

DDD Commission Meeting
May 8, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
Old State Capitol, 100 North Blvd.

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon, Fran Gladden, Verni Howard,
Chris Nichols

Absent: Van Mayhall, 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, Marcelle Boudreaux, Trent Boudreaux, Benjamin Bradford, Kristin Brinson, Brandt 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, Sara Courtney, Helena Cunningham, Ron Crum, Robert Dafford, Melissa Daly, Nedra Davis, Genny Denton, Rachel DiResto, Brian Dixon, Erin Ducote, Mary Durusau, Kendrick Ebanks, Danny Edwards, Jennifer Eller, Terry Elmore, Alicia Enloe, Michele Ezell, Betsy Fazekas, Cassie Felder, Pete Ferrara, Mac Freeman, Clark Gernon, Aaron Glaser, Krista Goodin, Ashanti Green, Katie Guasco, Melanie Hanley, Brandon Hargrave, Katie Harvey, John O. Hearin, Frankie Hebert, Robert Hebert, Ben Heroman, Emily Herrington, Ryan Holcomb, Danielle Honeycutt, Marielle Howard, Nicole Huffstetier, Chris Hunte, 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, Eric Macicek, Brian Marshall, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Bob McCarron, Jason Miller, B.J. Militello, Todd Mitchell, Adrienne Moore, Robyn Morrison, Juan Moya, Gordon Nelson, Dyke Nelson, Shawn Nolan, Mary Olinde, Billy Overton, Cindy Pauls, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Casey Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Michael Platte, Gene Poche, Eric Poche, John Price, Taylor Rainey, Leif Remo, Davis Rhorer, Susan Ringwald, Andre Rodrigue, Megan Roussel, Darlene Rowland, Jenny Rozas, Kerry Ruiz, Robyn Ryan, Saliha Staib, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Shay Schillilng, Darlene Shingleur, Karen Stagg, John Smith, Jennifer Steinhouse, Lacy Strohschein, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Ben Taylor, 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, Tom Willingham, Michelle Wilson, Rob Wise, Molly Woodland

1. Ms. Chris Nichols called the meeting to order.
2. Ms. Chris Nichols declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Derrell Cohoon moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the April 10, 2012 minutes, Ms. Verni Howard seconded and the minutes were approved.

Rev. Suzie Thomas shared a few words of wisdom.

Mr. Davis Rhorer thanked the Old State Capitol for hosting the meeting and introduced director of the museum, Ms. Mary Durusau. Ms. Durusau welcomed everyone to the museum and encouraged them to view the exhibits following the meeting and support the Old State Capitol Gala on Thursday, May 17th.

5. Board Action – No board action.

6a. Governmental Issues – CATS Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of CATS logo and listing of downtown improvements. Mr. Brian Marshall thanked everyone who supported the tax, but expressed that the system has a deficit for the remainder of 2012.

Larger idea of the plan is linking the city together. Public transportation ties together land use. Changes will begin in 2013 with the purchase of a variety of vehicles followed by the real roll out in 2014. CATS will continue to meet with the public and provide updates on its progress.

Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that DDD has been working with CATS and identified approximately 400 parking spaces under the Interstates downtown and will explore transportation from the sites to downtown locations.

Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following Governmental issues:

- SCR 62 – Resolution concerning the site of the Old Insurance Building which is adjacent to the State Capitol and Spanish Town neighborhood. The legislative auditors has expressed interested in the site. The DDD will continue to monitor the resolution.
- The Metropolitan Council will consider the contract for hiring the architect for the downtown library on Wednesday, May 9, 2012.

Riverfront Development – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the proposed River Rd. & Florida Street improvements. Mr. Rhorer reported that funding is in place for improvements to the Florida Street and River Road improvements. DDD is working with DPW on the construction plans. The project will go out to bid in August 2012 and construction will commence in the fall 2012

Docking Facility – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the riverfront dock and proposed sail shades. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the American Queen will be arriving at the dock on May 20, 2012. The dock has been painted and sail shades are proposed for the facility. Ms. Katie Guasco, Visit Baton Rouge, announced the 2012 dock dates for the four leisure cruise ships coming to Baton Rouge. Visit Baton Rouge mobile information center will be on the dock to welcome guests to Baton Rouge. Ms. Guasco encouraged everyone to obtain welcome buttons and signs to display in their business.

6b. Development Initiatives – North Boulevard Town Square Update (NBTS) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photograph of the Ribbon Cutting ceremony and Live After Five concert. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that NBTS officially kicked off with the April 10th ribbon cutting ceremony. Downtown Development District will be working closely with the upcoming events held at the NBTS.

Repentance Park Update– The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the current construction site. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that underground construction continues and he and Mr. Rhorer will be viewing mock up of ornamental metals and other site materials.

