

DDD Commission Meeting
November 14, 2017, 8:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral, Parish Hall, 401 Main Street

Attending: Eric Dexter, Scott Hensgens, Ric Kearny, Cheryl McCormick,
Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Fran Gladden, Gordon LeBlanc

Others in Attendance: Karon Alford, Gary Anderson, Logan Anderson, Joe Anthony, Paul Arrigo, James Avault, Dakota Ball, David Beard, Bliss Bernard, Greg Bivin, Gary Black, Ben Blackwell, Timothy Boone, Emily Bourdon, Kevin Broussard, Gayle Carnahan, Renee Chatelain, Wendi Coates, David Cobb, Walter Comeaux. Melanie Couvillion, Suzette Crocker, Shelby Daugherty, Michael Day, Shelby Daugherty, Sgt. Distefano, Chad Dinkel, Mary Durusau, Liz Eure, Danny Fields, Melony Fields, Sage Foley, Judy Foust, Joey Furr, Rannah Gray, Anita Hebert, Kyle Huffstickler, Courtney Hunt, Mary Johnson, Sam Karlin, John Kaufman, Melissa Landry, Jason Langlois, Laurie Larouche, Beverly LeBeau, Marissa Lingoni, Jeannie Magdefrau, Lauralyn Maranto, Mary Jane Marcantel, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Yolandra McClain, B. J. Miletello, Donnie Miller, Aaron Molluro, Mikela Morgan, Chris Nichols, Shawn Nolan, Mary Olinde, Lluvia Peveto, Michael Petty, Andy Pino, Davis Rhorer, Chad Rigby, Gabrielle Roussel, Fredrick Sargent, Whitney Sayal, Lisa Smith, Emily Sulzer, Ebru Sumer, Casey Tate, Boo Thomas, Lauren Tompkins, Trey Truitt, Ann Vail, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Haley Westphal, Samear Zaitoon

1. Mr. Ric Kearny called the meeting to order.

2. Mr. Ric Kearny declared a quorum.

3. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the agenda, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the agenda was approved.

4. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the October 10, 2017 minutes, Mrs. Cheryl McCormick seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Ric Kearny thanked St. Joseph Cathedral for hosting the Commission meeting. Mr. Rhorer asked that everyone remember Fr. Jerry Young as he was involved in an automobile accident.

5. Board Action – 2018 DDD Budget – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the budget and performance measures. Each Commissioner received a copy of the proposed 2018 budget and performance measures. Mr. Rhorer requested that the DDD adopt the 2018 Operating Budget and performance measures as presented. **Mr. Hensgens moved to adopt the 2018 Operating Budget and performance measures as presented, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the 2018 Operating Budget and performance measures was unanimously adopted.**

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

7. Update from Previous Board Meeting – Louisiana Ave. Grant – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering of the proposed connection. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the \$100,000 grant from the Transportation Alternatives Program. The funds will be used for greenway improvements under the Interstate at Louisiana Ave. to create a pedestrian and bicycle corridor.

Bike Share BR Grant – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of bike share. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the \$593,904 grant from Transportation Alternatives Program to set up a Bike Share program. Phase One will include stations located downtown, LSU and Southern for a total of 51 stations.

8. Development Initiatives – Developments Underway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current projects. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects:

- Downtown Library – reviewed the construction images. Proposed completion by the end of 2018
- Lofts @ 6C – reviewed the construction images of the 142 residential unit development
- Courtyard Marriott – reviewed the current construction photographs and a rendering of the proposed signage. Planning Commission approved the signage. Topping out ceremony will be scheduled within the next few weeks. Planning Commission approved the signage.

DDD 30th Anniversary – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of state office buildings. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the downtown cultural assets and iconic structures that were brought back to commerce due to the historic tax credits.

Federal Historic Tax Credits – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Kress building. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission that the federal budget did not include the federal historic building tax credit program. Mr. Rhorer and several community leaders visited Senator Cassidy and supplied him with data that supports the need for the tax credit. Senator Cassidy filed an amendment in support of the tax credit, to be considered during the Senate Finance Committee.

The Elias (Formerly known as Beauregard Quarters) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the current construction. Each Commissioner received a copy of the flyer. Mr. Walter Comeaux, developer, informed the Commission the proposed residential development will have 25 residential units, ground floor garages for rent, workout room, and community room. Mr. Chad Rigby, Rigby Advisors, informed the Commission the projected completion date is the first quarter of 2018. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved in the project. Ms. Boo Thomas congratulated Mr. Comeaux and Mr. Rigby on the project.

City Hall Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed improvements and photographs of current construction. Mr. Gabe Vicknair updated the Commission on the construction of the plaza. The project is proposed to be complete the first quarter of 2018, with the Grand opening anticipated at the start of the next Live After Five spring season.

River Road Multi-Use Path – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed improvements and photographs of the current construction. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that construction continues on DOTD project which includes installing an 8' multi use pathway on the west side of River Road to Hollywood Casino. Once the project is completed overlaying of River Road will begin.

Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the west side of River Road is a DOTD project which will include installing an 8' multi use pathway. Construction began first quarter March 2017 and is expected to be completed by first quarter of 2018.

East side – Transportation Alternatives Program grant will be used to install sidewalk and streetscape elements on River Road from Florida Street Riverfront Access north to the state buildings. Duplantis is currently working on the design and once finalized it will be sent to DOTD for review.

DeSoto Park – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial photograph of the park, located west of the State buildings and bordering the Mississippi River. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that proposals for DeSoto Park has been part of the following plans:

- 1990 Eskew Plan
- 1999 Capitol Park Master Plan
- 2003 Riverfront Master Plan
- 2008 Alive Project

DDD staff proposes developing the 20 acre park into a 1 mile nature trail for hiking and biking with signage installed. Mr. Rhorer reviewed precedents from other development that could be incorporated into the design of the park. DDD has met with representatives from the state and city and they all agreed to continue to explore the recommendations. The next phase is a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City Parish, the State and BREC. The proposed project would qualify for several grant sources.

Town Square Phase II – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendered image of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the bids are under review. Phase II includes the installation of a visitor's kiosk at 4th & North Blvd. plaza area and on the levee near the dock.

Riverfront Wayfinding Signage – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendered image of the proposed signage. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission the signage is being fabricated. The 25 wayfinding signs and 16 kiosks will be installed in the next few weeks.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of Dupree Apartments and maintenance issues. Mrs. Whitney Hoffman Sayal informed the Commission that the winner of the October Downtown Distinction Award is Dupree Apartments in the residential development category. The winners are promoted on social media outlets and the category for November is Bar/Lounge. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 7, 2:00 p.m. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved with the Maintenance committee.

New Business – Purpose Church – Mr. Chad Dinkel informed the Commission that he is launching a new church "Purpose Church" Sunday, January 21, 2018, located in The Lyceum at 124 N. Third Street. The non-profit organization also assists men and women get into rehab and transitional living.

9. Events – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the logos for the following events. Each Commissioner received flyers on the events. Mr. Vicknair briefed the Commission on the following events.

- BREW Week
- City Club Anniversary – November 16
- Boozie Brunch – November 19
- Turkey Trot – November 23
- [Commerce & Magpie Rooftop Event](#)
- [Geaux Downtown BR's Holiday Giveaway– December 1](#)
- B. R. Arts Market – December 2,9,16
- Festival of Lights – December 1
- Holiday Shop Hop – December 6
- Christmas Parade – December 9
- Preserve Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre / LSU MOA
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- USS Kidd

10. 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.

11. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Ms. Boo Thomas informed the Commission that Mr. Rhorer was recognized on the 2017 Louisiana Smart Growth Summit for his 30 years of service as the Executive Director of the Downtown Development District.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Emily Sulzer informed the Commission that Sprout Saturday is scheduled for Saturday, November 18 from 9:00a.m. -11:00a.m.

Downtown Business Association (DBA) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mrs. Lauren Tompkins briefed the Commission on the following:

- Live After Five (LAF)final concert October 27th
- 2018 celebrate LAF 20th Anniversary
- Next LAF season will return to City Hall Plaza
- Spring season begins March 2018

12. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

13. Public Comment – Mr. Paul Arrigo, Visit Baton Rouge, briefed the Commission on the KCS Holiday Express that will be available for walk through Sunday, December 3, 2017 on Foss Street near Memorial Stadium. Mr. Arrigo encouraged everyone to vote this Saturday, November 2017 and support the hotel occupancy tax increase tax. Mr. Michael Day, Raising Cane's River Center General Manager, expressed the importance of the tax as it will allow for improvements to the ballroom and theater. Mr. Day encouraged everyone to support the tax and spread the word.

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Ms. Rannah Gray encouraged everyone to vote and support the tax. Ms. Gray briefed the Commission on the following events:

- Red Stick Rising at North Blvd., Sunday, December 31, 2017 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Red Stick Revelry, Sunday, December 31, 2017 from 9:00 p.m. – 12 midnight
- Champagne Stroll, Thursday, December 7, 5:30 p.m. begins at Capitol Park Museum
- Holiday Shop Hop, Thursday, December 7 at the Capitol Park Museum

For more information or to purchase tickets for Red Stick Revelry or Champagne Stroll visit www.redstickrevelry.com.

Mr. Frederick Sargent with Electronic Media briefed the Commission on his business and encouraged businesses or anyone wanting to promote an event to contact him after the meeting.

Ms. Judy Foust briefed the Commission on the Cambodia Craft Sale at First United Methodist Church. All items are made by the Cambodia ladies, and all proceeds are returned to Cambodia to help the ladies of Cambodia develop economic self-sufficiency and to provide scholarships for college students.

Mr. Ric Kearny thanked St. Joseph Cathedral for hosting the Commission meeting and Sgt. Distefano, City Police, for their service.

Meeting Adjourned: