

DDD Commission Meeting  
May 12, 2015, 8:00 a.m.  
Expressway Park Recreation Center, 935 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St.

Attending: Scott Hensgens, Fran Gladden, Ric Kearny, Gordon LeBlanc,  
Melanie Montanaro, Sevetri Wilson

Absent: Cheryl McCormick

Others in Attendance: Sam Allgood, Copper Alvarez, Gary Anderson, Joe Athony, Alicia Baron, Frances Bennett, Tom Bergman, Greg Bivin, Gary Black, Ben Blackwell, Shannon Blakeman, Timothy Boone, Robert Boudreaux, Chelsea Brasted, Zach Broussard, Kevin Broussard, Cpl. Kyle Callihan, Gayle Carnahan, Johnathan Cary, Jay Celar, Norman Chenevert, Oren Conner, Whitney Cooper, Rebecca Croner, Josh Crowe, Tom Dawson, Angela deGravelles, Eric Dexter, Kristen Diehl, Liz Eure, Heather Fatzinger, Christine Forsman, Judy Foust, James Fox-Smith, Elizabeth Gibert, Lisa Gray, Kim Haddox, Gaye Hamilton, Angela Harms, Daniel Hernandez, Edwin Hightower, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Courtney Hunt, Rebecca Jacobs, Mary Johnson, Douglas Kennedy, Nicole Kennelly, Tara Kistler, Ashley LaBorde, Lawrence Lambert, Lori Lasseigne, Mary LeBlanc, Ron LeBouef, Justin Lemoine, Marisa Lingoni, Diane Losavio, Lisa Lymuel, Staci Manning, Patrick Michaels, Carolyn McNight, Ryan McKnight, BJ Militello, Brandon Morgan, Jennifer Myer, Tim Nesmith, Lisa Nice, Shawn Nolan, Amy Norval, Nic Odekirk, Melissa Parmelee, Michael Petty, Duane Pierce, Andy Pino, Eric Poche, Skipper Post, Margaret Read, Eric Relle, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Stephanie Riegel, Lakeisha Robichaux, Ray Scriber, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Darlene Shingleur, James Slaton, Karen Stagg, Craig Stevens, Emily Sulzer, Casey Tate, Jeremy Theriot, Boo Thomas, Jude Trahan, Mark Trahan, Veach Tucker, Tyelise Vavasseur, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Sadler Ward, Quinn Welsch, Councilwoman Tara Wicker

1. Mrs. Fran Gladden called the meeting to order.
2. Mrs. Fran Gladden declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Ric Kearny moved to approve the agenda, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Ric Kearny moved to approve the April 14, 2015 minutes, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Fran Gladden thanked BREC for hosting the meeting.

**5. Board Action – There was no board action.**

**6a. Governmental Issues – Capitol Park Security** – Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Mr. Mark Moses will update the Commission on the improvements around the State Capitol after the legislative session.

**6b. Development Initiatives – Expressway Park Master Plan** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the exterior amenities and an image of the master plan. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release.

Mr. Rhorer welcomed everyone and encouraged them to attend the ribbon cutting following the meeting for the Greenway at Expressway Park. Ms. Angela Harms briefed the Commission on the following amenities to the park:

- Picnic tables
- Trees
- Sidewalks
- Lighting of practice field and basketball court
- Playground fencing
- Replacement of trash cans

Mr. Rhorer mentioned that the 40 acre park is a link for the surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to review the programs offered at the facility.

**Louisiana Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center. Each Commissioner received a copy of the correspondence. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Commercial historic tax credits are critical for renovations. House Bill 387 and Senate Bill 150 made it through to the House and are headed to the Senate. Downtown Development District counterparts and AIA are lobbying to keep this intact.

**Holiday Inn Express** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the exterior of the building. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to go by the site and view the signage. The hotel has applied for TIF which will go before the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, May 13, 2015. The 88 room hotel is expected to open June 2015. This project is another testament to incentives and making projects work. Parking is onsite and at the River Center garages.

**Rotary Centennial Project Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the project site, Rotary logo, photographs of examples of art pieces and timeline. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that they have received approximately 140 proposals for the sculpture piece on the Riverfront. Codaworx will narrow the proposals down to the top 25 then between 3 – 5 final proposals. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the time line for the project. The \$400,000 project will add to the \$1.2 million invested at the riverfront access.

**Nicholson Streetcar Project** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed route and a photograph of a tram. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the city received proposals and will announce the consultant in approximately two weeks. Mr. Rhorer expressed his amazement with the light right system that connects downtown Tucson Arizona to the University of Arizona on the recent Canvas trip to Tucson Arizona. Mr. Rhorer commended the Mayor on his work with the Nicholson Streetcar project.

**LASM North Courtyard Renovations** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the project and photographs of the current construction. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the project is expected to be complete in approximately 3 weeks. The ribbon cutting for this project and the riverfront gateway will be held during the summer 2015.

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Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that LASM is hosting an exhibit by noted painter and sculptor Emerson Bell. Two of Emerson Bell's sculptures are located at Expressway Park and BREC has agreed to restore the two pieces.

**Riverfront Improvements** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the riverfront gateway improvements on River Road. Improvements on Riverfront at Florida and River Rd. are complete. The umbrellas and furniture are expected to be delivered by the end of May 2015. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that oral presentations will be heard May 21, 2015 from the top three firms selected in regards to the expansion and modifications of the dock to accommodate multiple boats.

**Parking Lot Screening** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the proposed parking lot screening. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the DDD is working with WHLC and The Walls Project to refine the two screening options that have been selected as part of streetscape improvements for surface parking lots. Mr. Vicknair commended everyone involved with the project.

**Downtown Maintenance Committee** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the previous Maintenance committee meeting. Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the individual subcommittees will continue to meet before the next full Maintenance Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2015. The subcommittees are working on the following issues:

Enforcement Committee – Maintenance issues  
Ordinance Committee – Updating the ordinances  
Education Committee – Sidewalk and streetscape education program  
Volunteer / Funding Committee – Ambassador / mentorship partnership

Mr. Rhorer acknowledged everyone involved with the committee.

**Downtown Greenway Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, renderings of proposed improvements. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the consultants continue to work on final details and amenities. The DDD is working with Traffic Engineering and the designers to include innovative ideas. Mr. Rhorer expressed that the garden walk will exist of great quality plants and materials. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that East Blvd. is currently under design and North Blvd 60% construction documents will be submitted to LA DOTD on May 22, 2015.

**SSO Program** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an overview of the program. Mr. Josh Crowe, program manager, briefed the Commission on Downtown Sewer Rehabilitation Construction. Mr. Crowe informed the Commission that downtown stakeholders and neighborhoods will be notified before the construction begins. All street closures should be for only a few days and are published online.

**DPA Bike Share Program** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the previous meeting.

Ms. Whitney Cooper informed the Commission that the Bike Share committee is completing a self-assessment for EPA and consultants to utilize for the plan. The public workshop is planned for the end of July 2015.

**Interstate Lighting Demo** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of lighting demonstration under the Interstate. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that last week Phillips Electric installed temporary decorative lighting and security lighting under the Interstate. Funding is in place for security and decorative lighting.

**New Businesses – AEMLA** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the company is located on Florida Street and is a business that promotes downtown public safety.

**Lake Quick Care** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Lake Quick Care is changing names to Lake Urgent Care.

**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.

- Annual Peace Officers’ Memorial Service – May 15
- Live After Five – May 15, 21
- Downtown Proud! Clean Up – May 16
- AIDS Candlelight Memorial – May 17
- St. Jude’s Run for the Children – May 23
- Memorial Day Concert – May 25
- Red Stick Festival – May 29 & 30
- Children’s Hunger 5K / Loudness War Record Release Party – May 30
- FUMC Community Worship – May 31
- Baton Rouge Arts Market / World Peace Day – June 6
- Just Want to Be Heard, R&B Concert – June 7
- Foundation for Historical Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- 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 with the two-waying of St. Ferdinand and St. Louis.

**8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. Mr. James Slaton informed the Commission that the Louisiana Smart Growth Summit is scheduled for November 3 – 5, 2015. Everyone was encouraged to visit [www.summit.cpex.org](http://www.summit.cpex.org) for more information.

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**BREADA** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Cooper Alvarez briefed on the Commission the upcoming events:

- Saturday, May 30 – Butterfly Extravaganza
- Fresh Fest — Saturday’s June 6 through - August 8, 2015
- June 4 – Neighborhood Arts Project in conjunction with Red Stick Mobile Market at Leo S. Butler Community Center

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

- Live After Five – Final two concerts will be held on Friday, May 15 & Thursday, May 21
- May 16, Downtown Proud Clean Up - Keep Baton Rouge Beautiful
- June 4, DBA Social – Visit Baton Rouge
- July 9, DBA Monthly Meeting – Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center

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

9. **Public Comment** – Ms. Boo Thomas encouraged everyone to take the DOTD survey regarding I-110 and other key intersections. Ms. Thomas also invited everyone to attend the meeting regarding the LSU Lakes at the LOD Cook tonight at 6:00 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.**