

DDD Commission Meeting
February 11, 2014, 8:00 a.m.
Capitol Park Museum, 660 N. Fourth St.

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Fran Gladden, Ric Kearny
Chris Nichols

Others in Attendance: Laura Acord, Tom Adamek, Rachel Alexander, Gary Anderson, Paul Arrigo, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeremy Baker, Joy Banks, Alicia Baron, Jeremy Bauman, Jeffrey Beck, Matt Beeson, Kathryn Belanger, Cory Belder, Anna Beller, Carolyn Bennett, Tom Bergman, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Shannon Blakeman, Suzanne Blanchard, Ben Blackwell, Julie Bondy, Chuck Booksh, Timothy Boone, Jessica Boone, Benjamin Bradford, Jim Brandt, Chelsea Brasted, Emile Breaux, Kevin Broussard, Gary Burkett, Jimmy Burland, Kyle Callihan, Gayle Carnahan, Christy Chachere, Cordia Clark, Louis Claverie, Penny Clemeat, Cosimo Clements, Whitney Cooper, James Corry, Sara Courtney, Suzette Crocker, Allison Crump, Lynn Daigle, Melissa Daly, Debbie Daniel, Patrick Danna, Nedra Davis, Tom Dawson, Angela deGravelles, Shiela Denny, Kerry Denny, Genny Denton, Rachael DiResto, Mark Entrekin, Jon Elvert, Heather Fatzinger, Randy Faucheux, Peyton Feigley, Chris Ferrara, Judy Foust, Joey Furr, Rob Gann, Celeste Gill, Aaron Glaser, Brian Goad, Francis Grayson, Ashanti Green, Jennifer Griffin, Hunter Hall, Jennifer Hall, Gaye Hamilton, Kim Harper, Debra Harris, John O. Hearin, Robert Hebert, Marcus Hennison, Ben Herrington, Brandi Hill, Ryan Holcomb, Courtney Hunt, David Jacobs, Stephanie James, Stacy Jamieson, Jennifer Jenkins, Joe Jenkins, Melody Joachim, Diana Johnson, Mary Johnson, Sherry Johnson, Teresa Johnston, Alejandra Juan, , Julia Kennerly, Tara Kistler, Irene Kotval, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Michael Lang, Andee Lanier, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Jeremy Lapeyrouse, Chelsea Layne, Beverly LeBeau, Anna Long, Sam Losavio, Mario Lozanov, Lauralyn Maranto, Mary Jane Marcantel, Nicole Marshall, Mark Martin, Fr. Pat Mascarello, Michael Mashburn, Dee Mather, 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, Andy Pine, Eric Poche, Zoran Pranjic, Lee Prieto, Jere Quinn, 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, 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, J. T. Sukits, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Ric Kearny, Jeremy Theriot, Patrick Terito, Elizabeth Thomas, Michael Trufant, Susan Turner, Kent Vaubel, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Zeff Kurnatowski, Rossie Washington, Jr., Pam Welsh, Renita Young

1. Mr. Norman Chenevert called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Norman Chenevert declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the agenda, Ms. Chris Nichols seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Ric Kearny moved to approve the January 14, 2014 minutes, Mrs. Fran Gladden seconded and the minutes were approved.

Pastor Brad Franklin shared a few words of wisdom.

Mr. Rhorer thanked Bill Stark for hosting the board meeting at the museum. Mr. Stark briefed the Commission on the upcoming events, welcomed everyone to the meeting and encouraged them to tour the museum after the meeting.

5. Board Action – There was no board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Whitney Cooper has been appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission and that Mr. Rhorer had been appointed to the BREC board.

6b. Development Initiatives – River District – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of proposed renderings. Each Commission received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that River District is the proposed 38 acre mixed use development on Nicholson between Magnolia Mound and Red Stick Lofts. The project goes before the Planning Commission in March 2014.

Downtown / LSU Tram – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial indicating a proposed route for the tram and a photograph of a tram. Each Commission received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Future BR proposes the development of a street car along Nicholson corridor to connect downtown to LSU. Mayor Holden is seeking federal funding for the project

Commerce Bldg. – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed rendering of the exterior of the building. Mr. Michael Lang informed the Commission that the project received a commitment for construction financing through HUD 221(d) (4) program; this is the first time a downtown project has received funding through this program. The contracts have been finalized and they have 100% construction documents. The demolition will begin once all financing paper work is completed which is expected to be mid-year of 2014. The proposed 93 residential units will take approximately 12 – 14 months to construct.

Construction Updates – 440 on Third – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building and an image of the proposed rendering of the exterior of the building. Each Commission received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer reported that construction has begun on the project.

