

DDD Commission Meeting
October 9, 2018, 8:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral, Parish Hall, 401 Main Street

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

Absent: Fran Gladden

Others in Attendance: Gary Anderson, Ben Blackwell, Timothy Boone, Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, Kevin Broussard, Paul Burns, Rex Cabaniss, Sgt. Kyle Callihan, Gayle Carnahan, Bubba Cashio, Andrew Chidlow, Sonja Cotter, Michael Day, Michael DiResto, Holly Duchmann, Mary Durusau, Councilwoman Barbara Freiberg, Joseph Furr, Gail Gaiennie, Michael Gauthier, Darryl Gissel, Brooke Goodrich, Rannah Gray, Taylor Jacobsen, Katelyn Johnson, Sam Karlin, John Kaufman, John Kelton, Jason Langlois Theresa Langlois, Beverly LeBeau, Yolandra Lee, Mary Jane Marcantel, Fr. Pat Mascarella, B. J. Miletello, Ronnie Miller, Aaron Mollura, Brandon Morgan, Mikeila Morgan, Mary Olinde, Rick Peterson, Lluvia Peveto, Enrique Pinerua, Robbie Reynold, Davis Rhorer, Frederick Sargent, Whitney Sayal, Stacy Simon, Lisa Smith, Saska Spanhoff, Casey Tate, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Lindsey West, Austin Wong

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 September 11, 2018 minutes, Mr. Eric Dexter seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Ric Kearny thanked St. Joseph Cathedral for hosting the meeting. Mr. Kearny recognized Mayor Broome and Mr. Darryl Gissel. Mr. Rhorer recognized Councilwoman Barbara Freiberg.

5. Board Action – There is no board action.

6. Governmental Issues – Waste Ordinance – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of trash receptacle outside a downtown establishment. Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the revised waste ordinance will be introduced to the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, October 10, 2018 and voted on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. Mrs. Whitney Sayal informed the Commission that the proposed changes to the ordinance would limit the amount of time that waste receptacles can be in the public right-of-way. Mr. Rhorer thanked the maintenance committee for their work on the ordinance.

Bike Share – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a bicycle utilized in a similar bike share program. Ms. Lindsey West, Bantam Strategy CEO, informed the Commission that Gotcha Bike L.L.C. was awarded the contract for the bike share program. The contract will be considered by the Metropolitan Council on Wednesday, October 10, 2018. The contract covers a total of 800 bikes and 80 stations.

For the early spring 2019 launch there will be 500 new bikes and 50 stations installed between downtown, LSU and Southern University. The remainder of the bikes and stations will be installed in Mid City and the Health District one to two years following the 2019 launch. Gotcha Bike L.L.C representatives will host an informational meeting, Wednesday, October 10, 2018 in the Downtown Development District Design Resource Center. When the meeting ends, the group will then go to the Metropolitan Council meeting.

7. Update from Previous Board Meeting – There was no information to report.

8. Development Initiatives – Red Stick Revelry Announcement – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a laser show and fireworks. Ms. Rannah Gray, Rannah Gray Communications, informed the Commission that she is the event coordinator for the annual Champagne Stroll and New Year's Eve celebration which includes a day time celebration for kids. Ms. Gray thanked the downtown hotels that are participating in the Champagne Stroll. Mayor Broome encouraged all to participate in the Red Stick Revelry, December 31, 2018 and the annual Champagne Stroll Thursday, December 6, 2018, 5:30 p.m. Mayor Broome encouraged everyone to attend the Champagne Stroll and welcome the participants of the Visit Baton Rouge familiarization tour. The Champagne Stroll will start at Visit Baton Rouge at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Broome announced that the New Year's Eve celebration will feature a laser light show during the concert. Mayor Broome commended the sponsors and everyone involved with the events. Ms. Gray encouraged everyone to visit the web site at www.redstickrevelry.com for more information or tickets.

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

- **The Heron Downtown** – Reviewed the current construction photographs of the 142 residential units. They are currently leasing some of the units.
- **Elysian II** – Reviewed the current construction photographs of the 100 residential unit development on Spanish Town Rd. 60% market rate / 40% affordable units.
- **Licensing Board of Contractors** – Reviewed the current construction photographs of the development under construction on the corner of 6th & North Streets
- **Associated General Contractors** – The building at the corner of 7th and Main Streets is also undergoing a major renovation as part of the block redevelopment.

AT & T – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial photograph indicating proposed locations of AT&T small cell towers. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that AT&T will be installing approximately twenty four small cell towers throughout the downtown area.

Courtyard Marriott – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the exterior and interior of the hotel and the grand opening of Starbucks. Mr. Ben Blackwell, Area Manager of Operations for Hospitality American, informed the Commission that the hotel opened Friday, September 28, 2018. The hotel staffs 60 employees and the Starbucks staffs 20 employees. Mr. Blackwell expressed his excitement to be open and encouraged everyone to visit the hotel, bistro, lounge or the Starbucks. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the number of hotel units within the Courtyard Marriott brings downtown close to the goal of 1,100 – 1,200 hotel rooms within walking distance to the River Center.

BRAC Center for Economic Development – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the invitation and a photograph of the interior. Mr. Michael DiResto, BRAC Executive Vice President, briefed the Commission on the \$3.5 million renovation and expansion of the building. Mr. Diresto encouraged everyone to attend the grand opening party scheduled for Friday, October 26 from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Downtown East Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial map indicating the boundaries of downtown east and proposed Eddie Robinson Sr. Historic District. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that with work by done by Dyke Nelson and other downtown east stakeholders, the historic district has been created. The district boundaries include North Blvd., 18th Street and Park Blvd., Terrace Street and 12 Street and I-110. The creation of the historic district allows certain historic rehabilitation tax credits and restoration tax abatement credits to be utilized for redevelopment efforts.

