

DDD Commission Meeting  
May 10, 2011, 8:00 a.m.  
Nichols Residence, 975 Louisiana Avenue

Attending: Norman Chenevert, Van Mayhall, Danny Montelaro,  
Chris Nichols

Absent: Cheri Ausberry, Derrell Cohoon, Fran Gladden

Others in Attendance: Copper Alvarez, James Andermann, Gary Anderson, Chris Andrews, Heather Andricain, Jo Landry-Bagwell, Jose Barro, Jay Basist, Jeffrey Beck, Cory Belden, Carolyn Bennett, Charles Bennett, Frances Bennett, Denver Benton, Gary Black, Virginia Black, Rebecca Bonnet, Kevin Broussard, Mike Bruce, Leila Brumberg, Eddie Budd, Erin Bush, Chad Calder, Wanda Calkins, Gayle Carnahan, Renee Chatelain, Cosima Clements, Erin Cocharn, Tim Cockerham, Amber Cook, Ryan Cooney, Carol Cranshaw, Sandra Daire, Scott D'Agostino, Melissa Daly, Angela DeGravelles, Rachel DiResto, Brian Dixon, Maggie Drake, Patricia Duncan, Mary Durusau, Kendrick Ebanks, Jennifer Eller, Terry Elmore, Jon Elvert, Fritz Embaugh, Heather Fatzinger, Betsy Fazekas, Cassie Felder, Derek Fitch, Leslie Foster, Judy Foust, Marston Fowler, Sarah Friedmann, Steve Fuller, Joey Furr, Emily Gauthier, Bryan Gerace, Brian Goad, Jessica Golebiowski, Derek Gordon, Ted Griggs, John Grove, Becky Gustafson, Rachel Hanley, Maureen Harbourt, Micah Hargrove, Katie Harvey, Katherine Herald, Bea Heroman, Jake Holinga, Ryan Holcomb, Nicole Huffstetier, Ed Jenkins, Lowell Johnson, Sadie Roberts Joseph, John Kaufman, Bridget Kerley, Ashley LaBorde, Phillip LaFargue, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Beverly LeBeau, Jin Lee, Susana Lee, Justin Lemoine, David Littlefield, Tom Livesay, Jason Lockhart, Sarah Lomax, Diane Losavio, Sam Losavio, Chris Maggie, Stephanie Manson, Nicole Merritt, Jeff Michie, Jason Miller, Karen Moreau, Robyn Morrison, Brent Nettles, Vertina Overton, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Beth Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Michael Platte, Eric Poche, Mike Prejean, Taylor Rainey, Tina Rance, Margaret Read, Chris Reid, Leif Remo, Daniel Rhodes, Davis Rhorer, Frank Rideaux, III, William Roberts, Erin Rolfs, Darlene Rowland, Robyn Ryan, Kerry Ruiz, Samuel Sanders, Joseph Scott, Larry Selders, Casey Sessums, Ann Shaneyfelt, John Shorter, John Sills, Lorraine Slade, Lisa Smith, John Smith, Kelly Spell, Karen Stagg, Jennifer Stenhouse, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, Cherry Talbert, Elizabeth Thomas, Clark Vega, Kathy Victorian, Teresa Vidrine, Jennifer Ward

1. Ms. Chris Nichols called the meeting to order.
2. Ms. Chris Nichols declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Van Mayhall moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the April 12, 2011 minutes, Mr. Danny Montelaro seconded and the minutes were approved.
5. **Board Action** – There was no board action.

Mr. Davis Rhorer welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ms. Chris Nichols for hosting the meeting at her residence and applauded her for the transition of what could have been a negative living environment into a positive situation. Mr. Rhorer reviewed slides of the exterior and interior of the home and encouraged everyone to take a tour following the meeting.

6a. **Governmental Issues – Louisiana State Historic Tax Credits** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the state capitol and the legislation. Each Commissioner received a copy of the correspondence. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that 2011 Capital Outlay includes the following funding:

- \$850,000 – Foundation for Historical Louisiana
- \$1,345,000 – Old State Capitol

Mr. Rhorer announced that he testified before the Senate Finance and Executive committee for support of the renewal of state historic tax credits on commercial properties. The legislation passed through the committee and moved to the House Ways and Means committee.

**6b. Development Initiatives – Beauregard Town** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images pertaining to Beauregard Town. Mr. Brian Goad informed the Commission that the Beauregard Town Civic Association has formed a security committee and briefed the Commission on the following:

**Tree Trimming** – The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 8am and will begin at Beauregarden.

**Audio Tour** – Beauregard Town Civic Association has been working with the Louisiana State Museum, Foundation For Historical Louisiana and Frank McMains to create an audio tour for Beauregard Town. They are currently in the process of finalizing the contents.

