

DDD Commission Meeting
July 9, 2013, 8:00 a.m.
LASM Planetarium, 100 S. River Rd.

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

Absent: Fran Gladden, Verni Howard, Van Mayhall, Jr.

Others in Attendance: Laura Acord, Tom Adamek, Ben Anderson, Gary Anderson, Josh Anderson, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeremy Baker, Joy Banks, Alicia Baron, Jeffrey Beck, Matt Beeson, Kathryn Belanger, Cory Belder, Anna Beller, Debbie Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Susannah Bing, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Shannon Blakeman, Suzanne Blanchard, Taylor Blanche, Chip Boyles, Benjamin Bradford, Jim Brandt, Chelsea Brasted, Kevin Broussard, Mike Bruce, Gary Burkett, Jimmy Burland, Chad Calder, Gayle Carnahan, Margaret Chappuis, Cosimo Clements, Whitney Cooper, James Corry, Sara Courtney, Suzette Crocker, Ron Crum, Zolton Csete, Scott D'Agostino, Lynn Daigle, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Patrick Danna, Nedra Davis, Tom Dawson, Angela deGravelles, Genny Denton, Sgt. Distefano, Caroline Domecq, Jason Diu, Erin Ducote, Terri Dugas, Pat Duncan, Kendrick Ebanks, Kirk Elgin, Terry Elmore, Jon Elvert, Gwen Emick, Mark Entekin, Randy Faucheux, Peyton Feigley, Cassie Felder, Chris Ferrari, Heather Folks, Clayton Forbes, Bill Fountain, Robin Fountain, Judy Foust, Mac Freeman, Rob Gann, Carol Gikas, Aaron Glaser, Brian Goad, Selena Grant, Lisa Gray, Ashanti Green, Hunter Hall, Jennifer Hall, Gaye Hamilton, Brandon Hargrave, Angela Harms, Debra Harris, Stephen Hazel, Daniel Hawthorne, Emily Hebert, Robert Hebert, Jan L. Herrington, Ben Heroman, Justin Hewitt, Quincy Hodges, Ryan Holcomb, Eric Vaughn Holowacz, Pam Hotard, Courtney Hunt, Chad Jackson, John Jackson, Stacy Jamieson, Jennifer Jenkins, Martin Johnson, Teresa Johnston, Claire Juneau, Danielle Kelley, Bridget Kender, Julia Kennedy, Janet Ketcham, Hannah King, Tara Kistler, Irene Kotval, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Mathew Laborde, Robert Lacinak, Morgan Landry, Andee Lanier, Lori Lasseigne, Beverly LeBeau, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Jeremy Lapeyrouse, Justin Lemoine, Marissa Lingoni, Jason Lockart, Anna Long, Diane Losavio, Mary Jane Marcantel, Lauralyn Maranto, Nicole Marshall, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Eunice McCarney, Murray McCullough, Trey McCowan, Ferris McDaniel, Joseph Michaels, Jason Miller, Ashley Montagnino, Rebecca Moses, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Lucio Nunez, Mary Olinde, Ashley Ortego, Maestro Billy Overton, Vertina Overton, Renee Payton, Garland Pennison, Andrew Perry, Ashley Pierce, Andy Pine, Eric Poche, John Price, Lee Prieto, Jere Quinn, Margaret Read, Dan Reed, Bill Reich, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Jason Richards, Jessica Richardson, Susan Ringwald, Tina Righteous, Tanya Roberson, Jenny Rozas, Sgt. Craig Russell, LeAnn Russo, Stephen Rust, Robyn Ryan, Diana Samuels, Sam Sanders, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Shay Schilling, Darlene Shingleur, Katie McKay Simpson, Brian Sleeth, Jared Smith, John Smith, Lisa Smith, Loryn Smith, Anna Snyder, Tyler Spears, Lucas Spielfogel, Karen Stagg, Peter Summerlin, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Justin Tassin, Casey Tate, Patrick Terito, Reverend Susie Thomas, Katie Thompson, Michael Trufant, Alkis Tsolakis, Clark Vega, Mitch Verma, Gabe Vicknair, Karen Vingiello, Ladonna Ward, Shane Warren, Rossie Wahington, Jr. Pam Welsh, Emily Wharton

1. Ms. Chris Nichols called the meeting to order.

2. Ms. Chris Nichols declared a quorum.

3. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Derrell Cohoon seconded and the agenda was approved.

4. Mr. Ric Kearny moved to approve the May 14, 2013 minutes, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the minutes were approved.

Reverend Susie Thomas shared a few words of wisdom.

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Davis Rhorer recognized the following individuals:
Eric Vaughn Holowacz, Arts Council director
Alkis Tsolakis, Dean of the LSU College of Art + Design
Bill Fountain, Past Director of Shreveport DDD
Mike Trufant

5. Board Action – There was no board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – Legislation items status – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the legislation. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article and legislation. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the legislative items regarding tax credits that affect downtown remain intact. Mr. Rhorer thanked everyone involved with monitoring the legislation. There is a “Capital Park Study Committee” that will study traffic issues downtown. The committee will be meeting before September 2013 and there is a representative from DDD and Spanish Town on the committee. Mr. Derrell Cohoon informed the Commission that there are funds in Capital Outlay bill to purchase the old Insurance Building.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Pages for Progress have been updated and the information will be distributed electronically.