Baton Rouge Wall Project – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the web page. Mr. Casey Phillips announced that the project received the funding and is now reaching out to private business community for matching funds to bring the project to fruition. The first building mural will begin on June 15, 2012. Mr. Phillips thanked the sponsors and Vision City for providing them with office space for their headquarters. Mr. Robert Dafford, muralist, briefed the Commission on his experience with mural projects and expressed that the murals created will attract visitors to the downtown area. Ms. Saliha Staib, artist, expressed her excitement to be a part of the project. Following are the buildings that will be transformed into murals:

- McGlynn Glisson & Mouton Law Firm
- Harrington's Café
- Mentorship Academy
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Tessier Building Update – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current construction site, interior of the units and proposed rendering of Lafayette House. Mr. David Weinstein informed the Commission that he and business partner Mr. Dyke Nelson began renovating the Tessier Building over one year ago and now are in the final phase of the renovation. Of the 9,850 sq. ft., the building currently has 3,000 sq. ft available for lease. Mr. Dyke Nelson informed the Commission that based on the success of the three residential units in the Tessier Building, they decided to develop a four story 16 apartment unit “Lafayette House” on the remaining property. Lafayette House will be one bedrooms with courtyards and balconies. The units are for sale and anyone interested can contact Mr. Nelson or Mr. Weinstein.

Residential Development – 438 Main Street – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the rendering. Ms. Helena Cunningham, developer of 438 Main St., informed the Commission that the 22 unit affordable housing rental development is currently 56 % complete. Completion date is scheduled for September 2012. The have over forty inquiries on the interest list and leasing for the units will begin within 30- 45 days. Anyone interested can contact Ms. Cunningham or Latter & Blum.

Mr. Rhorer recognized Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. John Price.

Grant Programs – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of a downtown home. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the residential façade program officially kicked off and applications are available online at downtownbatonrouge.org.

The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of proposed Greenway trails. The DDD submitted an application for the 2013 Recreation and Trails program. The grant will focus on connecting NBTS to greenway by way of North Blvd. The first phase of the Greenway is in the initial design phase that will connect City Park and Expressway Park to downtown and also includes lighting under the Interstate.

New Business Announcement – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of state parking garage. Mr. Rhorer announced that a restaurant will be locating in the 200 block of Third Street in the state parking garage.

Restaurant IPO – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the exterior of the building and proposed interior rendering. Mr. Eric Macicek announced that Restaurant IPO will be locating in the 400 block of Third Street above The Office Bar. The establishment will be open lunch and dinner six days a week and the menu will feature inspired southern tapas. They are currently working with Chef Scott Varnedoe as a consultant on the menu. The restaurant is scheduled to open the later part of June 2012.

Blend – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the Logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Blend will be locating in the previous Wine Loft location at 304 Laurel St.

Young Band Nation Summer Music Series – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that the Young Band Summer camp participants will be performing live at the North Blvd. Town Square on Friday, June 1, 8, 22 & 29 from 12noon – 2:00 p.m.

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.

- Live After Five – May 11,18,25 & June 1
- Baton Rouge Greek Festival – May 12
- FUMC Cambodia Craft Sale – May 13
- Sunday in the Park – May 13
- Baton Rouge Walk with Me – May 19
- Candlelight Memorial – May 20
- Run for the Children – May 26
- Capitol Park Museum
- LASM
- Manship Theatre Events / LSU MOA
- Old Governor’s Mansion Events
- Old State Capitol
- 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 residential development is underway as recommended in Plan Baton Rouge II.

8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the CPEX logo. Ms. Jennifer Stenhouse encouraged everyone to attend the 7th Annual Smart Growth Summit scheduled for Aug. 27 – 29 at the Manship Theatre, Shaw Center for the Arts. Ms. Stenhouse reviewed the topics scheduled for the summit. Ms. Boo Thomas commended the DDD on its fine work.

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

- May 12 – Special gift items for Mother’s Day
- Fresh Fest kicks off May 26 “Butterfly Extravaganza”

8. Correspondence – There was no information.

9. Public Comment

Jimmy Burland briefed the Commission on the Greek Festival scheduled for Saturday, May 12 at the North Blvd. Town Square.

Mr. Charles Bennett announced the following events:

- Saturday May 12 – Mental Health Association of Greater Baton Rouge presents Beat the Odds Casino Night / Silent Auction – Capitol Park Welcome Center – 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Ticket are available at the door.
- Saturday, June 16 – Night at the Louisiana State Museum – The Kingfish Returns! The event is a fundraiser for the Louisiana State Museum and will feature live and silent auction, wine and beer, live music, tour of museum and catering by Heirloom Cuisine – Louisiana State Museum – 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.

