

DDD Commission Meeting  
June 12, 2018, 8:00 a.m.  
Shaw Center for the Arts, 100 Lafayette Street, Hartley / Vey Studio Theatre

Attending: Eric Dexter, Fran Gladden, Ric Kearny, Gordon LeBlanc, Melanie Montanaro

Absent: Scott Hensgens, Cheryl McCormick

Others in Attendance: Gary Anderson, James Avault, David Beard, Ben Blackwell, Timothy Boone, Dawn Breaux, Kevin Broussard, Sgt. Kyle Callihan, Gayle Carnahan, Eric Carnegie, Bubba Cashio, Wendi Coates, Melanie Couvillion, William Cox, Suzette Crocker, Remy Curry, Michael Day, Gerald Drefahl, Holly Duchmann, Mary Durusau, Hudson Eglin, Patrick Fenstermaker, Jimmy Frederick, Councilwoman Barbara Freiberg, Brian Goad, Hunter Greene, Blaine Grimes, Nedra Hains, Anita Hebert, Emily Jackson, Mary Johnson, Sam Karlin, John Kaufman, Trent Leucke, Steven Lumpkin, Mary Jane Marcantel, Joe McFerrin, Brian McNabb, Patrick Michaels, B. J. Miletello, Donnie Miller, Aaron Molluro, Ben Moran, Grant Murphy, Paul Nata, Dyke Nelson, Mary Olinde, Lluvia Peveto, Trula Remson, Davis Rhorer, Whitney Sayal, Darlene Shingleur, Tony Sibley, Daniel Stetson, Casey Tate, Lauren L. Tompkins, Trey Truitt, Gabe Vicknair, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Samaer Zaitoon

1. Mr. Ric Kearny called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Ric Kearny declared a quorum.
3. Mr. Eric Dexter moved to approve the agenda, Mrs. Melanie Montanaro seconded and the agenda was approved as amended.
4. Mrs. Melanie Montanaro moved to approve the May 8, 2018 minutes, Mrs. Fran Gladden seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Ric Kearny thanked the Manship Theatre for hosting the meeting. Ms. Melanie Couvillon, Executive Director of Manship Theatre welcomed everyone and encouraged them to view the exhibits after the meeting.

Ms. Mary Durusau, Old State Capitol museum director, briefed the Commission on the proposed state budget cuts and expressed that it would be detrimental to the downtown museums. Ms. Durusau encouraged everyone to contact their legislator and request that they fully fund the Old State Capitol as well as other museums.

**5. Board Action – There was no board action.**

**6. Governmental Issues – Upcoming Sewer Improvements** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Patrick Michaels, Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Control and Wastewater Facilities Program, informed the Commission that Allen & LeBlanc will be rehabilitating the existing sewerage pipes downtown beginning July 2018. Information will be sent out to residents and property owners and an open house will be scheduled downtown before the work begins. Mr. Michaels encouraged anyone with questions to contact him after the meeting or email [help@brprojects.com](mailto:help@brprojects.com).

**7. Update from Previous Board Meeting – There was no information to report.**

**8. Development Initiatives – Developments Underway** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of current projects. Each Commissioner received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following projects:

- Courtyard Marriott – Scaffolding is completely down and opening is planned for late summer or early fall 2018. Signage is scheduled to be complete within a few weeks.
- The Elias – Reviewed current construction photographs of the 25 residential units. Tour after the board meeting.
- Lofts @ 6C – Reviewed the current construction photographs of the 142 residential units.
- Downtown Library – Each Commission received a copy of the newspaper article. Mr. Rhorer will apprise everyone once an update is received.

**DDD 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, photographs of the residential downtown. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the following changes and initiatives regarding residential downtown:

- Requested Planning Commission stop rezoning everything to commercial to stabilize the neighborhoods
- Restoration Renaissance Program
- Installed Neighborhood signage
- Central Business District Living
- Essential Services / Pharmacy/ Grocery / Farmer’s Market

Currently there are 9,099 resident’s downtown, 273 residential units in the pipeline, 267 residential units underway and 6 residential units planned. Mr. Rhorer expressed the importance of the neighborhood groups and their commitment to the preservation of the neighborhoods.

**River Center Theater Plaza Charrette** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed improvements and photographs of the charrette. Mr. Rhorer briefed the Commission on the proposed \$18 million redesign that will be consistent with the current plaza. The design will also address ADA issues and incorporate sculptures. The project will go out to bid July 2018.

**Riverfront Plaza** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a rendering of the proposed improvements. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that the project will go before the Metropolitan Council for approval on Wednesday, June 13, 2018. The project will address ADA accessibility, lighting concerns, fountain repairs and maintenance issues.

