

DDD Commission Meeting
March 13, 2018, 8:00 a.m.
St. James Episcopal Church Parlor, 208 N. 4th Street

Attending: Eric Dexter, Fran Gladden, Scott Hensgens, Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Ric Kearny, Gordon LeBlanc, Cheryl McCormick

Others in Attendance: Gary Anderson, Logan Anderson, Meredith Anderson, Emanuel Andrews, Ben Blackwell, Timothy Boone, Chris Brooks, Kevin Broussard, Helen Butts, Lt. Callihan, Gayle Carnahan, Renee Chatelain, William Cox, Suzette Crocker, Remy Curry, Kim Daugherty, Michael Day, Chad Diaville, Mary Durusau, Bob Fenet, Clarke Gernon, Rannah Gray, Blaine Grimes, Angela Harms, Anita Hebert, Emily Jackson, Mary Johnson, Mary Joseph, Sam Karlin, John Kaufman, Jessica Keasler, Jack Koban, Beverly LeBeau, Steven Lumpkin, Fr. Pat Mascarella, Brian McNabb, B. J. Miletello, Donnie Miller, Aaron Molluro, Dyke Nelson, Chris Nichols, Mary Olinde, Lluvia Peveto, Ruth Phillips, Andy Pino, Lauren Ray, Davis Rhorer, Whitney Sayal, Darlene Shingleur, Amy Mitchell – Smith, Debbie Stiltner, Casey Tate, Collis Temple, Collis Temple, Jr. Boo Thomas, Travis Thornton, Lauren Tompkins, Trey Truitt, Lindsey Usrey, Gabe Vicknair

1. Mr. Scott Hensgens called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Scott Hensgens declared a quorum.
3. Mrs. Melanie Montanaro moved to approve the agenda, Mr. Eric Dexter seconded and the agenda was approved.
4. Mrs. Fran Gladden moved to approve the February 15, 2018 minutes, Mr. Eric Dexter seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Scott Hensgens thanked St. James Episcopal for hosting the meeting.

5. Board Action – Cultural Products District – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that a proposed expansion of the Arts & Entertainment District Cultural District will be introduced at the Metropolitan Council meeting Wednesday, March 14, 2018. The expansion would include the Arts Market, Beauregard Gallery and the Industrial Park area. **Mr. Scott Hensgens moved that the DDD endorse the expansion of the Cultural Products District, Mrs. Fran Gladden seconded and the motion was unanimously approved as presented**

Personnel Issue – Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on a proposal going before the Metropolitan Council that would affect his current retire rehire status. Currently Mr. Rhorer works 29 hours a week while still collecting retirement. The proposal would require city parish employees to maintain full time employment. The item goes before the Metropolitan Council Wednesday, March 14, 2018. **Mr. Scott Hensgens moved that the DDD Commission go on record requesting that boards and commissions be exempt from the proposal, Mr. Eric Dexter seconded and the motion was unanimously approved as presented**

6. Governmental Issues – Cultural Products District – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the boundary map. **Addressed under board action.**

7. Update from Previous Board Meeting – Historic Tax Credits – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the Kress Building. Mr. Brian McNabb, Office of U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, briefed the Commission on the 2017 tax overhaul that originally didn't include Historic Tax Credits. Senator Cassidy introduced an amendment to restore the federal tax credit, which was adopted by U.S. Finance Committee. Mr. Rhorer expressed the economic impact historic tax credits have had for the state and commended Senator Cassidy and his staff for their work on preserving the credits.

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 current construction photographs. Proposed completion by the end of 2018
- The Elias – reviewed current construction photographs of the 25 residential unit development proposed to be complete in two months
- Lofts @ 6C – reviewed current construction photographs of the 142 residential unit development. First two floors are dedicated to parking for tenants and general lease.
- House on the Hill – reviewed the current construction photographs of the 15 residential unit development in Beauregard Town.

DDD 30th Anniversary – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, images of the cover of Master Plans. Mr. Rhorer congratulated Ms. Boo Thomas on her retirement and briefed the Commission on Plan Baton Rouge and the DDD's role as the implementer of the plan. Plan Baton Rouge spawned the following Master Plans:

- Riverfront Master Plan DeSoto Park Concept Plan
- Downtown Visitor's Amenity Plan
- Baton Rouge Parking Feasibility Study
- Baton Rouge Riverfront

Downtown East – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an aerial photograph indicating the area of lighting improvements on North Blvd. Overpass. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the lighting improvements along North Blvd. near the overpass are complete. The proposed fencing under the North Blvd. overpass has been approved by council and is expected to be installed soon. The Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless, as well as other organizations and agencies, are working to re-house homeless individuals in the area before the fence is constructed.

BREC S. 14th Street – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of the park. Ms. Angela Harms, BREC, briefed the Commission on the proposed updates to the S. 14th Street boxing center and park.

Historic District – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image indicating the proposed Historic District located in Downtown East. Dyke Nelson, architect, thanked Senator Cassidy for his efforts to preserve the Historic Tax Credits. Mr. Nelson informed the Commission that he is vetting a Historic District for the downtown east area.

