

DDD Commission Meeting
August 11, 2009, 8:00 a.m.
Manship Theater, 100 Lafayette Street

Attending: Cheri Morial Ausberry, Norman Chenevert, Derrell Cohoon,
Fran Gladden, Van Mayhall

Absent: Chris Nichols

Others in Attendance: Lt. Raymond Alexander, Raymond Allmon, Copper Alvarez, James Andermann, Chris Andrews, Joe Anthony, Stephen Arceneaux, Renee Areng, Paul Arrigo, Annabelle Armstrong, Jo Landry Bagwell, Susan Bailey, Ed Batson, Mary W. Baus, Kyle Beall, Michael Beck, Danny Belanger, Jeff Bell, Bill Benedetto, Debbie Bennett, Carla Bergeron, Jennifer Berniard, Ricky Besson, Susannah Bing, Gary Black, Brittany Bland, Mary Boston, Whitney Breaux, Dave Briggs, Carrie Broussard, Jeremy Broussard, Kevin Broussard, Christina Bourg, Dana Brown, David Brown, Mike Bruce, Jimmy Burland, Jason Burns, Lacy Burris, Rex Cabaniss, Chad Calder, Patricia Calfee, Wanda Calkins, Gayle Carnahan, Nancy Carter, Ashley Casey, Trey Castleberry, Lindsey Cavalier, Nikki Cayton, Jack Chapman, Nancy Chesson, Chuck Cline, Tim Cockerham, Sonya Collins, Ronnie Comeaux, Marie Constantine, Todd Cooper, Whitney Cooper, Cpl. Don Coppola, Paul Counce, Sara Courtney, Ron Crum, Sandra Daire, Melissa Daly, Chad Danos, Pete Darling, Miriam Davey, Emmett David, Andi DeJohn, Elizabeth Dent, Rachel DiResto, Lauren Dodds, Patrick Downs, Huey Dugas, Jeff Duhe, Patricia Duncan, Lacey Dupre, Mary Durusau, Scott Dyer, Paul Dykes, Kelli Eason, Kendrick Ebanks, John Eblen, Ronnie Edwards, Jim Ellis, Jon Elvert, Eric Engeman, Nikki Essix, Pauline Ewing, Bart Farmer, David Farrar, Natalie Fielding, Derek Fitch, Carley Fleming, Jessica Foleg, Mary Fontenot, Janatha Forrest, Steve Fuller, Joey Furr, Mike Futrell, Gail Gaiennie, Ed Gaskin, Cpl. Mike Gauthier, Susan Gavrelis, Bryan Gerace, Josh Gettys, Lydia Gikas, Carol Gikas, Debbie Gill, Brian Goad, Brace Godfrey, Krista Goodin, Jason Goodson, Mark Goodson, Derek Gordon, Gary Graham, Selena Grant, Francis Grayson, Jill Green, Jamie Griffin, Blaine Grimes, Melissa Guilbeau, Lauren Gutierrez, Rev. Howard Hall, Jennifer Hall, Jill Hancock, Tyelise Harrison, John Hart, John O. Hearin, Shawn O'Brien, Dawn Hebert, Michelle Hebert, Kristin Hebert, Caleb Heine, John Helm, Vida Henderson, Walker Higgins, Kim Hodgeson, Robert Hodges, Ryan Holcomb, Tom Holden, Jake Holinga, Helen Holland, Eric Holley, Capt. Virginia Holmes, Mona Holthaus, Lael Holton, Danielle Honeycutt, John Hough, Kristi Howard, Alice Howe, Rose Hudson, Joe Hynes, Kelly Iwasko, David Jacobs, Lt. Stephenia M. Jackson, Staci Jamieson, Emma James, Ted James, Ingrid Payne Johnson, Tammy Johnston, Brian Jones, Ernest Junius, Jason Keller, Lanny Keller, Billy Kelley, Patte Keogh, Stafford Kendall, Kevin Kimball, Eddie King, Chuck Kline, Andy Kopplin, David Kors, Joe Labbe, Ashley Laborde, Leigh Lafarque, Dana LaFonta, Mark Landry, Michael Lang, Ryan Lang, Lori Lasseigne, Debbie Lapeyrouse, Justin Lemoine, Stacey Levert, Eric Lewis, Tom Livesay, Terrence Lockett, Diane Losavio, Susan Ludwig, Steven Lumpkin, David Madden, Katie Maloney, Manuel, Nicole Marshall, Rachel Marionneaux, Camm Martin, Patrick Mascarella, Katherine Mason, Kendall Matassa, Dee Mather, Al McDuff, Slater McKay, Tommy Milazzo, Cheryl Miller, Jason Miller, BJ Militello, Donna Mitchell, Todd Mitchell, Sonia Morales, Micah Morgan, Bryan Murphy, Penny Murray, Rose Mustain, Richard Neal, Dyke Nelson, Steven Noel, Rod Nunez, Jennifer Ocken, Mike Odom, Mary Olinde, Chad Ortte, Theresa Overby, Johnny Palazzotto, Greg Palmer, Glenda Parks, Melissa Parmelee, Tom Parsons, Gary Perilloux, Lisa Perron, Joel Phillips, Ashley Pierce, Eric Poche, Mitch Poche, Sgt. Kenny Pointer, Skipper Post, Stuart Poulton,

