

BioDistrict New Orleans Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes from August 15, 2022
Location: NOLABA 1250 Poydras St. Suite 2150 New Orleans, LA 70113

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order @ 3:11 pm

II. Roll Call

i. Board Members Present:

Andy Kopplin GNOF CEO
Blake Stanfill
Emily Arata
Sharon Courtney
Michelle Craig
Lowry Curley
Charlotte Parent
Harold Gaspard
Michael Hecht

Board Member Present Telephonically (but unable to vote or count toward a quorum)

Brad Lambert

ii. Adoption of Agenda for Board Meeting

Mr. Gaspard moved approval, Ms. Courtney seconded the motion, which was adopted without objection.

iii. Adoption of previous board meeting minutes

Ms. Parent moved approval, and Mr. Gaspard seconded the motion, which was adopted without objection.

III. Introduction of Guest (s)

Kris Khalil (CEO NOBIC)
Korey Patty- (Regional Economic Competitiveness Officer NOBIC)
Gene D'Amour (former Bio District chair)
Courtney Barnes (Greater New Orleans Foundation)

NOLABA Attendees

Valerie Huntley
Victoria Miles
Chandra Teddleton

IV. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items

No public input cards were received

V. Financial Report by NOLABA

i. Ms. Miles referenced the BioDistrict's Balance Sheet and noted \$19, 548.57 in total current assets. She also noted \$17,953.10 in accounts payable, noting that these were unpaid charges from the NOLA BA for administrative support. Mr. Kopplin noted that while NOLA BA had been reporting at every meeting the

costs of their services, he was not aware that NOLA BA wasn't deducting those charges monthly. He asked that the board approve the payment of \$14,350.10 to NOLA BA for the 2019 and 2020 charges.

Ms. Courtney moved to pay \$14,350.10 to the New Orleans Business Alliance, Ms. Parent seconded the motion, and it was approved without objection but with one abstention from Ms. Craig, who abstained from voting and noted that she serves as legal counsel and was abstaining to avoid the perception of a conflict of interest.

VI. Chairperson's Report

i. Welcome New Members

Mr. Kopplin welcomed Ms. Arata and Ms. Craig as new members.

ii. Update on economic development district CEA w City of New Orleans (CNO)

Mr. Kopplin updated the board members about the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the BioDistrict and the City of New Orleans for revenue sharing of new sales tax dollars. He noted that it had originally been introduced in 2021 by Councilmember Banks and later a revised one had been introduced by Councilmember Moreno. In December, neighbors in Mid City raised concerns that the BioDistrict could use its power of expropriation to buy houses in low-density residential neighborhoods. As a result of those concerns, Kopplin said he attended several community meetings in Mid City and Gert Town, the results of which was an agreement to limit the BioDistrict's authorities and narrow its boundaries by removing low-density residential neighborhoods. Rep. Duplessis agreed to handle legislative changes which were approved. With that completed, the BioDistrict and the City are now ready to execute a new CEA, and Council Member Moreno would be asking the Council for its approval.

Mr. Kopplin reviewed a slide deck with the board members that outlined the legislative changes that were made and the changes being proposed for the CEA. The board discussed the merits of the CEA, with Ms. Arata noting the challenge of updating the BioDistrict's master plan and getting it approved by both the Council and City Planning Commission, given that both have extensive timelines for approval. Other members discussed different provisions of the CEA.

Ms. Arata moved that the board endorse the CEA as presented; Ms. Parent seconded the motion which was adopted without objection.

Mr. Kopplin noted that the BioDistrict had been invited to present on the CEA at the Council's Economic Development Committee on August 29th and that he requested that board members attend as well as submit a letter of support on behalf of themselves or their organization.

iv. Review of Draft Budget for potential expenditures

Mr. Kopplin then shared the proposed three-year budget for the BioDistrict, if the CEA passes, that he was seeking their feedback on before he shared it with the Council. He noted that Quality of Life infrastructure like bus shelters and lighting was the highest priority in strategic planning meetings that the Greater New Orleans Foundation conducted in 2018, which is why they were recommended for funding in all three years. The other four priorities came from the Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant—Xavier's joint degree program, Tulane's diverse researcher's fellowship program, NOBIC's health equity accelerator hub, and Delgado's New Orleans works-training program.

After discussion among board members, Mr. Stanfill moved and Ms. Courtney seconded approval of the sample budget as proposed, which was adopted without objection.

iv. Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant

Mr. Kopplin then noted that the BioDistrict was part of a consortium that was one of 60 finalists out of 529 nationally that received a \$500,000 grant and the opportunity to secure \$50-\$75 million more. He asked Mr. Kris Khalil of NOBIC, the lead applicant to share more. Mr. Khalil noted they had hired Korey Patty to be the Regional Economic Competitiveness officer, as called for in the grant application.

VI. Partner Updates

Ms. Courtney gave a presentation about Tulane's investments in the downtown campus, highlighting different initiatives that will go into the soon-to-be renovated Charity Hospital, among other major investments Tulane is making in the BioDistrict.

There being no additional partner updates or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.