2013 Budget Supplement – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the legislation. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article and correspondence. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission the Metropolitan Council approved \$900,000 in the budget supplement for the following projects:

- Planning of Levee Bike Path Extension– North to connect Hollywood Casino and River Park Development
- City Hall Plaza – Improvements
- City Dock Shade Structure –
- River Rd. Crossing – Extension of Repentance Park south on River Rd. to help connect to LASM

Mr. Rhorer commended Mayor Holden and the Metropolitan Council for their support.

6b. Development Initiatives – Hampton Inn Ribbon Cutting – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the Hampton Inn. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the ribbon cutting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 1 at 11:00 a.m.

Capital One Building– The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Mr. Dyke Nelson and Mr. David Weinstein purchased the building at 440 Third St. Plans for the building is mixed use development.

302 Third Street Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the exterior of the building. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Chris Ferrari, architect, informed the Commission that they are in the early stages of redevelopment of bldg. They have submitted the first phase for historic tax credit process. There is a potential tenant for 1st floor and 2nd tenant for ground floor is proposed fast casual restaurant. Improvements include façade renovations, proposed roof top open beer garden and screen on back of coca cola sign Mr. Rhorer complemented on using the roof top. Work is expected to commence by the end of the year.

Third Street Development - The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the map indicating development along Third Street. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the growth of diversity of development along Third Street.

Commerce Building Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the exterior of the building and images of the renderings for the Commerce building. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the project is utilizing the state historic tax credits and project is proceeding.

Downtown Greenway Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the survey results. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the BREC public input survey was distributed digitally to DDD email list and over 400 responses were received. Ms. Cooper reviewed the responses with the Commission.

Florida Street Levee Access / River Road Path – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that DOTD accepted the low bid of \$1.2 million for the proposed street scape improvements at Florida and River Rd. The next step will go through regulatory approval process of the Metropolitan Council in August and construction should commence September 2013. The project will allow access to the levee at Florida and River Rd. for bikes and pedestrians and a pathway to the LASM.

LASM Urban Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of the proposed improvements. Mr. Brian Goad, Suzanne Turner Associates, briefed the Commission on the proposed improvements north of the LASM building. The plaza is envisioned as a gathering space to be used by the public that will link to North Blvd. Town Square Phase II and Repentance Park. Schematic designs have been submitted to the City and the next phase is design development

Downtown Residential Checklist – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of residential in Central Business District. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the committee has met and defined the issues and identified the agencies that would rectify the issues. Following are the issued identified by the committee:

- Mail delivery
- Recycling
- Trash pick up
- Building permitting process
- Overall agency coordination between Entergy, DPW, and Water Company
- Unused utility / signage removal
- Street closure notification
- Sidewalk, road, tree well maintenance

The committee will meet again in August 2013.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the East Baton Rouge Mortgage Finance Authority (EBRMFA) gave the DDD approval for planning funds for the Greenway which has been approved by the Metropolitan Council. The appropriation of the funds will be presented to the Metropolitan Council for their approval. Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Norman Chenevert for his assistance as well as the Metropolitan Council and EBRMFA for their support. The DDD is also identifying where development sites can be along the greenway.

Design Resource Center (DRC) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the reception. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DRC held their Ribbon Cutting and recognition of the sponsors and the young entrepreneurs.

New Business – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Capital One invitation.
Capitol One – Ms. Ashanti Green informed the Commission that Capitol One Bank has moved to 301 Main Street in One American Place. Ms. Green reviewed the schedule of activities for their Open House July 15 – 19th and encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Kearny informed the Commission that Capital One is occupying three floors in One American Place.

Baton Rouge Youth Coalition (BRYC) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Lucas Spielfogel, Executive director, informed the Commission the organization identifies academically exceptional and highly motivated low income teens across the city and help prepare them for college. The offices are located at 611 North Street. Mr. Spielfogel briefed the Commission on the success of the graduates and reported that BRYC recently received a grant from State Farms which provides stipends for the students for summer internships. Mr. Spielfogel thanked Ms. Chris Nichols and the DDD for their assistance.

Huey's – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer announced that Huey's will be opening their doors Friday, July 12, 2013. The Louisiana themed lounge is located at 350 Third Street.

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.

- I Do! Bridal Event / A Lively Discussion of Bastille Day – July 11
- Capitol Park Museum Host Summer Series – July 11, 18
- FUMC Cambodia Craft Sale – July 14
- Art Melt / Gleaux Run – July 20
- Belle of Baton Rouge Concerts – July 23, Aug. 2, 16, 23
- The Belle's Christmas in July Holiday Party – July 30
- B. R. Arts Market – August 3
- Foundation for Historical Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- River Center Events
- 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 with the mention of the residential developments

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Smart Growth Summit is scheduled for November 18 – 20, 2013.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the of BREADA logo. There was no information to report.

8. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

9. Public Comment – Ms. Carol Gikas, LASM Executive Director, reviewed the current exhibits and encouraged everyone to visit the LASM.

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Mr. Jon Elvert, Planetarium Director, briefed the Commission on the current and upcoming programs at the Planetarium and encouraged everyone to attend one of the events.

Ms. Chris Nichols recognized Sgt. Craig Russell and Sgt. Donnie Distefano with the City Police department.

Mr. Rhorer welcomed newly appointed board member, Mr. Ric Kearny with Capital One.

Fr. Pat Mascarella requested that DDD interact with Louisiana Swift in regards to continued operation of their service.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.