Mike Prejean, DeDe Preno, Vincent Price, Mary Louise Prudhomme, Buddy Ragland, Tina Rance, Bill Reich, Eric Relle, Daniel Rhodes, Davis Rhorer, Malcolm Richard, Tina Righteous, Chris Rinaudo, Bob Robe, Sage Roberts, Darryl Robertson, George Robins, Emmett Robbins, Erin Rolfs, Darlene Rowland, Kerry Ruiz, Scott Saltmarsh, Alison Saunders, Kristen Sanders, James Schafer, John Schneider, Katherine Scherer, Ben Schultz, Joe Sciortino, Larry Selders, Lonnie Seals, Terry Serio, Casey Sessums, Tim Seymour, Katrina Shaw, Darlene Shingleur, Pam Sills, Lorraine Slade, Lisa Smith, John Smith, John Snow, Kathleen Spencer, Karen Stagg, Bill Stark, Dawn Starns, Mary Stein, Jennifer Steinhouse, John Stewart, George Strain, John Streva, Kelly Stutes, Jan Sumrall, John Sykes, Lauren Sylvest, Cherry Talbert, Claiborne Tanner, Ben Taylor, Matt Taylor, Todd Teepel, Collis Temple, Ted Terrell, Anna Thibodeaux, Suzie Thomas, Christopher Toombs, Trey Trahan, Berry Trascher, Pat VanBurkleo, Clark Vega, Gabe Vicknair, Barry Walls, John Walters, Brad Way, Elizabeth Weinstein, Adam Werth, Hampton West, Jay Westerfield, Emily Wharton, Tara Wicker, Margaret Wilkinson, Matt Wilks, Bubba Willis, Seveti Wilson, Kate Wilson, Beau Wolfe, Erin Wood, Renee Woods, Melissa Woolridge

1. Mr. Van Mayhall called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Van Mayhall declared a quorum.
3. Ms. Fran Gladden moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Norman Chenevert seconded and the agenda was approved as amended.
4. Mr. Norman Chenevert moved to approve the July 14, 2009 minutes, Ms. Cheri Ausberry seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Rhorer recognized Terry Serio, Manship Theatre, for hosting the board meeting and encouraged everyone to support the events at the facility.

5. Board Action – See Capitol Lofts

6a. Governmental Issues – Mayor’s Bond Issue – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, slides regarding proposed projects to implement. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles and email regarding the summary of projects that are within the downtown area as part of the capital improvements program. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Council approved the new taxing district for the bond issue. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the list of projects proposed to be included in the 2009 Capitol Improvements Program. All projects are proposed to be completed in seven years.

Alive Project – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a slide of the “ALIVE” logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Mr. Tom Hennes, President of Thinc Design, will give a presentation on the concept that is proposed at the DeSoto Park site, following the DDD board meeting.

6b. Development Initiatives – Capitol Lofts – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an aerial photograph indicating the location of the proposed development. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper articles. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the project is on the agenda for the Historic Preservation Commission Wednesday, August 12 at 8:30 a.m. which is to be held in the Metro-Council Chambers on the third floor of City Hall. Mr. Rhorer went on to explain that he had received an email from Mr. David Slaughter stating that the project is on hold until further notice. Mr. Cohoon expressed that discussions have been frank between the developers and Spanish Town Civic Association; the Association has not been an enemy in this case and recognizes the importance of residential in the downtown area. The DDD has been instrumental in writing and helping pass the Demolition Ordinance and the Historic Preservation guidelines in Spanish Town. Mr. Derrell Cohoon requested that the DDD Commission go on record supporting the continued strict adherence to the two ordinances. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Cohoon moved that the Downtown Development District go on record supporting the continued strict adherence to the Demolition Ordinance and the Historic Preservation guidelines in Spanish Town. Ms. Nichols seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Library Board Meeting – August 20th – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the proposed rendering of the River Center Library. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to attend the Library Board of Control meeting on Thursday, August 20 at 4:00 p.m. at the Old State Capitol. Trey Trahan of Trahan Architects will be presenting the results of the feasibility study regarding improvements to the River Center Library.

National Register Historic District – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the boundary map. Each Commissioner received a copy of the boundary map. Mr. Jacob Holinga informed the Commission that there are 43 properties within the boundaries that are deemed eligible for recommendation for the National Register. If approved, the properties would be eligible for up to 26% tax credits for the rehabilitation cost. This would bring the total tax credit incentive allowable to 51% until the end of 2009. (There is an extra 5% in place until year's end as being a part of the GO ZONE.)

Mr. Holinga mentioned the State Review Committee will meet on Thursday, August 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Iowa Room at the Claiborne Building. The DDD will send out a notice to property owners in the Third Street corridor regarding a workshop on how to apply for the tax credits.

