



**BioDistrict New Orleans
Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2021
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

Location: New Orleans Business Alliance Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81097939156?pwd=SVZWV1krOXc4MUk3WjVjRG83RDJYZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 9793 9156

Passcode: 979139

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- I. Call to Order at 3:01pm
 - II. Roll Call
Board members present: Andy Kopplin, Sharon Courtney, Gene D’Amour, Harold Gaspard, Nicole Honoree, Lowry Curley, Judith Dangerfield, Michael Hecht, Blake Stanfill, Alison Bordelon
NOLABA members: Victoria Miles, Chandra Teddleton
Stakeholders: Kris Khalil
 - i. Adoption of Agenda for Board Meeting; 1st by Sharon Courtney, 2nd by Harold Gaspard
 - ii. Adoption of previous board meeting minutes; 1st by Harold Gaspard, 2nd by Allison Bordelon
 - III. Introduction of Guest(s) Michelle Schlafly, Mary Mysing-Gubala
 - IV. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items (refer to the addendum)
 - V. Financial Report by NOLABA: there has been no activity since the last report out and the balance in the account is: \$21,781.62
 - VI. Chairperson’s Report
 - i. Welcome New Members (Judith Dangerfield, Charlotte Parent)
 - ii. Resolution honoring Dr. Gene D ’Amour for his years of service on the BioDistrict Board; 1st by Michael Hecht, 2nd by Nicole Honoree; Dr. D’Amour offered words of encouragement and thanked all the well wishers
 - iii. Website Updates: beta website viewed during board meeting with link provided by Caitlin Berni to board members; website has nominal annual fee and the agendas, CEAs, meetings, general updates as well as press releases can be found on the website. Updated logos (provided by consultant) will be provided to the board and request for approval during the next board meeting. Transition of website to BioDistrict board forthcoming. C. Berni-Website currently is a simple landing page and can be built out and resources, master plan, power point slide decks of the public meetings and general information about the district will be posted on the website. It will be built out and request feedback from the board; email Caitlin with the suggestions
 - iv. Update on City Council activity and revised CEA: Going through City and State approvals with revisiting and introduction to the new city council members and revising the CEA based on council recommendations with Councilperson Helena Moreno leading the efforts at the city council level and support from LED partners at the state level
A.Kopplin-looking forward to the development of the CEA and partnership with community stakeholders, public agencies and the overall BioDistrict partners and stakeholders. The CEA introduced November 2021 was not new. It was previously introduced in April and May 2021; board members if you wish to amend, modify or have general suggestions on the presentations or would like to present to council please let me know (A.Kopplin)
A. Kopplin-Clarification from public comments: BioDistrict inaugural year was Spring 2005. The boundaries were created through the legislature and never changed. Sharon Courtney and Harold Gaspard (board members with historical knowledge of 2014 and J. McNamara) stated they did not recall the board even discussing any modification of the

current boundaries.

A. Kopplin- the BioDistrict's current master plan does not propose any land acquisitions, developing in residential areas, or displacing residents and it is not the plan in the current CEA or future plans. Upcoming meeting with neighborhood organizations and general members of the community will be scheduled for the new year to discuss and address any concerns. The CEA is in compliance with the legislature and city regulations and no language in the documents exempts the district from local or state level regulations. TIF does not change the tax rates for a business or resident. It will require annual approval of the budget, and submission of performance benchmarks and deliverables. It also requires council approval of our revised master plan, with updates every five years afterward. After speaking with community stakeholders, it is apparent McNamara may have spoken with people during the last master plan process in regards to areas where the BioDistrict would not undertake any activities, but the boundaries have not changed. Transparency will take place through CEA and public meetings in order to address potential concerns.

- v. Build Back Better application update- K. Khalil provided update. NOBIC received a 500k planning grant; one of 60 selected out of a competitive grant out of 529 applicants. Through the partnership with BioDistrict, Tulane (Sharon Courtney leading), and other partners were able to develop a winning proposal. 500K planning grant received and proud of the coalition that came together to support a plan that focuses on infrastructure capacity for small businesses with key investment and interest in growth of businesses in sciences. Also, winning the grant allows the potential to move on the phase 2 awarding of \$25 to \$75m in additional federal funding, N. Honoree-8 specific projects, with a 3-month timeline and key topics that will support the region.

K. Khalil- 8 Specific projects

Employee workforce training led by GNOF and support of HBCU research through Xavier of Louisiana and Tulane partnership as well as two tear post doc with focus on BIPOC and LGBTQ+ applicants; additional infrastructure to support increase in Wet labs; implementation of additional support of key partners including GNO Inc Neuro Nola initiative; expanding data research and also expanding hub for bioscience incubation in the city through strategic opportunity zone strategies.

G. D'Amour- NOBIC and specifically Kris Khalil has gone through challenges, Khalil and NOBIC have excelled with continuing to focus on the work, create new innovative strategies and be a hub to the science business community in New Orleans. K. Khalil- hope to have the ability to support the job creation, address gaps with local workforce initiatives and have growth and windfalls such as Lucid and Levelset (noted Obatala Sciences and AxoSim primed to achieve the aforementioned goals)

A. Kopplin-emphasis with the Build Back Better program is to support equity, workforce and try to identify approaches that work to support disadvantaged businesses while decreasing the racial equities, addressing affordable housing and adhering to a pledge to make the plan equitable for community.