**Beauregarden** – Mr. Goad recognized Rev. Andrews and Ms. Margaret Read for their partnership in the garden. The garden is a partnership between First United Methodist Church and Beauregard Town Civic Association (BTCA). The garden has twenty four plots and has been a great community building tool. The garden will be featured in Chef John Folses' new book. BTCA has secured the donation of three benches from Victor Stanley, Inc. Mr. Rhorer commended Mr. Goad for his work with Beauregard Town.

**Blue Ribbon Commission on Baton Rouge Transit** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of current newspaper article. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article and survey. Mr. Rhorer attended a recent meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission and was extremely impressed with the research that has been done. The Blue Ribbon Commission has solicited a survey regarding transit in EBR Parish. Ms. Cassie Felder, Blue Ribbon Commission member, emphasized that this survey is regarding transit system as a whole not just CATS. Ms. Felder encouraged everyone to participate in the survey and rank service options and vote on one of four proposals.

**River Center Library** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, the listing of selected firms. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer announced the following architectural firms were selected to present oral presentations on Thursday, May 19 at 5pm in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

- Chenevert Arch & Remson/Haley/Herpin
- Coleman Partners Architects, LLC
- Trahan Architects
- WHLC/Schwartz/Silver

**River Park Development update** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, images of underpass and proposed renderings of the development. Mr. Davis Rhorer reported that the approximately \$1billion development continues to move forward and includes 100,000 sq. ft. of entertainment space.

**DDD Projects Update – North Boulevard Town Square (NBTS) - Repentance Park**

The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the project fact sheet and proposed renderings. Each Commissioner received a copy of the fact sheet and correspondence. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Mayor has an Item on the Metropolitan Council Agenda requesting the Metropolitan Council to approve \$1 million in state sales tax rebate from hotels to fund a portion of Repentance Park and Galvez Plaza. Mr. James Andermann informed the Commission that the project is on schedule.

**New Downtown Business – Bumble Lane** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release. Ms. Tina Rance announced that Bumble Lane Spa has opened in the Hilton. The spa is open Monday through Friday from 11am – 7pm and Saturday's from 9:00 am– 4:00pm.

Mr. Rhorer announced that the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness has scheduled a meeting regarding the rising Mississippi River on Thursday, May 12, 2011, 9:30 a.m., in the Governor's room at the Hilton.

**Green Frog Music** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer announced that Green Frog Music has located their offices downtown at 133 Third Street.

**UPS** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the logo Mr. Rhorer announced that UPS will be offering specials for downtown residents and businesses. The DDD will send out an email regarding the discounts.

**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.

- Foundation For Historical Louisiana
- Troopers Trot for Troopers Walk / Run – May 14
- Red Hat Run Walk / Run – May 15
- Walk With Me – May 21
- Run for the Children Walk / Run – May 28
- Passport to the World International Cooking Competition – June 5
- LSU Museum of Art
- LASM
- Live After Five
- Sunday in the Park
- Manship Theatre Events
- 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 informed the Commission that he has forwarded an email to acting DPW Director, William Daniel regarding items in PBR II as they relate to transportation. Mr. Rhorer will request a meeting with DPW to prioritize the items. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 13 with Mid City Redevelopment Alliance to discuss the expansion of boundaries.

**8. Ongoing Projects – CPEX** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the CPEX logo. Ms. Rachel Diresto announced that CONNECT has released part 2 in a series of policy briefs "Connected and Ready to Compete: The Role of Transit and Coordinated Regional Planning in the Economic Future of Baton Rouge and New Orleans."

DDD Commission Mtg.  
May 10, 2011  
Pg. 4

This brief explores the benefits for businesses and government and the importance of connecting job clusters with regional destinations. CONNECT is looking into the long term approach into regional connectivity.

**BREADA** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of BREADA’s logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland informed the Commission of the following:

- May 14 – Bike Fresh Bike Local – partnering with Capital Region Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Campaign to promote safety
- May 14 – Fresh from the Market cooking demonstration this Saturday featuring Liz Holloway and Milou Barry of Bocage Honey
- May 28 – Kicking off Fresh Fest events

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

#### **9. Public Comment**

Ms. Frances Bennett, Louisiana State Museum Friends, announced that the 1st Annual Louisiana State Museum fund raiser is scheduled for June 18, 7:00 p.m. at the museum. For complete details visit the Louisiana State Museum web site.

Mr. Rhorer announced that Mentorship Academy continues to accept applications for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Meeting adjourned**