



BioDistrict New Orleans
Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2024 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location: New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA)
1250 Poydras St. Suite 2150 New Orleans, LA 70113

I Call to Order

The BioDistrict Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Andy Kopplin at 2:10 pm.

II Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Emily Arata, Sharon Courtney, Josh Fleig, Charlotte Parent, Andy Kopplin, Nicole Honoree, Michael Hecht, Blake Stanfill, Arnel Cosey, Roger Ogden

Commissioners Present via Zoom: N/A

Commissioners Absent: Kaneisha Akinpelumi, Lowry Curley, Judith Dangerfield, Larissa Littleton-Steib, Gregorie Tillery

Quorum: Present

III Introduction of Guest(s)

NOLABA Attendees: Louis David (President & CEO), Doug Porter (Marketing & Events), Jody Deffes (Director Accounting), Sherelle Bowser (Executive Assistant), Kat Milligan (VP Grants)

Others Present: Sharonda Williams (Counsel to BioDistrict), Tyler Correa (Downtown Development District)

IV Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Andy Kopplin asked to make a change on the agenda to clarify that the meeting minutes to be adopted today are from the previous meeting on July 10th 2024 not the minutes from the March 14 2024 meeting, which had already been adopted. Nicole Honoree moved to amend the agenda, and Charlotte Parent seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment and the motion was carried unanimously.

Andy Kopplin next requested the adoption of the amended agenda. Nicole Honoree moved to approve, and Charlotte Parent seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment and the motion was carried unanimously.

V Adoption of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Andy Kopplin requested the approval of the minutes from the previous BioDistrict board meeting on July 10, 2024. Charlotte Parent motioned for approval, and Arnel Cosey seconded. There was no discussion or public comment and a vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

VI Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items

There was no discussion or public comment.

VII Financial Report by NOLABA

Mr. Deffes reported that the current balance in the BioDistrict account was \$1,566.00.

VIII Chairperson's Report

a) Adoption of 2024 Budget Proposal for City EDD Funds

Andy Kopplin said that the City Council, City Planning Commission, and Mayor had all approved the BioDistrict's strategic master plan, which the CEA between the City and the BioDistrict required before the BioDistrict could begin requesting funds. Those approvals having been received, the BioDistrict then submitted its 2024 budget to the City Council, presented at a committee meeting, and received approval of an ordinance approving the BioDistrict's 2024 budget. The budget is the same one approved by the BioDistrict board, but it has been reduced across the board by about 20% because the City later submitted revised estimates for the BioDistrict's 2024 revenues.

Emily Arata asked about whether there were any opportunities for the BioDistrict to support Superbowl improvements within the BioDistrict, noting that the board had hoped to be able to be part of this effort should funds be available in time. Andy Kopplin asked Michael Hecht if he thought there were still opportunities for that to happen, and Michael Hecht and Tyler Correa of the Downtown Development District agreed that it might be possible for the DDD to perform landscaping and tree planting improvements on behalf of the BioDistrict. Andy Kopplin and Blake Stanfill agreed to work with GNO Inc. and the DDD on a proposed CEA with the BioDistrict to provide the funding.

b) Adoption of 2025 Budget Proposal for City EDD Funds

Andy Kopplin noted that the BioDistrict had submitted its budget for 2025 to the City Council and that he expected the Council to approve an ordinance of approval as part of the general city budget process in November. Andy Kopplin said that like the 2024 budget, the 2025 budget was submitted was decreased proportionally from what the BioDistrict board had approved due to lower city fund estimates. When approved by the Council, the new budget will be effective January 1st 2025.

Andy Kopplin requested the approval of the updated 2025 budget by the board. Roger Ogden moved to approve. Arnel Cosey seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment and a vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

c) Adoption of 2025 Budget Proposal for State EDD Funds

Andy Kopplin noted that the BioDistrict does not need to go the legislature but will present to the department of economic development to secure state funds in 2025 as authorized by the CEA between the BioDistrict and the State of Louisiana that are to match local funds from the previous year, 2024.

d) Adoption of CEA with New Orleans Business Alliance

Andy Kopplin next introduced the CEA between the BioDistrict and the New Orleans Business Alliance that covers reporting requirements with the state and city, as well as overseeing fiscal expenditures for the BioDistrict by NOLABA.

Andy Kopplin requested the adoption of the CEA with NOLABA. Roger Ogden moved to approve on the condition the length of CEA is for one year, effective September 1, 2024 to August 30th, 2025 and subject to a notice provision of 180 days from either party to cancel for convenience. Nicole Honoree seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment and a vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

IX Partner Updates

Andy Kopplin noted that the Governor had called a special session for state tax reform. The proposal is complex and still needs to be understood and questions to be asked. The historic tax credit component which is one of the tax credits being proposed for elimination represents \$130M in tax credits for the Charity Hospital project alone and the loss of these tax credits could hinder this development vital to the BioDistrict. The board discussed the need to continue to monitor developments.

**X 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***

Andy Kopplin requested to enter the executive session. Roger Ogden moved to approve the request, and Emily Arata seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion was approved by the board.

Following the discussion in executive session, Andy Kopplin requested to exit executive session. Charlotte Parent moved to exit executive session, noting that no votes had been taken in executive session, and Arnel Cosey seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion was approved by the board and the board exited the executive session.

XI Consideration of approving any recommendations from BioDistrict Counsel regarding pending litigation

Nicole Honoree requested the approval of the recommendation of counsel regarding pending litigation. Courtney Sharon seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment and a vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

XII New Business

Andy Kopplin next thanked Roger Ogden who has served on the BioDistrict board since its inception and has been instrumental in the BioDistrict's progress for nearly two decades, noting that Roger Ogden had graciously agreed to give up his board seat in order that Andy Kopplin could continue to serve on the board if appointed to replace him. Andy Kopplin expressed his gratitude for Roger Ogden's selflessness and noted that it is his honor to succeed Roger Ogden in that seat.

Nicole Honoree and Michael Hecht both spoke to further recognize Roger Ogden for his outstanding service. Nicole Honoree then moved for the BioDistrict New Orleans Board to formally recognize and thank Roger Ogden for all his years of service to the BioDistrict board and to the Greater New Orleans region. Andy Kopplin seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. A vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

XIII Public Comment(s)

There was no discussion or public comment.

XIV Adjournment

Mr. Kopplin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Parent. The chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.