Hotel Lincoln – Each Commission received the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Mr. Solomon Carter acquired the building and plans to renovate into residential units. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects:

- Elysian II
- Valencia Park
- Electric Depot
- Forte & Tablada Office building
- Government St road diet and bike lanes
- Louisiana Ave Connector
- Hotel Lincoln renovation
- Passenger Rail Terminal
- Chef Celeste Catering headquarters
- BREC South14th St Park renovation
- 19th St Hostel
- North Boulevard Overpass Lighting and Homeless Initiative
- Lincoln Theater historic renovation
- Private sector home renovations (Temple)
- 368 Media Company office at South 14th Street
- BREC's CMAQ Bike Path linking North BR to Spanish Town Road
- BREC's Sports Academy at Memorial Park
- Historic District

Prince Apartments – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Prince apartments. Mr. Andrew Chidlow, Burns & Co. informed the Commission that the 8 unit 1937 art deco building located at 710 North Blvd. is being converting into condominiums. The 1 bedroom units are priced for \$185,000 and the 2 bedroom are priced for \$229,000. Anyone interested in is encouraged to contact Burns & Co.

River Road Improvements – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the multi-use pathway and 3-laning on River Road. Mr. Gabe Vicknair briefed the Commission on the following River Road improvement requests that were sent to DPW:

- Laurel Street / River Road curb cuts/ ADA ramps
- Main Street / River Road curb cuts/ ADA ramps
- North Street - crosswalk and create a bike lane
- Extend the pathway north
- Extend the green buffer 160' on River Road
- Pedestrian signals at intersections
- Sidewalk heading north

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that upon completion of the levee pathway from Farr Park to L'auberge there will be 13.1 miles of contiguous walking, biking or jogging from Hollywood Casino to L'auberge without crossing the road. Wayfinding signage will be incorporated along the riverfront. The DDD has been contacted by Riverview and River Palm condominiums requesting that the pathway extend north to their properties. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the east side of River Road is funded by DOTD transportation enhancement program and is currently being reviewed by DOTD.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the East Blvd. project will open bids on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. Projected completion of the project is late spring / early summer 2019. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that DOTD has proposed to build a bike path along Braddock Street from Expressway Park to Dalrymple Drive.

Rotary Centennial Project – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the sculpture. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the sculpture will be an interactive piece on the riverfront. The Rotary celebration is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2018. Installation of the sculpture is expected to commence this fall.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of maintenance issues. Mrs. Sayal informed the Commission that in 2011 the DDD submitted a list of downtown maintenance issues to City Parish, which were all taken care of. The DDD will compile an updated list focusing on old or broken signage, broken curbs, damaged or broken meters and metal posts. Mrs. Sayal encouraged everyone to report any maintenance issues to the 311 system via phone or email. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that he will be meeting with property owners next week to discuss downtown issues.

APA Awards – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the Central Green and Third Street. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD received the following awards from APA-LA:

- **Central Green:** 2018 Louisiana Chapter of American Planning Association Implementation Category. A project of Plan Baton Rouge II, the Central Green boasts over 11 acres of contiguous public greenspace and is comprised of Repentance Park, City Hall Plaza, and North Boulevard Town Square

- **Historic Third Street:** 2018 Louisiana Chapter of American Planning Association - Great Street. Third Street is truly a collective effort of the City-Parish, DDD, and many private sector investors who have truly made it one of the most diverse streets in the city.

Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved with the projects.

New Business – Chow Main – Mr. Austin Wong, owner, briefed the Commission on the improvements made to the space and the menu items to be offered. The restaurant will be open from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and is expected to open Thursday, October 25, 2018.

Voo Doo Lounge – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Voo Doo Lounge will be opening October 11 2018 in the former Roux House location.

9. 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.

- HYPE Fitness Series – October 9 & November 6
- White Cane Safety Day – October 10
- Jambalaya Jam – October 11
- Live After Five – October 12,19,26, November 2
- Sunday in the Park – October 14,21,28, November 4,11
- Love Peace & Unity Concert – October 14
- Hollydays – October 18 - 21
- Murder Mystery Dinner – October 20
- Capitol City Beer Fest – October 21
- BRAC's Grand Opening – October 26
- Baton Rouge Halloween Parade / Henry Turner Jr. Day – October 27
- Veteran's Day Parade – October 28
- 13th Gate – October / November 2018
- Light the Night Walk – November 4
- Louisiana Book Festival – November 10
- Preserve Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- USS Kidd

10. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the Smart Growth Summit flyer. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Smart Growth Summit is scheduled for November 13 – 14, 2018. Everyone was encouraged to visit the web site at www.summit.cplex.org for more information.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Ms. Theresa Langlois informed the Commission that the Main Street Market will be celebrating their 22nd anniversary November 3, 2018. A thank you party for donors will be held October 11, 2018.

DBA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the DBA Conference. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to attend one of the upcoming Live After Five concerts.

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11. **Correspondence** – There was no information to report.

12. **Public Comment** – Ms. Mary Durusau, OSC, briefed the Commission on the upcoming event “Spirits of Louisiana”, the event is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018 and will feature live music, food and spirits.

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.

Sgt. Kyle Callihan, City Police, briefed the Commission on the following events:

- Battle of the Badges – Competition between police and fire department
- Boo with the Blue – Halloween night at Cortana mall

Meeting Adjourned: