



BioDistrict New Orleans
Draft - Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda
August 9, 2023 | 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: NOLABA 1250 Poydras St. Suite 2150 New Orleans, LA 70113

I. Call to Order

The March BioDistrict Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Andy Kopplin at 2:45pm.

II. Roll Call

a. Board members present

Commissioners Present: Emily Arata, Kaneisha Bailey- Akinpelumi, Lowry Curley, Michael Hecht, Nicole Honoree, Andy Kopplin, Charlotte Parent, Blake Stanfill

Commissioner(s): Preset via Zoom: Brad Lambert

Commissioners Absent: Sharon Courtney, Judith Dangerfield, Larissa Littleton-Steib, Roger Ogden, Charlotte Parent,

Quorum: Present

b. Adoption of Agenda for Board Meeting

Mr. Kopplin requested the approval of the agenda for BioDistrict board meeting for August 9, 2023. Ms. Dangerfield motioned for approval, and Ms. Bailey- Akinpelumi seconded.

c. Adoption of previous board meeting minutes from March 8, 2023

Mr. Kopplin requested the approval of the minutes from the previous BioDistrict board meeting on March 8th, 2023. Ms. Arata motioned for approval, and Mr. Stanfill seconded. There was no discussion or public comment and a vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

III. Introduction of Guest(s)

NOLABA Attendees: Sherelle K. Bowser (EA to Interim President & CEO), Louis David (Interim President & CEO) Victoria Miles (VP of Finance)

Others Present: Tyler Correa (DDD), Maisha Mena (REMIXEcology), Shaun Mena (The Mena Law Firm), Stephen Ostertes (TIMBS Consultant), Sharonda Williams (Counsel to BioDistrict), Mary Mysing-Gubala (Mid-City Neighborhood Association).



IV. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items

There were no public input cards submitted to board at this time during the meeting.

V. Financial Report by NOLABA

Ms. Miles reported that the current balance in the BioDistrict account was \$7,602.82.

VI. Chairperson's Updates

a. Board Approval of CEA request to the State of Louisiana

Mr. Kopplin noted that the BioDistrict is still working to approve a CEA with the State of Louisiana and that he and Mr. Stanfill had presented to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget in early June. All state sales tax up to the current baseline will continue to be retained by the State, plus all new growth beyond that associated with the 2% tax rate. The state would match up to \$25 million in revenue generated locally through the CEA between BioDistrict and the City of New Orleans, similar to prior State action in support of projects in Lake Charles and Baton Rouge.

Mr. Kopplin highlighted a list of proposed expenditure categories for the State CEA that he had developed based on feedback from Commissioners, which address the estimated per unit cost of construction at specified locations along the Tulane Avenue Corridor for discussion with State Legislators.

There was no discussion or public comment and a vote on the motion to approve the proposed expenditure categories was unanimously approved.

b. Updating the BioDistrict's Strategic Plan

Mr. Stanfill said that a consultant has been selected to assist with the development of a strategic plan for the BioDistrict. The consultant that has been chosen is HR&A Advisors. The BioDistrict completed a comprehensive strategic plan in 2014, with an update in 2018 for the Spirit of Charity area, followed by ongoing engagement with community leaders and neighborhood organizations. Momentum from passage of City revenue sharing agreement has galvanized community partners to provide funding and hire HR&A Associates to update the strategic plan for the BioDistrict prior to March 17, 2024, which will provide a road map for how the BioDistrict uses public resources and catalyzes private investment by encouraging job growth in the healthcare and life sciences sectors. Investments in the BioDistrict are in alignment with the state and region's Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that call for diversifying the economy through growing the biosciences and health industry sectors.

Mr. Stanfill thanked Commissioner Parent for serving on the selection committee along with funders from the City, the DDD, and the New Orleans Community Support Foundation.



VII. Partner Updates | Claiborne Corridor Culture Innovation District

Ms. Dangerfield stated Ujamaa has a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City to manage the Claiborne Culture Innovation District's 19-block development beginning with Phase 1 that began in July 2023 the CID masterplan has Phase 1A-infructure and Phase 1B-makertplace. The CID construction team for 2023 for Backatown Plaza (Orleans to St. Louis):

- City of New Orleans, Capital Projects Administration
- Design Architects/Engineers:
 - Phase 1A: Meyer Engineers, LTD
 - Phase 1B: Design Jones, LLC Landscape Architectural Firm
- CNO Contractor: CDW Services, LLC
- Ujamaa Construction Manger: Allen Architects
- Arts Council of New Orleans, Public Art Campaign

Ms. Dangerfield said that the CEA has been approved and signed by the City of New Orleans to begin programming. A grant has been given by the Economic Development Administration to assist with building a marketplace that will be adjacent to the Lafitte Greenway, and the EDA has approved having a marketplace kiosk on site.

The chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none.

VIII. Executive Session: Pending Litigation and Threatened Litigation (La. C.E. Art. 506) *Kinney v. The BioDistrict New Orleans, Orleans Parish Civil District Court No. 2022-11481*

Mr. Kopplin sought a motion to move into executive session regarding pending and threatened litigation citing Louisiana Constitutional Article 56. Ms. Honoree moved, and Ms. Dangerfield seconded. There was no discussion or public comment, and a board voted unanimous approval to enter executive session.

Ms. Arata motioned to exit executive session, adding that the board took no action and held no votes, Mr. Hecht seconded. There was no additional discussion or public comment, a vote was unanimously approved, and the board exited executive session.

IX. Public Comment(s)

Ms. Mary Mysing-Gubala raised concerns that the proposed Trader Joes store on Tulane Avenue needed to support walkability and access with an entrance on Tulane Avenue. Mr. Kopplin said he agreed and would communicate the BioDistrict preference for walkable-scale development within the BioDistrict.

Ms. Mary Mysing-Gabala made another suggestion that the BioDistrict should consider the establishment of a development office to help researchers and research group secure grants to establish their operations and research in the BioDistrict.



The board discussed further the vacancy of two board seats whose appointments are to be made by the Senator and Representative whose districts include the BioDistrict.

X. Adjournment

Ms. Parent moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hecht. The chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:32pm.