Mr. Rhorer commended everyone involved with the Road Home Program.
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The proposed Historic District would allow incentives to revitalize historic structures in the district. The boundaries of the district are the south side of Convention Street to the north; the west side of S. 19th Street between Convention Street to Government Street, the west side of S. 18th Street between Government Street to Myrtle Walk Street, and the west side of Perkins Road between Myrtle Walk Street and Terrace Avenue to the east; Terrace Avenue to the south; and Interstate-110 to the west.

Mr. Rhorer mentioned that the restoration of Downtown East and expanding existing housing opportunities in the area is a direct implementation of PBR II.

NOAH Housing Development – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the development. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Collis Temple, Sr., developer, briefed the Commission on the residential development located on South 11th Street. Mr. Temple obtained a grant from the Nonprofit Open Cycle Affordable Housing program (NOAH) to renovate the building into four apartment units. Mr. Bob Fenet, Attorney, expressed his excitement to be a part of the project and encouraged everyone to visit the development.

Commuter Krewe – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the program kick off. Each Commissioner received a copy of the press release. Ms. Rannah Gray, President of Marmillion/Gray Media, briefed the Commission on the Commuter Krewe Program. The ride-sharing program is an initiative of DOTD to promote carpooling. Ms. Gray introduced Mr. Emmanuel Andrews, outreach coordinator, Mr. Andrews informed the Commission that he is reaching out to large employers and the program has been well received by the community. Everyone was encouraged to visit the web site at www.commuterkrewe.la/about.

City Hall Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed improvements and photographs of current construction. Mr. Gabe Vicknair reviewed the current construction photographs and informed the Commission that the landscape is currently being installed. Plans are to have the third Live After Five concert in City Hall Plaza.

Riverfront Plaza – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed improvements. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the plaza improvements include refurbishing landscape, add lighting to the plaza and lawn, pathways, sound system and kiosks. The project will be advertised Friday March 16, 2018.

Town Square Phase II – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendered image of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the bids will be open in April 11, 2018.

Downtown Greenway – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the signage. Mr. Vicknair informed the Commission that the East Blvd. final plans will be submitted to DOTD Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

Downtown Maintenance Committee – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of previous meeting and Boudreaux & Thibodeaux owner and managers.

Mrs. Whitney Sayal informed the Commission that the winner of the February Downtown Distinction Award is Boudreaux & Thibodeaux in the Entertainment / Venue category. Mr. Chad Diaville, owner, thanked the previous recipient for the nomination. Ms. Sayal will be distributing an email to vote for The Downtown Distinction People's Choice Award. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2018.

New Business – Boudreaux & Thibodeaux – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the exterior of Boudreaux & Thibodeaux. Mr. Chad Diaville informed the Commission that the restaurants is now serving lunch Monday through Friday and crawfish and live music on Thursday and Friday afternoons. Mr. Diaville is considering converting the top floor into a reception hall. Everyone was encouraged to visit the establishment.

Rustic House Furniture – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the promotional flyer. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that Rustic House Furniture has located at 655 Scenic Highway. Everyone was encouraged to visit the web site for more information: mkt.com/rustic-house-furniture-store

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.

- St. James Gumbo – March 16, 23
- B.R. Concert Band Annual Spring Concert – March 18
- Providence Corporate Cup / March for our Lives – March 24
- Downtown Churches Easter Events
- Live After Five – March 30 – May 4
- Ebb & Flow – April 7 & 8
- Preserve Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- USS Kidd

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. Ms. Boo Thomas informed the Commission that PBR will be celebrating 20 years and DDD 30 years. The 'Power of Vision' Gala will be held on May 12, 2018 at the Center for Coastal and Deltaic Solutions; the new structure built on the old municipal dock within the Water Campus.

BREADA – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the BREADA logo. Ms. Emily Jackson informed the Commission that Saturday, March 17, 2018 the MSM will be highlighting the restaurants in the market.

Downtown Business Association (DBA) – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the DBA logo. Mrs. Lauren Tompkins, Managing Director, briefed the Commission on the following:

- Live After Five commences Friday, March 30, 2018
- Annual Member Conference – June 28, 2018

12. Correspondence – There was no information to report.

13. Public Comment – Mrs. Lauren Ray, Head of School, encouraged everyone to take advantage of the Gumbo lunches on Friday's during lent. Anyone interested in a tour of the school was encouraged to contact Mrs. Ray.

Ms. Mary Durusau, Old State Capitol museum director, encouraged everyone to attend the Robert Baird lecture discussing the restoration of the U.S. Capitol Dome. The lecture is scheduled Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the House Chamber.

Ms. Renee Chatelain, Arts Council CEO, encouraged everyone to support the Ebb & Flow Festival scheduled for Saturday, April 7, 2018 & Sunday April 8, 2018.

Mr. Chris Brooks briefed everyone on the Blues Festival scheduled for Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15 from 12noon – 10:00 p.m. Everyone was encouraged to visit the web site at www.bluesfestival.org for more information.

Ms. Amy Mitchell Smith, Arts Council, briefed everyone on the Ebb & Flow festival scheduled for April 7, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 8, 2018 from 12noon – 7:00 p.m. Everyone was encouraged to visit the web site at www.ebbandflowbr.org for more information.

Mr. Trey Truitt, CI Group, encouraged everyone to attend the CI Group Spring Artists Reception scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The free event will be held at 447 N. 3rd Street

Mr. Michael Day, Raising Cane's River Center General Manager, briefed everyone on the upcoming events.

Meeting Adjourned: