

DDD Commission Meeting

January 14, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

Kean Miller Conference Center, II City Plaza, 400 Convention St., 7th Floor

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Fran Gladden, Van Mayhall,
Jr., Chris Nichols

Absent: Ric Kearny

Others in Attendance: Laura Acord, Tom Adamek, Ben Anderson, Gary Anderson, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeremy Baker, Joy Banks, Alicia Baron, Jeremy Bauman, Jeffrey Beck, Matt Beeson, Kathryn Belanger, Cory Belder, Anna Beller, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Debbie Bennett, Susannah Bing, Greg Bivin, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Shannon Blakeman, Suzanne Blanchard, Ben Blackwell, Julie Bondy, Chuck Booksh, Timothy Boone, Jessica Boone, Chip Boyles, Benjamin Bradford, Jim Brandt, Chelsea Brasted, Emile Breaux, Kevin Broussard, Gary Burkett, Jimmy Burland, Kyle Callihan, Gayle Carnahan, Don Champagne, Margaret Chappuis, Christy Chachere, Louis Claverie, Cosimo Clements, James Corry, Chelsea Costanza, Whitney Cooper, James Corry, Sara Courtney, Suzette Crocker, Ron Crum, Allison Crump, Scott D'Agostino, Lynn Daigle, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Debbie Daniel, Patrick Danna, Chad Danos, Nedra Davis, Tom Dawson, Angela deGravelles, Genny Denton, Rachael DiResto, Caroline Domecq, Jason Diu, Erin Ducote, Tom Dugas, Terri Dugas, Pat Duncan, Lluvia Deveto, Kendrick Ebanks, Kirk Elgin, Terry Elmore, Gwen Emick, Mark Entrekin, Jon Elvert, Randy Faucheux, Peyton Feigley, Cassie Felder, Pete Ferrara, Heather Folks, Clayton Forbes, Judy Foust, Lisa Franco, Mac Freeman, Richard Funke, Joey Furr, Rob Gann, Celeste Gill, Aaron Glaser, Brian Goad, Kathleen Gordon, Lauren Grant, Selena Grant, Rannah Gray, Lisa Gray, Ashanti Green, Hunter Hall, Jennifer Hall, Gaye Hamilton, Jenny Harbourt, Brandon Hargrave, Angela Harms, Debra Harris, Tyelise Harrison, Stephen Hazel, Daniel Hawthorne, Marcus Hennison, Ben Herrington, Brandi Hill, Ryan Holcomb, Courtney Hunt, Chad Jackson, John Jackson, David Jacobs, Stacy Jamieson, Jennifer Jenkins, Diana Johnson, Sherry Johnson, Teresa Johnston, Alejandra Juan, Claire Juneau, Nicole Kennelly, Tara Kistler, Irene Kotval, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Mathew Laborde, Robert Lacinak, Laurence Lambert, Kenneth Landry, Morgan Landry, Andee Lanier, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Jeremy Lapeyrouse, Beverly LeBeau, Jason Lockart, Anna Long, Sam Losavio, Mario Lozanov, Lauralyn Maranto, Nicole Marshall, Mark Martin, Fr. Pat Mascarello, Michael Mashburn, Jennifer Mayer, Eunice McCarney, Murray McCullough, Al McDuff, Alice Miller, Jason Miller, Leila Mizell, Rebecca Moses, Mikeila Nagura, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Lucio Nunez, Ashley Ortego, Billy Overton, Vertina Overton, Renee Payton, James Peck, Garland Pennison, Andrew Perry, Casey Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Andy Pine, Eric Poche, Skipper Post, Lee Prieto, Jere Quinn, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Dan Reed, Bill Reich, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Keith Richard, Allan Richards, Jason Richards, Rachael Riley, Tanya Roberson, Jenny Rozas, Darlene Rowland, Morgan Russell, LeAnn Russo, Stephen Rust, Robyn Ryan, Diana Samuels, Sam Sanders, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Jamie Setze, Shay Schillilng, Darlene Shingleur, Sidni Lloyd Shorter, John Smith, Lisa Smith, Loryn Smith, Anna Snyder, Tyler Spears, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Peter Summerlin, J. T. Sukits, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Casey Tate, Jeremy Theriot, Patrick Terito, Elizabeth Thomas, Katie Thompson, Michael Trufant, Tyelise Vavasseur, Clark Vega, Rossie Washington, Jr., Pam Welsh, Emily Wharton, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Neill Wright, Renita Young

1. Ms. Chris Nichols called the meeting to order.
2. Ms. Chris Nichols declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the agenda, Mrs. Fran Gladden seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Van Mayhall, Jr. moved to approve the December 10, 2013 minutes, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Rhorer thanked Kean Miller for hosting the board meeting.

5. Board Action – Nominating Committee – The Commission viewed, via power point, an image of the Nominating Committee. Each Commissioner received a copy of the proposed slate of 2014 officers. Ms. Chris Nichols presented the slate of nominees for the 2014 officers as follows: Norman Chenevert Chairman; Fran Gladden, Vice Chairman; Ric Kearny, Treasurer and, Derrell Cohoon, Secretary. **Mr. Norman Chenvert moved to adopt the nominees as presented, Mr. Van Mayhall, Jr. seconded and the nominees were unanimously approved as presented.**

Mr. Rhorer commended Ms. Chris Nichols for her leadership and commitment to downtown and congratulated Mr. Norman Chenevert on his appointment as chairman.

