



BioDistrict New Orleans

Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda

February 9, 2023 | 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: NOLABA 1250 Poydras St. Suite 2150 New Orleans, LA 70113

I. Call to Order

The February BioDistrict Board Meeting of 2023 was called to order by Chairperson, Andy Kopplin at 2:13pm.

II. Roll Call

a. Board members present

Commissioners Present: Levon Bostanian, Sharon Courtney, Andy Kopplin, Blake Stanfill, Nicole Honoree, Brad Lambert, Charlotte Parent, Larissa Littleton-Steib

Commissioner(s) Present via Zoom: Michael Hecht (not in quorum)

Commissioners Absent: Emily Arata, Lowry Curley, Judith Dangerfield, Roger Ogden

Quorum: Present

b. Adoption of Agenda for Board Meeting

Mr. Kopplin asked for any suggested changes to the agenda, of which there were none, therefore the agenda for the meeting was adopted without objection.

c. Adoption of previous board meeting minutes from November 14, 2022

Mr. Kopplin requested approval of the previous board meeting's minutes from November 14th, 2022. Ms. Honoree moved for approval and Mr. Lambert seconded. The chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none, followed by a vote on the motion which was unanimously approved.

III. Introduction of Guest(s)

Mr. Kopplin welcomed Delgado Community College Chancellor, Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib, as a new commissioner of the BioDistrict New Orleans Board.

NOLABA Attendees: 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: Kris Khalil (Executive Director of New Orleans BioInnovation Center & BioFund Managing Director), Henry "Tut" Kinney (Attorney), Mary Mysing-Gubala (Mid-City Neighborhood Organization), Courtney Thomas Barnes (VP of Communication & Public Affairs at Greater New Orleans Foundation), Sharonda Williams (Counsel to BioDistrict)



IV. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items

Mr. Kopplin stated that he would ask for public input on everything that is voted on in the agenda and welcomed public attendees to make a two-minute comment. No public comments were made at this time.

V. Financial Report by NOLABA

Ms. Miles reported that the current balance in the account was \$6,055.57.

Mr. Kopplin noted that Mr. Melero, on behalf of the BioDistrict New Orleans, sent the trustees a funding request. This voluntary funding has been done since 2014-2015 and is used to pay for insurance for the trustees and NOLABA supporting operations.

VI. Chairperson's Report

Mr. Kopplin stated that the BioDistrict Board had a resignation from commissioner Michelle Craig who was appointed by then Rep. Duplessis to the state representative position representing the BioDistrict area. Rep. Duplessis' successor in the House of Representatives will be asked to make an appointment for the position once they are elected. Sen. Duplessis has also been notified of the need to make an additional appointment from the Senate seat for representation of the BioDistrict area.

The City of New Orleans approved the CEA for revenue sharing for the BioDistrict in October of 2022. The BioDistrict New Orleans has been working to register with the City's contracting process. The estimates from November or December collections will be available on February 20, 2023. Per the CEA, the BioDistrict will not receive any funds until it submits a budget request to the City Council which is then subsequently approved by ordinance.

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

Mr. Kopplin noted the BioDistrict has been in discussion with the State of Louisiana for many years, in particular, Secretary Pearson of LED along with Gov. John Bel Edwards. The State has been willing to match up to \$25 million of local revenue raised by TIF projects similar to the BioDistrict New Orleans.

The CEA with the State largely tracks the city CEA and includes approval by LED of our budget before expenditures can be made, along with a different termination provision to match other state CEAs. The State left intact the BioDistrict non-discrimination language and DBE focus, but removed EDOs as they were a type of DBE recognized in New Orleans but not part of State law. Mr. Kopplin made clear that these changes do not change the BioDistrict's commitments to meeting DBE requirements and obligations agreed to with the City of New Orleans. It is important to note that the CEA proposal with the State only funds public infrastructure, which must be consistent with the BioDistrict's objectives as written in the statute amended by then Rep. Duplessis's bill in 2022. The State CEA would start July 1,



2023, and would end the sooner of receiving \$25 million from the State or June 30, 2040. The CEA remains subject to further change, as it is currently being reviewed by the Department of Revenue. Mr. Kopplin asked to be able to endorse the CEA with the State, which will then be approved by the board before signature. Hopefully, the CEA with the State will be voted on by the State in March or April of 2023.

Mr. Stanfill asked Mr. Kopplin what commissioners could do to support the process. Mr. Kopplin noted that once the hearing is scheduled and there is a committee date, there will be a briefing to discuss it, and it would be great to have commissioner representation at the BioDistrict's presentation.