Onyx Bldg. – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the construction site and an image of the proposed rendering. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the site has been cleared for construction to begin on the 28 residential units.

IBM – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the construction site and an image of the proposed rendering. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the pile driving is complete and construction is progressing.

Richoux's – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Chris Ferrara, CSRS, informed the Commission that all building permits have been acquired and the demolition has begun. The construction is expected to commence within the next week and is expected to be complete by end of summer 2014.

Holiday Inn Express – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building and an image of the proposed rendering. Mr. Rhorer reported that interior demolition has begun on the project.

334 Third Street Development – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Kerry Denny informed the Commission that he and his wife purchased the building and are in the final stages of the renovation. They will occupy the second floor and the bottom floor has been leased to a French Bistro. Mr. Denny invited everyone to visit their open house which is scheduled Saturday, March 1 during the Spanish Town Mardi Gras parade.

Fresh Junkie – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Fresh Junkie will be opening their second downtown location in the 300 block of North Blvd. in approximately two weeks. Mr. Pat Fellows, owner of the restaurant, plans to sponsor fitness activities in North Blvd. Town Square.

House of the Hill – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed renderings. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mrs. Susan Turner informed the Commission that she and her husband purchased the property bordered by Louisiana Ave and Napoleon, St. Joseph and America streets. The proposed development in Beauregard Town “House on the Hill” will include 12 residential units and renovation of existing housing. The residential infill community will include a community garden, community kitchen, gathering space for group meals or meetings. The proposed project will go before the Planning Commission for approval Monday, February 17, 2014. **Ms. Chris Nichols moved that the Downtown Development District go on record supporting the development. Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

I-10 / I-110 Underpass Improvements – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, aerial photographs indicating proposed parking, a photograph of existing parking under the Interstate, and a rendering of proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD has been researching ways to improve under the Interstate 10 / 110. The improvements would include striping, signage and lighting. The DDD will be meeting with DOTD to discuss the improvements and applying for grants.

City Hall Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the plan. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the City Parish design selection committee will meet this Thursday, February 13, 2014 to select the designer.

Downtown Greenway Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed renderings. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article.

Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that BREC continues to work on the Expressway Park recreational center. BREC is accepting bids from contractors for Phase I. BREC is partnering with City Citrus and Baton Rouge Green in planting citrus trees throughout the city. Mr. Rhorer thanked BREC for their commitment to downtown.

North Blvd. Town Square Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of paver repair, benches and APA LA Award. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the pavers near the Transit Shelter are being repaired and skate deterrent kits are being installed on the benches. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that North Blvd. Town Square received the APA Louisiana award and the Crest received the Association of Building Contractors award.

BREC Strategic Planning Meeting – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the park activity. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to attend the BREC's Strategic planning meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 p.m. to be held at the River Center Library.

New Business – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. **Monochrome / The Front Door Architecture** – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission this item will be reported on during the March DDD board meeting.

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.

- Mardi Gras Mambo – Feb. 15
- Mardi Gras Parades – Feb. 15, 21, 22 & March 1
- Live After Five Line-Up Announcement – Feb. 28
- Mardi Gras Festival / B. R. Arts Market – March 1
- Cambodia Craft Sale – March 9
- 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
- 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.

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the logo. Mrs. Rachel DiResto encouraged everyone to attend the Building Blocks event schedule for Saturday, February 22, 10:00 a.m. at the Louisiana State Museum. The event introduces children and their families to the importance of design and planning in community development.

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.

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

9. **Public Comment** – A Spanish Town resident informed the Commission that there will be a Spanish Town Mardi Gras Party, scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 10:00 a.m. at the Louisiana State Museum. The ticketed event will include complimentary food, drinks, t-shirt, bathroom access and activities for children.

Mr. Lani Guilbeau with Fleur Du Jour encouraged everyone to order for Valentines' Day.

Ms. Alicia Baron, Downtown Business Association, briefed everyone on the following upcoming events:

- Live After Five reveal party scheduled for Friday, February 28, 2014.
- Live After Five begins Friday, April 4, 2014 and ends Thursday, May 22, 2014.
- Downtown Business Association social – Thursday, March 6, 2014

Ms. Jennifer Myer, CASA, briefed the Commission on the upcoming Terracon Golf Benefit scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2014. All proceeds benefit CASA.

Ms. Carolyn Bennett, FHL, briefed the Commission on the upcoming lecture by Michael Henderson and encouraged everyone to attend. Ms. Bennett also informed the Commission that the gift shop at the Old Governor's Mansion is undergoing a renovation and will have a grand opening June 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.