- vi. Motion to consider retaining external counsel- A. Kopplin: with the increase in public records request, CEA support and general legal counsel it is imperative to have counsel. Propose the rate of \$225 per hour (rate based on the attorney general rate sheet) to cap at \$7500 of authorized contractual amount within a 12-month/one year period. Sharonda Williams counsel. 1st by Nicole Honoree, 2nd by Sharon Courtney

XII. New Orleans Business Alliance Update- no updates

XIII. Partner Updates

- New Orleans Bio Innovation Center- refer to previous announcement in regards to Build Back Better

- Tulane University
 - LSU
 - LCRC
 - Xavier
 - Delgado
 - GNO Inc
 - LED
- XIV. New Business
- XV. Public Comment(s)
- XVI. Adjournment

Certification Under JBE 2020-30 Related to Open Meetings

The Board of Commissioners of the BioDistrict New Orleans is unable to operate due to quorum requirements. Therefore, under Section 4 of Proclamation Number JBE 2020- 30 of March 16, 2020, the BioDistrict board will conduct the Thursday, December 16th, regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners by telephone/zoom conference. The public is invited to observe and provide input to the Board via email. A person may email a comment related to a particular actionable agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. Emails should be sent to cteddleton@nolaba.org. Please include your name and the agenda item you wish to comment on.

Addendum 1-Public Comment 1 submitted:

Biodistrict Board Members,

As a biologist and educator, I am delighted that the city wants to encourage the biomedical industry in New Orleans. As a resident and property owner, I am not pleased with the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the city and a state

appointed Biodistrict Board. I am not a politician, lawyer or economist but I see numerous problems with this agreement.

Problems with the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement

1. There was no public outreach about the CEA until it appeared in the Times-Picayune Advocate November 26, 2021 Official Notices.
2. There has been no meaningful discussion with or participation by the residents, local businesses or neighborhood associations in Mid-City or Gert Town who are most impacted by the original or "revised" CEA.
3. The boundaries of the "District" still include established residential neighborhoods and businesses.
4. Although expropriation is not mentioned by name, it is still implied in the powers of land acquisition.
5. The agreement basically, cedes city land to state control and allows this to spread through subdistricts.
6. A portion of the city's much needed sales tax is given to the state appointed Biodistrict Board, and if I am not mistaken, state law provides that any properties seized or purchased by the District are exempt from taxation, removing them from the city's tax rolls.
7. There are no plan requirements before attaining funds. There are no benchmarks/deliverables/performance measures with periodic reviews and consequences if they fail to deliver.
8. Although the revised CEA says the District must follow all applicable ordinances of the city that govern zoning, land use and historic district requirements, it does not mention complying with the City's Master Plan or the Neighborhood Participation Program.

Sincerely,
Mary Mysing-Gubala, Ph.D.
319 S. Genois St.
New Orleans, La. 70119

Public comment 2:

While I am very unhappy about the CEA that has been presented for approval by the New Orleans City Council, I find it more alarming that the Biodistrict did not perform it's due diligence in looking back on the proposed boundary change that occurred back in 2014. All you need to look at is the City Business Article from March 26, 2014 "Biodistrict Links to New Orleans Business Alliance." see the map where many of the residential areas of Mid City were removed. So what happened to that map?

Our neighborhood worked tirelessly at that time with Jim McNamara to have this area removed from your jurisdiction. We don't want to be included.

Can you also explain when you expect to have a master plan? You tout the two grants won by the Bio innovation Center and GNO, Inc. is any of this money going to fund the Biodistrict master Plan?

Thank you,

Michelle Schlafly

121 South Genois Street

New Orleans, LA 70119

kimballmichelle@outlook.com

Addendum 2

Resolution honoring Dr. Gene D'Amour for his years of service as both Chairman and member of the BioDistrict Board of Directors

December 16, 2021

Whereas, Dr. [Gene D'Amour](#), Senior Vice President for Resource Development at Xavier University, has honorably served the BioDistrict as both its Chairman and a Member for many years;

Whereas, Dr. D'Amour has been the heart and soul of the BioDistrict for most of its existence, keeping the flame alive for years when budgets have been non-existent.

Whereas, Dr. D'Amour believes advanced technology jobs are the key to New Orleans' economic diversification;

Whereas, Dr. D'Amour has worked collaboratively with his partners and important stakeholders to advance the mission of the BioDistrict; and,

Whereas, Dr. D'Amour has remained committed to the vision to create a biosciences cluster through both opportunities and challenges; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the BioDistrict Board of Directors recognizes Dr. D'Amour's achievements and service to the BioDistrict and its mission and expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude for those contributions and wishes him well in all the years to come, with many members looking forward to his continued interest in and support of the biosciences sector in New Orleans.