BioDistrict New Orleans
Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2026 | 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Greater New Orleans Foundation, 919 St. Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70130

I Call to Order

The BioDistrict Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Andy Kopplin, at 2:36 pm.

II Board Member Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Kaneisha Akinpelumi, Emily Arata (Treasurer), Arnel Cosey, Nicole Honoree, Patrick Norton, Charlotte Parent, Blake Stanfill (Vice Chair), Andy Kopplin (Chair)

Commissioners Present via Zoom: None

Commissioners Absent: Larissa Littleton-Steib, Gregorie Tillery, Jenny Mains, Chelsey Gonzales, Michael Hecht, Judith Dangerfield

Quorum: Present

III Introduction of Guest(s)

Andreas Pashos (Consultant to BioDistrict), Richard Cortizas (Counsel to BioDistrict), Natalie Barranco (Prime), Kris Khalil (NOBIC), Tyler Correa (DDD), Richard McCall (CenTrio), Evie Poitevent (GNO Inc), Gina Jackson (NOBIC), Lyle Montgomery (Lower Mid City Neighborhood Association)

IV Adoption of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kopplin requested approval of the minutes from the previous BioDistrict board meeting on July 15, 2026. Ms. Honoree motioned for approval, and Mr. Stanfill seconded. There was no discussion or public comment, and the motion was unanimously approved.

V Financial Report

Mr. Pashos communicated that the financial report follows a similar structure to past reports, with the balance sheet on the left-hand side and the profit and loss on the right-hand side. He

stated that the report is current as of end July, and that there was about $2.7M in the bank as of that date.

He highlighted that the reason we have an increase over the last report is due to receiving the first ever State payment per the CEA with the State, which was for $739K. This is a significant milestone, since now we have started receiving payments from both the City and the State.

The new expenses since the last report were related to recurring general and accounting support. Nonrecurring expenses included funding of the CEA with NOBIC to support EDA proposal applications, financial audit fee, renewal of our annual D & O insurance, the renewal of our annual QuickBooks subscription and cost to publicly notice the legal services RFP.

As of the second quarter we also started to collect interest from our bank accounts.

Mr. Pashos noted that the second sheet tracks our budget, which is broken down in three categories: administrative, communications, and program services, as usual. We have some encumbered funds that the board previously approved. These include recurring contractor support, additional tree maintenance, and $300K for Charity redevelopment.

a. Update on City and State Funds

Mr. Pashos reiterated that we recently received the first State payment and shared that we don't have an expected date for the next City or a second State payment.

b. Update on Congressionally-Directed Spending award to support Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine and SAM.gov Account

Mr. Pashos shared that HUD has started to communicate with grantees, and work has started to develop the grant agreement. Meetings are also being scheduled between the BioDistrict, Xavier, and Ochsner to facilitate future receipt and disbursement of these funds.

c. Shifting from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online and reporting updates

Mr. Pashos communicated that as Prime Business Advisory Services takes over responsibility for accounting for the district in early October, a switch in our software from QuickBooks will be undertaken to facilitate that setup.

VI Action Items

a. Approval of 2027 budget recommendation

Mr. Pashos shared with the Commissioners that the Budget Committee met, and is recommending a budget for 2027. The budget is $3,189,200 and is based on the expected revenues from both the City and State for next year.

The budget includes $444,200 for administration, $620,000 for program services, $1,800,000 for infrastructure improvements and $325,000 for direct employee salaries and benefits.

Ms. Arata, who co-chairs the budget committee with Ms. Parent, explained that under administration, recurring general management, accounting and legal support are included. In addition, there is support for future contracts potentially related to communications, public realm and public affairs. She explained that program services included support for community partnerships, SBIR/STTR funding capture, entrepreneurial ecosystem and workforce development. She finished by detailing that infrastructure improvements include bus shelters, landscape enhancements, safety & activation lighting, transit safety/signage and charity redevelopment.

Ms. Parent motioned for approval of the 2027 budget, and Mr. Norton seconded. There was no further discussion or public comment, and the motion was unanimously approved.

VII Chair's Report / Discussion Items

a. Annual Report will begin work in September, due Nov 1

Mr. Kopplin communicated that the BioDistrict's annual report is due on November 1st.

b. Update on EDA Funding Opportunity for BioDistrict

Mr. Kopplin summarized that there are three different working proposals in process: risk mitigation plan for the district, NCI designation work, and entrepreneurship programming. The district has shared the risk mitigation plan proposal with Entergy for feedback.

c. Update on Charity Hospital Redevelopment

Mr. Norton shared that he estimates a groundbreaking to occur before the end of the year.

d. Update on Congressionally Directed Spending Requests

Mr. Kopplin summarized that additional congressionally directed spending this year is unlikely.

e. Update on Groundwork New Orleans Tree Planting Project on Tulane Avenue

Mr. Pashos shared that Groundwork is still waiting for State approval to plant trees along Tulane Avenue.

f. Update on Bus Shelters & CEA with the RTA

Mr. Kopplin communicated that this has been moving slowly with RTA going through recent leadership changes.

g. Update on RFP Process

Mr. Kopplin shared that multiple RFPs are being developed and reviewed at this time.

j. Update on Governance Items

Mr. Kopplin communicated that there is no update on this item.

k. Update on Public Engagement

Mr. Kopplin communicated that he met with Budget Committee Chair, Councilmember Harris, and discussed the BioDistrict budget in August.

VIII Vice Chair's Report / Discussion Items

a. Update on biosciences entrepreneurship strategy

Mr. Stanfill shared that the consultant who is assisting the BioDistrict for this effort, Jason Rittenberg at Excel Regional Solutions LLC, has conducted interviews with Idea Village, LED, NOBIC, Tulane Innovation, and himself and there's just a few more interviews left. Initial recommendations will be shared in October.

IX New Business

There was no discussion or comments.

X Partner Updates

Ms. Jackson shared with the Board related to an upcoming event by Answer ALS. Answer ALS is the research arm of the Team Gleason organization. The event, Art Against ALS will be on Friday, November 6 and feature art and artists connected to ALS, combining science and creativity and supporting advancing ALS research. Ms. Jackson invited the Commissioners to attend.

XI Public Comment

Ms. Montgomery shared that she is part of the Lower Mid City Neighborhood Organization and wants to share with the board that a car wash is on track to be opened up on Carrollton Avenue right by Tulane Avenue. The neighbors and association believe that space would be better served by a different type of property and are against the opening of the car wash. That area represents the entryway into the BioDistrict, so she wanted to share the updates with the BioDistrict board, and request their support in the opposition if they felt similarly.

XII Adjournment

Mr. Norton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Arata. The Chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 pm.