

DDD Commission Meeting
June 12, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
LASM, Planetarium, 275 S. River Rd.

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Verni Howard,
Van Mayhall, Chris Nichols

Absent: Fran Gladden, Danny Montelaro

Others in Attendance: Tom Adamek, Missy Ackerman, Gary Anderson, Paul Arrigo, Jo Landry Bagwell, Jeffrey Beck, Matt Beeson, Cory Belden, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Tanya Bennett, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Suzanne Blanchard, Ward Bond, Marcelle Boudreaux, Trent Boudreaux, Benjamin Bradford, Kristin Brinson, Brandt Broussard, Kevin Broussard, Erin Brush, Gary Burkett, Jimmy Burland, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Gayle Carnahan, Stephanie Champagne, Erin Cocharn, Tim Cockerham, Amber Cook, Allison Cooper, Bay Compton, Allison Cooper, Sara Courtney, Helena Cunningham, Ron Crum, Robert Dafford, Melissa Daly, Patrick Danna, Nedra Davis, Genny Denton, Rachel DiResto, Brian Dixon, Erin Ducote, Mary Durusau, Kendrick Ebanks, Danny Edwards, Jennifer Eller, Terry Elmore, Jon Elvert, Alicia Enloe, Michele Ezell, Betsy Fazekas, Cassie Felder, Pete Ferrara, Judy Foust, Mac Freeman, Clark Gernon, Carol Gikas, Aaron Glaser, Krista Goodin, Ashanti Green, Katie Guasco, Melanie Hanley, Brandon Hargrave, Katie Harvey, John O. Hearin, Frankie Hebert, Robert Hebert, Ben Heroman, Jan L. Herrington, Ryan Holcomb, Danielle Honeycutt, Marielle Howard, Nicole Huffstetier, Courtney Hunt, Kris Sanchez Jackson, Tara Kistler, Joe Labbe, Ashley LaBorde, Leigh LaFargue, Andee Lanier, Lori Lasseigne, Beverly Lebeau, Jin Lee, Marie Leleaux, Justin Lemoine, Jason Lockhart, Kyle Lynch, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Bob McCarron, Jason Miller, B.J. Militello, Todd Mitchell, Adrienne Moore, Robyn Morrison, Rebecca Moses, Juan Moya, Gordon Nelson, Dyke Nelson, Lisa Nice, Randy Nichols, Shawn Nolan, Bill Overton, Vertina Overton, Cindy Pauls, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Casey Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Michael Platte, Gene Poche, Eric Poche, Taylor Rainey, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Susan Ringwald, Andre Rodrigue, Megan Roussel, Darlene Rowland, Jenny Rozas, Kerry Ruiz, Robyn Ryan, Kris Sanchez, Samuel Sanders, David Savario, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Shay Schilling, Darlene Shingleur, Lorraine Slade, Brian Sleeth, Karen Stagg, John Smith, Bill Stark, Jennifer Steinhouse, Lacy Strohschein, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Rivers Taylor, Casey Tate, Boo Thomas, Rev. Suzie Thomas, Clark Vega, Mitch Verma, Gabe Vicknair, Nicholas Viguerie, Rossie Washington, Jr., Brad Way, David Weinstein, Pam Welsh, Matt Wilks, Yzell Williamson, Tom Willingham, Michelle Wilson, Rob Wise, Amy Wong, Molly Woodland

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. Mayhall seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the May 8, 2012 minutes, Ms. Verni Howard seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked the Louisiana Art and Science Museum (LASM) for hosting the meeting and introduced executive director of the museum, Ms. Carol Gikas. Ms. Gikas welcomed everyone to the museum and briefed them on the upcoming events at the museum. Mr. Jon Elvert, Planetarium Director, informed the Commission on the updates to the planetarium and briefed them on the International Planetarium Society Conference to be hosted by LASM from July 22 – 26, 2012. There will be a public event Tuesday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m.