Litter Court – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the violations. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Ms. Irma Plummer informed the Commission that as a result of the Mayor's Listening tours, the Mayor's office has implemented the litter court program. The following five violations will be covered in litter court:

- Accumulation of Junk / Trash debris
- Maintenance of property
- Swimming pool violations
- Illegal signs
- Garbage containers on curbs

Ms. Plummer reviewed the enforcement process and introduced Ms. Mary Fontenot, director of the Office of Neighborhoods. Ms. Plummer explained that complaints may be registered by calling 311.

Spanish Town – Parking Permit Program – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of on-street parking and proposed parking sign. Each Commissioner received a copy of the parking permit ordinance and newspaper article. Mr. Andermann informed the Commission that the proposed amendment to the Parking Permit Program for Spanish Town was approved by the Metropolitan Council. The amendment to the program changes the hours from twenty four hours to daily from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The DDD is working with Department of Public Works on the design of the neighborhood parking signs. Mr. Rhorer commended Councilwoman Tara Wicker and the Spanish Town Civic Association for their efforts in implementing the program.

World Congress Paper – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, a photograph of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that that the Downtown Development District submitted a paper to the 5th World Congress regarding the role of downtown and the partnerships the Downtown Development District played after Hurricane Katrina. The winners will be announced the end of September 2009.

LaDOTD Transportation Enhancement Program Proposals – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of proposed enhancements. Each Commissioner received a copy of the email regarding DOTD Transportation Enhancement Program. Mr. Jacob Holinga informed the Commission that the DDD has applied for enhancement funds for the following projects:

Riverfront Master Plan

Landscaping beautifications within North Boulevard Town Square totaling \$1.9 Million.

Downtown Visitor's Amenity Plan

Streetlight Improvements within the Arts & Entertainment District between the intersections for a total of \$542,000.

Downtown Visitor's Amenity Plan

Landscaping and other beautifications under I-110 along Ninth Street stretching from Spanish Town Road to Government Street totaling \$900,000.

The DDD should received notification from the LaDOTD by late fall 2009 as to which projects will be funded.

Hotel King – There was no information.

North Blvd. Town Square – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photographs of the renderings of the proposed development. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. James Andermann informed the Commission that Department of Public Works approved the traffic model which allowed for the DDD to receive the official Notice-to-Proceed

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to the next phase of the North Boulevard Town Square contract. The goal is to break ground the first quarter of 2010.

Welcome New Business – The Office – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photograph of the logo and the exterior of the restaurant. Mr. Gabe Vicknair informed the Commission that The Office will locate at 423 Third Street. The club will include a kitchen, upstairs bar with dance floor. The establishment is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009.

Lokka Med Spa – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, photograph of the logo. Ms. Nikki Cayton, owner, informed the Commission that Lokka Spa is under new ownership and the name has been changed to Lokka Med Spa. The menu now includes Botox and Juvederm. Everyone is encouraged to attend the open house September 14, 2009.

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

22nd Annual United Way Jambalaya Cook-Off – August 14th

Green Paradise – August 14th

CPEX Smart Growth Summit Conference – Aug. 26 - 28th

Fete Rouge – Aug. 27 – 29th

Louisiana Strength Foundation Fundraiser – Aug. 29th

Manship Theatre Events

River Center Events

7. Ongoing –Center for Planning Excellence – Mrs. Rachel DiResto encouraged everyone to register for the Smart Growth Summit Conference – Aug. 26th - 28th. Mrs. DiResto informed the Commission that as part of the Smart Growth Summit, on Saturday, August 29th, CPEX will be hosting the First Annual Building Blocks: If Kids Ruled the City at the Louisiana Art and Science Museum. The event is an interactive planning day where children will have the chance to build a small scale version of their ideal city.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via power point, the BREADA logo. Ms. Darlene Rowland briefed the Commission on upcoming event:

- October 18th, 4 – 7pm – Benefit for the Main Street Market & Red Stick Farmer’s Market. The event will feature live music and silent auction.

8. Correspondence – No information to report.

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9. Public Comment – Mr. Michael Beck, Spanish Town Resident, questioned if the motion on Capitol Lofts supported the proposed demolition of the seven houses, Mr. Mayhall stated that the motion supported the continued strict adherence to the Demolition Ordinance and the Historic Preservation guidelines in Spanish Town.

Rev. Chris Andrews informed the Commission that First United Methodist Church is nearing completion on the renovations of the Bailey House at 900 North Blvd. which has been converted into the McMains Center for Spirituality Formation. Everyone was encouraged to visit the new facility.

Mayor Holden thanked everyone involved in the recent visit from Jackson, Mississippi delegates. As a result of this visit to downtown Baton Rouge an article was written in the Mississippi Business Journal “A Tale of Two Cities”. The fact that people are coming to Baton Rouge to see what we have to offer is a complement to Baton Rouge and a team effort of many people. The bond issue set us apart from any other city in the nation. Mayor Holden encouraged everyone to step forward and bring Baton Rouge to the next level by supporting the bond issue.

Announcement – Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to stay for the “ALIVE” presentation by Mr. Tom Hennes.

Meeting adjourned.