6a. Governmental Issues – There was no information to report.

6b. Development Initiatives – USS Kidd – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Ms. Alejandra Juan. Mr. Rhorer introduced and welcomed Ms. Alejandra Juan as new director of USS Kidd. Ms. Juan expressed that they will focus more on community involvement and educational outreach and that First Sunday will now include free ship tours. Ms. Juan briefed the Commission on upcoming events planned at the USS Kidd. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to visit the USS Kidd.

Commerce Bldg. – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Rhorer informed the commission the development is progressing.

440 on Third – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building and Matherne’s logo. Each Commission received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer reported that the demolition has begun on the project and the grocery store is projected to be complete by the end of 2014 or first quarter of 2015. Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Dyke Nelson and Mr. David Weinstein for their commitment to downtown and informed the Commission that Mr. Jonathan Walker is the agent for office space.

New Developments – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed renderings. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Mrs. Susan Turner and her husband have acquired property and existing houses in Beauregard Town.

Plans are to develop a neighborhood in Beauregard Town "House on the Hill". The development includes 15 residential units and renovation of existing housing. Mr. Susan Turner will attend the February board meeting to give an update.

Grand Lady – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the old Victorian home on Convention Street will be acquired and will be developed into residential units.

Water Campus – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed renderings. Each Commissioner received newspaper articles. Mrs. Tina Rance, Commercial Properties, informed the Commission that a Request for Qualifications will go out for the first building to be constructed on the old City Dock. The building will house the headquarters, discovery center and a model of Mississippi River; it will be an iconic building for Baton Rouge. Discussions continue with agencies to fill the space of the initial phase which will bring approximately 400 – 500 employees. There will also be a study for a trolley between LSU and water campus. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved in the project.

Repentance Park Extension / River Road Improvements – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, image of the plan. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that Reed Hilderbrand has been awarded the contract for the Repentance Park Extension. The extension will close the gap between Repentance Park and LASM as well as ease the pedestrian traffic. The project is expected to begin in two weeks and completed by the end of summer 2014.

City Hall Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the plan. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the plaza will be converted to green space with shade trees to accommodate events on both sides of Crest. The Request for Qualifications was posted Friday, January 10, 2014. Designer selection will begin in February with a six month design process.

Downtown Greenway Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed renderings. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the Request for Qualifications was posted Friday, January 10, 2014 and the designers will be selected in February. Phase I construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2014. Expressway Park has partnered with BREC on the \$100,000 Recreational Trails grant which is expected to begin construction in a few months.

Florida / Riverfront Access Point – DPW is in the process of coordinating work beginning with the Railroad with construction expected to commence February 2014. Mr. Rhorer acknowledged Mr. Laurence Lambert for his assistance with the various downtown projects.

North Blvd. Town Square Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of proposed renderings.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Phase II of North Blvd. Town Square includes the widening of the walkway promenade in front of the Old State Capitol and improvements to St. Philip.

CREST – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Arrighi Construction is working on a punch list for the final details of the CREST. Mr. Rhorer thanked Cox for their contribution to the New Year's Eve event.

Hartley Vey Theatre Entrance – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Hartley Vey Theatre entrance. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the new entrance adjacent to NBTS is complete and they will be having their soft debut this Saturday, January 18, 2014 with a performance by "Moon Honey".

BR Walls Announcement – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo and a photograph of the office space. Mr. Casey Phillips informed the Commission that B.R. Walls has found a permanent home in the bottom floor of the Chase South Towers, the space will also include an art gallery. They will be working on interactive cultural community events and are currently beginning a \$1.5 million fundraising for 25 projects. Mr. Phillips thanked everyone for their continued support. Mr. Rhorer will make sure the Cultural products district expansion includes Chase Tower and Main Street Market.

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.

- Restaurant Week – Jan. 13 - 18
- Louisiana Marathon – Jan. 17 - 19
- Louisiana Life March – Jan. 18
- MLK March – Jan. 20
- Belle of Baton Rouge Concerts / Boxing – Jan. 25, Feb. 7
- Downtown Business Association Lunch & Learn – Feb. 6
- Capitol Park Museum
- Foundation for Historical Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- Old State Capitol – Our Quilted Past Exhibit
- River Center Events / BRSO
- LASM

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.

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the logo. Mrs. Rachael DiResto encouraged everyone to attend an event on Martin Luther King Day around the entrance to Expressway Park. Mrs. DiResto informed the Commission that CPEX / Arts Council is working with the consultants, Lord Cultural Resources, exploring arts and cultural activities as a way to revitalize OSBR.

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BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland informed the Commission that the vendor numbers at the market have decreased due to the season and freeze snaps. Everyone was encouraged to visit the market and support the farmers. MSM is getting a new HVAC system. The market is working with Matherne's to connect local farmers to sell goods at the store.

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

9. **Public Comment** – Ms. Debbie Daniel informed the Commission that she serves on the board of directors for New Venture Theatre and expressed her excitement to be performing their 7th season at the Manship Theatre as well as acting classes and the annual gala.

Mr. Rhorer expressed that 2014 will be a transformative year of construction activity in the downtown area and encouraged anyone to call the DDD office with any issues.

Mr. Norman Chenevert expressed his excitement to serve as chairman of the DDD Board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.