5. Board Action – No board action.

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6a. Governmental Issues – Riverfront Development – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of proposed rendering for intersection improvements. Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the TCSP funding for the improvements to the intersection of Florida and River Road as well as a walkway and plaza improvement at the LASM. Bids will be going out late August with construction commencing fall 2012.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Mayor Holden is proposing a budget supplement that will go before the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, June 26, 2012. Following are items for downtown include:

- Signage for North Blvd. Town Square
- Lighting for Galvez Plaza stage canopy
- Lafayette Street pedestrian improvements
- Riverfront gateway enhancements

Mr. Van Mayhall expressed that the budget supplement includes a number of items regarding public safety and encouraged everyone to support the budget supplement.

2010 FHWA Recreational Trails Grant – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of proposed rendering for trails. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the grant was approved by the Metropolitan Council.

River Center Library – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the River Center library. Ms. Alice Cooper, River Center branch manager, informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council has approved the contract with the architect. Ms. Cooper expressed her excitement to move onto the design phase of the project. Mr. Rex Cabaniss, WHLC architecture, commended everyone for their support of the project.

6b. Development Initiatives – North Boulevard Town Square Update (NBTS) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current events held at the Town Square. Mr. Casey Tate, Special Events Coordinator, briefed the Commission on the events held or planned for the NBTS and encouraged everyone to visit the web site at www.townsquarebr.org.

Repentance Park Update– The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the current construction site. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that construction continues and the proposed completion date is November 2012.

One Stop Homeless Service Center – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the service center. Mr. Randy Nichols, One Stop Homeless Service Center, informed the Commission that the center is now open at 153 N. 17th St. and offers several services to the homeless. Mr. Nichols briefed everyone on the services provided and encouraged all to obtain the informational handout cards.

Design Resource Center / DDD New Offices – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of proposed rendering of DDD office space and Design Resource Center. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the DDD is moving their offices to 247 Florida St. The space will include a Design Resource Center which is part of the adopted strategic plan. Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Rex Cabaniss for his assistance on this project.

Downtown Walking Tour Recap – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the walking tour participants.

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Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Downtown Development District (DDD) conducted a walking tour of current downtown projects underway. The tour was well attended and included a tour of 20 projects which represents \$25 million currently in private sector investment downtown. Mr. Van Mayhall expressed that the trash and debris downtown needs to be addressed. Mr. Mayhall also mentioned that the façade and canopies are dated and businesses need to take advantage of the façade grants available through DDD & Redevelopment Authority. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the projects included on the tour.

New Business – 431 Third Street – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the building. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Mr. Wayne Stabler is renovating the space for a restaurant and will make an announcement in approximately one month regarding the name of the eatery.

Bald Eagle Pub – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the interior of the establishment. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the lounge is located beneath Aztecas at 140 Main Street and is now open.

Restaurant IPO – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the exterior of the building and proposed interior rendering. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the restaurant will open Friday, June 15 at 5pm and will serve lunch and dinner.

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

- FUMC Cambodia Craft Sale – June 10
- Sunday in the Park – June 10,17,24 & July 1
- Kress Gallery Opening Reception – June 14
- Capitol Park Museum – Night at the Louisiana Stat Museum – June 16
- Juneteenth – June 16
- Young Band Nation Summer Music Series – June 22 & June 29
- July 4th Events
- LASM – International Planetarium Society Conference
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- Old Governor’s Mansion
- River Center Events

7. Strategic Plan – Plan Baton Rouge II – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the PBR II cover. Mr. Rhorer expressed that implementation of PBR II continues with development along Lafayette Street and the Design Resource Center

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the CPEX logo. Ms. Jennifer Stenhouse briefed the Commission on the following:

- June 12 – CONNECT Transportation Forum – Free public forum focusing on transportation and economic connections between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The event will be held at Lod Cook from 9am – 4pm.
- 7th Annual Smart Growth Summit scheduled for Aug. 27 – 29 at the Manship Theatre, Shaw Center for the Arts.

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BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of BREADA logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland encouraged everyone to continue to support the market. Ms. Rowland briefed the Commission on the following:

- June 16 – Special gift items for Father’s Day
- Fresh Fest continues and has partnered with Louisiana Two Step
- Oct. 20 – 2nd Annual Tailgating Throwdown

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

9. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.