



BioDistrict New Orleans

Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda

March 8, 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 3:00pm.

II. Roll Call

a. Board members present

Commissioners Present: Emily Arata, Levon Bostanian, Sharon Courtney, Lowry Curley, Michael Hecht, Nicole Honoree, Andy Kopplin, Charlotte Parent, Blake Stanfill

Commissioner(s): Present via Zoom: Roger Ogden (does not count toward quorum and cannot vote because of virtual attendance)

Commissioners Absent: Judith Dangerfield, Brad Lambert, Larissa Littleton-Steib

Quorum: Present

b. Adoption of Agenda for Board Meeting

Mr. Kopplin asked the board for any suggested changes that should be made to the agenda, to which there were none, thus the agenda for the meeting was adopted with no changes or objections.

c. Adoption of previous board meeting minutes from February 9, 2023

Mr. Kopplin requested the approval of the minutes from the previous BioDistrict board meeting on February 9th, 2023. Ms. Courtney motioned for approval, and Ms. Parent seconded. There was no discussion or public comment and a vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

III. Introduction of Guest(s)

NOLABA Attendees: Blake Gitler (Intern), Valerie Huntley (Senior Dir. Of Marketing), Victoria Miles (VP of Finance), Marco Melero (Business Development Associate), Jeanette Weiland (SVP of Bio, Innovation & Special Projects)

Others Present: Korey Patty (NOBIC), Sharonda Williams (Counsel to BioDistrict)

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 \$6,055.57. Ms. Miles also stated that the BioDistrict had started their process for renewing Directors & Officers insurance.

Mr. Kopplin added that he will be sending the commissioners a voluntary request for modest funding to support the cost of the BioDistrict's activities.

VI. Chairperson's Report

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

Mr. Kopplin noted that the BioDistrict is still working to secure approval of a CEA with the State of Louisiana to match the City of New Orleans agreement with the district. He said he had hoped to present to the state budget committee in February or March, but will most likely present in April of 2023 because of work the Department of Revenue needed to complete to establish a baseline amount. Mr. Kopplin acknowledged the work of Dr. Richardson of LSU regarding his analysis of the state tax revenue sharing and his completion of required analysis prior to the beginning of the year.

b. Updating the BioDistrict's Strategic Plan

Mr. Stanfill reminded the board that an update to the BioDistrict strategic plan must be submitted to the City of New Orleans within one year of the signing of the CEA. He noted that Mr. Kopplin, Mr. Patty (of NOBIC), and himself had been convening with strategic partners to understand their capabilities and support. Their two goals to accomplish are a broad economic development plan and a placemaking strategy. The economic development plan seeks to identify the best strategies to align all partners in ways that reflect how each partners' strengths can be additive to the district's overall competitiveness. The placemaking strategy refers to how to make the BioDistrict a place where people want to be and can include things like façade renewal, bus shelters, and lighting among other improvements. They met with Dennis Lower of the Cortex District in St. Louis, who gave advice and counsel from his previous experience which will help inform their future conversations with potential consultants. Mr. Stanfill noted that it is a priority to have a proposal ready soon as this process of building a strategic plan is a 4-6 month process. The consultants that will be selected will engage all the parties in the BioDistrict.

Ms. Arata joined the BioDistrict meeting at 3:07pm.

In response to a question from Ms. Parent, Mr. Stanfill added that the deliverables of the consultants are to provide specific strategies that the BioDistrict can implement to improve the potential economic growth of the district, which will all be part of a plan that is presented to City Council.

Ms. Courtney stated that is important to define the role of the BioDistrict and to maintain focus on what is important, to not take on everything and create redundancy.

Mr. Kopplin provided insight into their recent conversation with Mr. Lower who advised the BioDistrict to focus on improving Tech as an overall sector, as opposed to just BioTech, to ensure all opportunities can be sought. Mr. Kopplin noted that it was a great conversation reinforcing the strategies the BioDistrict has in place and seeks to achieve. It was noted that Mr. Lower estimated it may cost \$125,000 to \$150,000 for each piece of the update to the strategic plan. Mr. Kopplin said the resources



required for updating the strategic plan would be raised separately and not utilize any TIF proceeds as they have not yet been allocated by the City and the district needs to begin. Mr. Lower urged the BioDistrict to place a primary emphasis on economic development.

The board also noted that there was the possibility to apply for EDA funding to support the creation of the economic development plan, and a possibility to apply for Delta Regional Authority (DRA) funds.

Mr. Kopplin also noted that the City of New Orleans does not yet have their estimates for the November and December collection of revenue sharing proceeds for the BioDistrict.

c. Update on CEA with New Orleans Business Alliance

Mr. Kopplin stated that the BioDistrict is close to finalizing their CEA with New Orleans Business Alliance. He noted that the main function of this renewal would be to increase the modest amount of payment to NOLABA for their work supporting the BioDistrict through administrative and fiscal duties. This is due to the increased volume of work with the CEA with the City and future projects. This will be included in the total budget that will part of the general budget submission to the City Council for approval.

VII. Partner Updates

There were no partner updates at this time during the meeting.

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. Mr. Hecht motioned, and Ms. Honoree seconded. There was no discussion or public comment, and a board gave a unanimous vote of approval to enter executive session.

Following the Executive Session, Ms. Honoree motioned to exit executive session, adding that the board took no action and held no votes, Ms. Courtney seconded. There was no additional discussion or public comment, and a vote of approval was unanimously made, and the board exited executive session.

IX. Public Comment(s)

There was no public comment at this time during the meeting. The board discussed further the vacancy of two board seats. Mr. Kopplin stated that he had once again expressed the importance of filling the vacancies to Louisiana State Sen. Duplessis. He noted that there has not been an election for State Representative 93 (Sen. Duplessis' previous district). There was also discussion regarding the upcoming financial disclosure forms that the commissioners must complete by May 15th, 2023. Mr. Melero said he would provide information to the members of the board regarding the financial disclosure forms that must be submitted.



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, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:24pm.
