



BioDistrict New Orleans
Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda
July 10, 2024 | 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: NOLABA 1250 Poydras St. Suite 2150 New Orleans, LA 70113

I. Call to Order

The July BioDistrict Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Andy Kopplin at 2:51 pm.

II. Roll Call

a. Board members present

Commissioners Present: Emily Arata, Kaneisha Bailey- Akinpelumi, Arnel Cosey, Sharon Courtney, Josh Fleig, Charlotte Parent, Andy Kopplin, Gregoire Tillery

Commissioner(s): Preset via Zoom: N/A

Commissioners Absent: Lowry Curley, Judith Dangerfield, Michael Hecht, Nicole Honoree, Larissa Littleton-Steib, Roger Ogden, Blake Stanfill

Quorum: Present

b. Adoption of Agenda for Board Meeting

Mr. Kopplin requested the adoption of the July 10th agenda. Ms. Parent moved to approve, and Ms. Courtney seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

c. Adoption of previous board meeting minutes from March 14, 2024

Mr. Kopplin requested the approval of the minutes from the previous BioDistrict board meeting on March 14, 2024. Ms. Arata motioned for approval, and Ms. Courtney 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 President & CEO), Louis David (President & CEO), Jody Defes (VP of Finance), Andreas Pashos (Senior Director Partnerships, Talent & Emerging Industries), Douglas Porter (Marketing & Events Coordinator).

Others Present: Courtney Thomas Barnes (Greater New Orleans Foundation), Ashwin Chilner (Xavier University), Phillip Chin, Kris Khalil (NOBIC), Jason Neville (Lafitte Greenway), Meaghan Nguyen (DDD), Korey Patty (NOBIC), Sharonda Williams (Counsel to BioDistrict).



IV. Financial Report by NOLABA

Mr. Deffes reported that the current balance in the BioDistrict account was \$3,689.00

V. Chairperson's Report

The 2024 BioDistrict Budget proposal was presented to the commissioners during the board meeting for their review. The proposed budget includes projections for the years 2024, 2025, and 2026, with detailed specifics on how the funds are planned to be allocated. To authorize the expenditure of these funds, approval must be obtained from the City Council through an ordinance, followed by the Mayor's signature.

VI. 2024 Budget Proposal for City EDD Funds by Budget Committee Chairs Commissioner Emily Arata and Charlotte Parent.

During the board meeting, the proposed 2024 BioDistrict Budget was distributed to the commissioners for their review. The budget proposal included projected figures for the years 2024, 2025, and 2026, along with detailed specifics on how the funds are planned to be allocated.

The commissioners engaged in a discussion about the proposed budgeted items. They discussed in particular the proposals for workforce training, support for entrepreneurs, public infrastructure improvements on Tulane Avenue, and administrative funding for New Orleans Business Alliance.

During the discussion, Mr. Kopplin reminded the Commissioners that the City EDD funds could be used for a wide variety of public purposes, but that the State EDD funds, which will be budgeted next year, can only be used for public infrastructure improvements within the BioDistrict.

The process of approval for the Budget Proposal for the City EDD Funds of the BioDistrict are outlined as follows:

1. The agreement is first presented to the **BioDistrict Board of Commissioners** for review and approval.
2. Once approved by the Board, the **BioDistrict works directly with NOLABA** (New Orleans Business Alliance) to incorporate the agreement into the city's budget forms.
3. The budget forms are then submitted to **the City Council's Finance Committee**, where they will undergo review.



4. A **hearing specifically for the BioDistrict** may be held as part of this process.
5. If the agreement is approved by the Finance Committee, it will move on to the **full City Council** for a final vote and subsequent approval by the Mayor.

Mr. Kopplin requested the approval of the 2024 Budget Proposal for City EDD Funds by the Budget Committee. Ms. Courtney moved approval and Ms. Bailey-Akinpelumi seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment and a vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

VII. Partner Updates

Xavier University - Ms. Bailey-Akinpelumi stated that the Benson Tower on Poydras Street next to the Caesars Superdome will be the site of the first medical school in the Gulf South to be operated by a historically Black university, Xavier University of Louisiana and Ochsner Health.

Once renovations, hiring staff, and the accreditation process are complete — which could take at least three years — the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine will join only four other historically Black institutions with medical schools.

Ms. Bailey-Akinpelumi noted that there is a significant shortage of medical personnel and that the shortage is even more acute among minorities. Though Black people make up 14% of the U.S. population, they make up only 6% of doctors. Latinos make up around 19% of the nation, but account for less than 7% of doctors.

It will still be several years before students can enroll at the new college of medicine. As the building undergoes renovations, Dr. Leo Seoane, the new dean of the medical school, will begin the process of building a curriculum, hiring future faculty and preparing for a rigorous accreditation process, which could last until at least 2027.

Tulane University – Ms. Courtney said that the NASA Mural Unveiling will be held on Tuesday, August 13th, 9:30am-11:00am. The unveiling with President Michael A. Fitts will occur at the Saratoga Garage at the corner of Canal St and Liberty St.

Mural unveiling to take place at 9:45 am. with a celebration to follow with light refreshments. The announcement is open to all members of the Tulane community, including friends and neighbors in downtown New Orleans.

Charity Hospital- Ms. Courtney highlighted that Charity Hospital is still going through redevelop planning and negotiation.



LCMC - Ms. Parent stated on July 1, LCMC Health hosted a press conference to mark the launch of the Healthy Brain Aging Initiative (HBAI) at University Medical Center New Orleans. The event took place at UMC's downtown campus.

The program is designed to address cognitive health in aging patients. It will provide evaluations and treatment across three LCMC centers: The Center for Alzheimer's Prevention provides care for people who don't have symptoms but who have a greater risk for Alzheimer's and related dementias. The Center for Memory Disorders provides care for people with symptoms of memory decline, mild cognitive impairment or dementia. And the Center for Movement Disorders provides care for people with symptoms of Parkinson's disease or related movement disorders.

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*

Andy Kopplin requested to enter the Executive Session. Ms. Arata moved to approve the request, and Mr. Tillery seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board.

Following the discussion in executive session, Mr. Kopplin requested to exit Executive Session. Ms. Arata moved to approve the request, and Ms. Cosey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board and the board ended the Executive Session, having taken no votes nor actions.

IX. Public Comment

Mr. Chin informed the Board of Commissioners that he is seeking to address homelessness in Orleans Parish, particularly before the 2025 Super Bowl. He is actively looking for sponsors to support his initiative.

Lafitte Greenway – Mr. Neville reported on recent legislative developments impacting the Lafitte Greenway. Governor Landry has recently signed a new bill into law, which has generated excitement among greenway advocates and city officials due to its potential to provide a new source of funding.

State Representative Alonzo Knox, D-New Orleans, sponsored House Bill 561 (HB 561), which establishes a new public entity known as an Economic Development District (EDD) for the Lafitte Greenway area.

The EDD will consist of 11 members, with appointments made by the Mayor, four City Council members representing districts adjacent to the greenway, state lawmakers, and the Lieutenant Governor. The bill has garnered full support from both the City Council and Mayor LaToya Cantrell's administration.

This new development represents a significant step forward in securing financial resources for the ongoing improvement and maintenance of the Lafitte Greenway.



Mr. Neville stressed that the new district board would determine funding priorities, but he said additional revenue could be put toward additional green drainage features, along with more signage, lighting and overall maintenance as plans for a half-mile extension to Canal Boulevard take shape.

Funding for the \$4.8 million extension project at the other end of the Greenway near the cemeteries is already in place, and the city is currently seeking a design firm. Mr. Neville said he hopes the project will break ground within the next year and a half.

X. 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.