

DDD Commission Meeting  
January 9, 2018, 8:00 a.m.  
LSU Museum of Art, Bert and Sue Turner Gallery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Attending: Eric Dexter, Fran Gladden, Scott Hensgens, Ric Kearny, Gordon LeBlanc, Cheryl McCormick, Melanie Montanaro

Others in Attendance: Gary Anderson, Logan Anderson, Meredith Anderson, Joe Anthony, James Avault, Gary Black, Ben Blackwell, Timothy Boone, Kevin Broussard, Gayle Carnahan, Renee Chatelain, Wendi Coates, David Cobb, DerrellCoohon, Suzette Crocker, Remy Curry, Sandra Daire, Shelby Daugherty, Sgt. Distefano, Keith Dixon, Mary Durusau, Danny Fields, Joey Furr, Trevor Gauthreaux, Mark Goodson, Piia Hanson, Anita Hebert, Adrienne Kors Horn, Kyle Huffstickler, Monica Hughes, Pat Hughes, Veneeth Iyengar, Fairleigh Jackson, Mary Johnson, Kade Jones, Mary Joseph, Sadie Roberts Joseph, Sam Karlin, John Kaufman, Beverly LeBeau, Mary Jane Marcantel, Fr. Pat Mascarella, B. J. Miletello, Donnie Miller, Aaron Molluro, Mikela Morgan, Chris Nichols, Shawn Nolan, Mary Olinde, Lluvia Peveto, Ruth Phillips, Andy Pino, Davis Rhorer, Fredrick Sargent, Whitney Sayal, Darlene Shingleur, Noura K. Skakri, Brandi Simmons, Daniel Stetson, Emily Sulzer, Casey Tate, Trey Truitt, Chris Tyson, Gabe Vicknair, Samear Zaitoon

1. Mr. Ric Kearny called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Ric Kearny declared a quorum.
3. Mrs. Fran Gladden moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Eric Dexter seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to approve the December 12, 2017 minutes, Mr. Eric Dexter seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Ric Kearny thanked LSU Museum of Art for hosting the Commission meeting. Ms. Brandi Simmons, LSU Museum of Art Communications Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the museum and encouraged them to view the exhibits after the meetings.

**5. Board Action – Nominating Committee** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DDD logo. Each Commissioner received a copy of the Nominating Committee report. Mr. Ric Kearny informed the Commission that the Nominating Committee has met and presented the proposed slate of 2018 officers as follows: Ric Kearny, Chairman; Scott Hensgens, Vice Chairman; Melanie Montanaro, Treasurer and Gordon LeBlanc, Secretary. **Mr. Scott Hensgens moved to adopt the nominees as presented, Mrs. Fran Gladden seconded and the nominees were unanimously approved as presented.**

**6. Governmental Issues** – Mr. Davis Rhorer informed the Commission that proposed fencing under the North Blvd overpass to secure the area for construction equipment will be presented to the Metropolitan Council, Wednesday, January 10, 2018. The Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless is working to re-house homeless individuals in the area before the fence is constructed. Mr. Rhorer and Ms. Mary Jane Marcantel encouraged everyone to assist the homeless by donating to community organizations with programs specifically designed to meet the needs of the homeless Mr. Rhorer commended Ms. Chris Nichols, Ms. Mary Jane Marcantel and Sgt. Distefano for their work with the Road Home Program.

**7. Update from Previous Board Meeting – Federal Historic Tax Credits** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Kress building. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the coalition to preserve the historic tax credits in Louisiana is strong and made a major statement nationally regarding the tax. In December 2017, the legislation gained final approval by U.S. Congress to preserve the credits. Mrs. Fairleigh Jackson, Executive Director of Preserve Louisiana, expressed that the coalition across the state is superb and encouraged everyone to contact Senator Cassidy's office and thank him for his assistance with this legislation.

**8. Development Initiatives – Developments Underway** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current projects. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects:

- Downtown Library – reviewed the current construction photographs. Proposed completion by the end of 2018
- The Elias – reviewed the current construction photographs of the 25 residential unit development proposed to be complete Spring 2018
- Lofts @ 6C – reviewed the current construction photographs of the 142 residential unit development. 6 floor development with first two floors dedicated to parking
- House on the Hill – reviewed the current construction photographs of the 15 residential unit development in Beauregard Town with common areas. The development is a multi-phased project.