**Riverboat Stops** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the riverboats. Mr. Rhorer informed the Commission that following ships will be coming into Baton Rouge:

- American Song – October 2018
- American Harmony – June 2019
- Viking River Cruises – 2020

**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 go before the Metropolitan Council for approval on Wednesday, June 13, 2018.

**Downtown Maintenance Committee** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, a photograph of the downtown streetscape. Each Commissioner received a copy of the draft utility paint ordinance and draft waste ordinance. Mrs. Whitney Sayal informed the Commission that the waste ordinance is being circulated to the waste companies and downtown businesses to obtain feedback. The proposed waste ordinance allows a certain time frame for trash to remain out on the curb. Mrs. Sayal requested that the DDD Commission review the draft ordinances and send any comments to the DDD office. The ordinances will be voted on by the Commission during the August 2018 board meeting. Once approved by the DDD Commission, the ordinances will be introduced to the Metropolitan Council. Ms. Sayal briefed the Commission on the Clean Sweep EBR litter clean-up event scheduled for Saturday, June 23, 2018, 8:00 a.m. everyone was encouraged to register for the event at [www.kbrb.org/projects](http://www.kbrb.org/projects) and meet at the Visit Baton Rouge Office the morning of the event. Mr. Rhorer thanked Mr. James Avault, DPW, for cleaning the tree wells and encouraged property owners to maintain the tree wells in front of their establishments.

**New Business – Recalibrated Strength and Conditioning** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Trent Leucke, owner, Recalibrated Strength and Conditioning formerly known as Red Stick Crossfit located at 600 Main Street. Mr. Leucke briefed the Commission of the rebranding of the business, which now offers more services. Everyone was encouraged to visit the web site at <https://www.recalibratedstrength.com>

**4 Forty Fitness** – The Commission viewed, via PowerPoint, an image of the logo. Mr. Gerald Drefahl, Kinesics, informed the Commission that Kinesics has partnered with 4 Forty Fitness located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of 440 on Third. Mr. Drefahl expressed that the goal of the center is to revolutionize the health and wellness fitness experience for their clients. The clients will use technology interface relative with their client's iPhone or iPad with a specialized plan. Everyone was encouraged to visit the web site at <https://www.4fortyfitness.com>. Ms. Dawn Breaux, Manager, encouraged everyone to visit the sales office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of 440 on Third. Mr. Dyke Nelson, DNA, expressed his excitement to have the fitness center locate in the building. Mr. Nelson informed the Commission that renovations will begin shortly on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor roof top deck to accommodate yoga classes.

**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.

- Christ in the City Lunch Concert – June 15
- Juneteenth – June 16
- Baton Rouge Pride Fest – June 16
- Baton Rouge Oyster Festival – June 30
- USS KIDD's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Spectacular – July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Baton Rouge Concert Band – July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Preserve Louisiana/Old Governor's Mansion
- Manship Theatre / LSU MOA
- Capitol Park Museum
- Old State Capitol
- River Center Events
- LASM
- USS Kidd

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

11. **Public Comment** – Mr. Ric Kearny congratulated Mrs. Fran Gladden as one of the 2018 Influential Women in Business.

Mr. Eric Carnegie, Jolie Pearl, briefed the Commission on the upcoming Oyster Festival scheduled for Saturday, June 30, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Galvez Plaza. For more information everyone was encouraged to visit the web site at [www.batonrougeoysterfestival.com](http://www.batonrougeoysterfestival.com). The event is benefitting the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL). Mr. Jimmy Frederick, CRCL, expressed the importance of the oyster shell recycling in Baton Rouge.

Mrs. Lauren Tompkins, DBA Managing Director informed the Commission that Raising Cane's River Center will be the host to the Jehovah Witness Conference on the following dates and encouraged downtown restaurants to prepare for extra patrons.

- June 22 – June 24, 2018
- June 29 – July 1, 2018

Mr. Daniel Stetson, LSU MOA, briefed the Commission on the upcoming events:

- Wine Walk Wednesday's
- Third Thursdays
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration
- July 12 – Annual membership Meeting

Councilwoman Tara Wicker, briefed the Commission on the blight tour and the issues and impacts blight has on the community. The Blight Committee will be developing a policy paper to present to the community, administration and the Metropolitan Council. Mr. Rhorer thanked Councilwoman Wicker and informed the Commission that there are sixteen new projects in downtown east. Councilwoman Wicker informed the Commission that tires from an overgrown lot are being recycled into playground equipment for a creative play place near Shiloh Baptist Church. Mr. Rhorer recognized Councilwoman Barbara Freiberg.

12. **Trolley Tour** – Mr. Ric Kearny invited everyone to ride on the trolley to tour The Elias at 141 Napoleon Street.

**Meeting Adjourned:**