new businesses and new comers; and will be distributed next week. Ms. Maddox thanked the Mayor, Mike Odom and the many other supporters of the directory.

**River Palms Condominiums** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the rendering and elevation of the condominiums. Mr. Stephen Davis informed the Commission that the \$4 million condominium conversion north of Hollywood Casino, is approximately 75% complete. The conversion of the 98 units, include a pool and fitness center is expected to be complete by April 2008. The prices for the 1 and 2 bedroom units range from \$89,900 - \$149,900.

**Brown Danos new location** – The Commission viewed, via power point, a photograph of the exterior of the building, interior of the offices and proposed landscape improvements. Mr. Chad Danos informed the Commission that the firm has re-located to the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> & Laurel Street. Plans are to implement exterior renovations within the next few months and Mr. Danos expressed their excitement to be a part of downtown.

**New Downtown Business – Denson Brantley** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the logo. Ms. Kim Denson informed the Commission that Denson Brantley is a full service advertising agency and have located to 224 Florida Street.

**600 Main** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photograph of the logo and previous dances. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Ms. Sarah Meighan informed the Commission that she and her husband will be opening a new entertainment venue at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> & Main Street. The venue will feature live music, latin dancing and dance lessons as well as a weekly social night that will feature art and music. The establishment is scheduled to open by early February 2008.

**Cyntreniks Plaza – LA Pro Space** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the logo. Mr. Brace Godfrey introduced Ms. Sandra McDougall and informed the Commission that she and her husband John McDougall will open LA Pro Space in Cyntreniks Plaza on North Blvd. LA Pro Space will manage and market practical and cost effective office space for the film entertainment and sports broadcast industry. Office space will be available from one day to six months and offer spaces furnished or unfurnished. Offices will have access to office equipment, multi media conference rooms, production resources, HD screening rooms and editing suites. The goal is to attract talented and experience professionals of all areas.

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**Miller's** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the exterior of the building. The restaurant is scheduled to open in February 2008 at 324 Third Street.

**Boys & Girls Club** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the logo. Mr. Pat Van Burkleo, Executive Director of Boys and Girls Club, informed the Commission that the Boys and Girls Club would be hosting a film festival in April 2008 at the Shaw Center. Children 21 and younger will be able to submit their short films for the film festival, the deadline for film submission is February 1, 2008 and Mr. Van Burkleo encouraged everyone to spread the word to anyone interested.

**Laurel Street Lollapalooza** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the poster for the event. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release for the event. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to attend the annual fundraiser for the Baton Rouge Arts Council, Laurel Street Lollapalooza. The event is scheduled for Friday, January 11, from 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**Baton Rouge Jewish Film Festival** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the flyer for the event. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release for the event. Mr. Harvey Hoffman informed the Commission that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jewish Film Festival is scheduled for January 17 – 20 at the Manship Theatre. Mr. Hoffman briefed the Commission on the schedule of events and encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Shaw Center for the Arts was the one of thirteen recipients of the 2008 American Institute of Architects' Institute Honor Award.

**Downtown Mardi Gras Parades** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the listing of the parade dates. Each Commissioner received a copy of the parade schedule. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the schedule for the parades and encouraged everyone to view the schedule and routes on the DDD web site.

**Arte Rouge** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the logo for the event. Ms. Jill Martinez informed the Commission that businesses and local artists would produce Arte Rouge along Third Street, which will follow the Southern Breeze Wine and Culinary Festival scheduled for April 5, 2008. The event will be a white-linen style art walk along three blocks along Third Street. Ms. Martinez encouraged anyone interested in sponsorships or participating to contact her at Brunner Gallery.

**Foundation for Historical Louisiana** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the flyer for the event. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release for the event. Ms. Carolyn Bennett informed the Commission on the following events at the Old Governor's Mansion:

January 14 – Inauguration Day – Open house and free Admission

January 22 – Educational Program on Formosan Termites and Prevention, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

February 14 – Valentines Dinner at the Mansion

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**100 Black Men Gala** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, the logo for the event. Mr. Godfrey informed the Commission that the 100 Black Men annual gala is scheduled for Saturday, February 2 at the River Center. The black tie event is an annual fundraiser for their programs and projects and is an example of diverse activity. Mr. Godfrey commended Ms. Carolyn Bennett for her assistance.

**7. Ongoing – Plan Baton Rouge / Center for Planning Excellence** – Ms. Rachel DiResto commended the Shaw Center for their recent award and stated that Plan Baton Rouge continues its work in Old South Baton Rouge.

**BREADA** – Mr. Derek Fitch informed the Commission that the Baton Rouge Arts Market would be held on Saturday, Feb. 2 and Main Street Market will close at 11:00 a.m. on Feb 2, 2008 due to the Spanish Town Mardi Gras parade

**8. Correspondence** – No information to report.

**9. Subcommittee Update** – No information to report.

**10. New Business** – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence ceremony will be held at the Manship Theatre on Thursday, January 24, 2008.

**Meeting adjourned.**