**DDD 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of riverfront projects. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following Riverfront Development projects:

1984 Riverfront Development Plan  
1990 – City Dock  
1994 – Levee Path and steps  
1990's – Riverfront Casino's  
River Center Expansion  
2015 – Levee Access / Levee Amenities  
2018 – River Road Improvements  
2018- Riverfront Plaza  
2018 – Rotary Sculpture

Ms. Sadie Roberts Joseph inquired about the possibility of bringing back the Samuel Clemens dinner cruise boat. Mr. Rhorer recalled the history of the boat and the dinner cruises it provided. He concurred that the boat would be an asset to downtown if it were reinstated.

Mr. Rhorer introduced Mr. Chris Tyson, Director of RDA and Mr. Veneeth Iyengar,

**2017 Development Update** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the 2017 Development update cover. Each Commissioner received a copy of the 2017 Development Update. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the update and encouraged everyone to review the update on the DDD website: [www.downtownbatonrouge.org](http://www.downtownbatonrouge.org)

**Courtyard Marriot** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current construction. Mr. Ben Blackwell, Hospitality America, Area Manager of Operations, informed the Commission that the vertical construction has been completed and the topping off ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. The hotel is expected to be complete early summer 2018.

**City Hall Plaza** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed improvements and photographs of current construction. Mr. Gabe Vicknair updated the Commission on the construction of the plaza. The project is expected to be complete mid March 2018.

**Riverfront Plaza** – Item was discussed previously in the DDD 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary agenda item.

**DeSoto Park** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial photograph of the park, located west of the State buildings and bordering the Mississippi River. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that DDD and BREC officials conducted a site visit of the proposed DeSoto Park. Mr. Rhorer reviewed the proposed improvements for the area. Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved with the project.

**Town Square Phase II** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendered image of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the project will be rebid in February 2018.

**Riverfront Wayfinding Signage** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendered image of the proposed signage. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission the installation of the directional pedestrian wayfinding signage has been delayed. The installation is expected to begin within the week with a two week completion time frame.

**Downtown Maintenance Committee** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of Mrs. Fairleigh Jackson with Old Governor's Mansion and photographs of the exterior. Mrs. Whitney Hoffman Sayal informed the Commission that the winner of the December Downtown Distinction Award is Old Governor's Mansion in the Tourist Destinations category. Mrs. Jackson thanked the previous recipient for the nomination. The winners are promoted on social media outlets and the category for January is Corporations/Companies. The final category award will be chosen February 2018. In March, the people will vote on their favorite award winner over the past twelve months to select the 'People's Choice' winner. The committee continues to work on updating the utility paint and waste ordinance and will continue to work with the affected stakeholders prior to introducing them to the Metropolitan Council for approval. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2018.

**New Business –Vinformatix** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the staff. Mr. Trevor Gauthreaux informed the Commission that Vinformatix, a software development company, re-located their offices to 801 North Blvd.

**Noura Holistic Therapies** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of a yoga studio.

Mrs. Noura K. Skakri informed the Commission that she has located her wellness business within the One Heart Yoga Center at the corner of St. Joseph and Spain Streets. Mrs. Skakri offers skin care, massage therapy, and yoga classes.

Mr. Davis Rhorer recognized Mr. Chris Tyson, the new Director of East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority (RDA) and welcomed him to say a few words. Mr. Tyson briefed the Commission on the RDA projects underway.

**9. 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.

- Louisiana Marathon Weekend – January 12 - 14
- MLK March – January 15
- Louisiana Life March – January 20
- Downtown Baton Rouge Civil War Walking Tour – January 26
- Mardi Gras Parades
- Preserve Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- USS Kidd

Mrs. Fairleigh Jackson briefed the Commission on the lecture scheduled at the Old Governor's Mansion, Thursday, January 11, 2018.

Ms. Brandi Simmons briefed the Commission on the upcoming museum programs.

**10. 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.

**11. Ongoing Projects – CPEX** – The Commission viewed, via Power Point, an image of the CPEX logo. There was no information to report.

**BREADA** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Mr. Rhorer encouraged everyone to continue to support the Main Street Market.

**Downtown Business Association (DBA)** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that Mrs. Lauren Tompkins, DBA Managing Director, had a baby boy last week. Live After Five commences Friday, March 30, 2018.

**12. Correspondence** – There was no information to report.

**13. Public Comment** – Mr. Frederick Sargent with Electronic Media briefed the Commission on his business and encouraged businesses or anyone wanting to promote an event to contact him after the meeting.

DDD Commission Mtg.

January 9, 2018

Pg. 5

Ms. Renee Chatelain, Arts Council CEO, encouraged everyone to attend the Baton Rouge Jewish Film Festival this week at the Manship Theatre.

Ms. Sadie Roberts Joseph, Curator, encouraged everyone to visit the African American History museum located at 538 South Blvd.

**Meeting Adjourned:**