Mr. Kopplin sought legal counsel from Ms. Sharonda Williams on if he could move to discuss item VI. b. Updating the BioDistrict's Strategic Plan, then return to item VI. a. Board Approval of CEA request to the State of Louisiana to vote, as commissioner Dr. Littleton-Steib stepped out of the room. Ms. Williams said yes.

Once Dr. Littleton-Steib returned, Mr. Kopplin sought a motion to approve the CEA request to the state of Louisiana. Ms. Courtney motioned for approval and Ms. Parent seconded. The chair called for discussion and public comment, of which there were none, followed by a vote which was unanimously approved and passed.

b. Updating the BioDistrict's Strategic Plan

The CEA with the City of New Orleans requires the BioDistrict to update its strategic plan by November 1, 2023. Mr. Kopplin has asked Vice Chairman Blake Stanfill to lead.

Mr. Stanfill stated that the BioDistrict has nine months to put together the strategic plan. They must move aggressively to obtain and raise resources to fund the effort. It is important to note, there is no money from the CEA approved for this strategic plan. There will also need to be a consulting partner identified to help develop the plan. NOBIC's staff will be leveraged to help the process. All stakeholders will be engaged in the process. There are two options regarding the strategic plan. The first would involve a robust planning effort with a large institution which would be more expensive. The second would be less robust where existing plans from partner institutions are integrated.

Mr. Kopplin stated the BioDistrict is looking to find out the research strengths of partner institutions individually, where there are collective synergies, and where are opportunities for federal and private funds to match those. It is important that institutional partners are aligned and move together with a consensus strategy to gain momentum. It is also important to identify the place-making strategy, which much of the BioDistrict resources will be used to invest in, such as bus shelters, public infrastructure, public safety, and more. There will be community outreach regarding the priorities for the strategy.

There was no voting regarding this item of the agenda as it was an update.



c. Board Approval of CEA with New Orleans Business Alliance

Mr. Kopplin has been discussing with NOLABA the formation of a new CEA. NOLABA has been acting as the fiscal agent, staffing meetings, and performing back-office work for the BioDistrict for a rate of \$400 per month. There is now a need for additional resources and a new CEA with monthly meetings and City of New Orleans TIF resources. The BioDistrict would like to continue with NOLABA performing back-office duties but will require more compensation.

There was no voting regarding this item of the agenda as this it was an update.

VII. Partner Updates

Ms. Courtney provided updates regarding Tulane University. She suggested trustees bring new research projects to meetings to educate stakeholders on the work that will be done in the BioDistrict. Tulane has a new healthcare partner in LCMC, which was approved by the State of Louisiana attorney general. They are currently in the transition process, which could last 12-24 months. The downtown Tulane hospital will be closing and operations will be merged with UMC and the flagship medical center will be at East Jefferson Hospital. Tulane University Board approved the creation of a nursing program, which will be complementary and non-competitive to existing programs to address the shortage of nurses. A new restaurant, Chapter IV by Dook Chase, has opened at 1315 Gravier for breakfast and lunch. Tulane is renovating the 5th floor of their Hutchinson building into a ballroom lab and there will be trailers outside for researchers. Tulane has been upgraded by Moody's to A1 and Standard & Poor's reaffirmed a stable A+ rating, which will support its expansion. Have started work with the City on Liberty Street to make it a pedestrian thoroughway with murals. Tulane is meeting monthly with DDD to address quality-of-life issues and maximize resources. Tulane is conducting downtown tours. Tulane's Dr. Ferdinand received an \$8.7 million Cherish grant to treat hypertension in the African-American community.

Ms. Parent provided updates regarding University Medical Center. UMC, LCMC, and EJ have been working together on the Tulane project. UMC is focusing on a social issue aspect to create a safe, supportive neighborhood. UMC has been given \$1.3 million by the City to expand the trauma recovery program for the citizens of New Orleans. The UMC trauma program started with a small grant from Baptist Community Ministry. The program includes wrap-around services and case management. The program will hopefully open in the Spring of 2023. UMC is building out a new clinical area to help expand clinical resources. UMC has a new CEO, Emily Sedgwick, who is looking to improve access to care. In the summer of 2023, UMC will be upgrading the equipment in their conference room to help learners visualize in real-time. Hopefully, in the future, community members will be able to use that space.

Dr. Bostanian provided updates regarding the Xavier University of Louisiana. Xavier will be starting a new medical program in collaboration with Oschner. Xavier has a peer program that started years ago, and had its first class in May of 2022 and is doing well.

Mr. Khalil provided an update regarding the New Orleans BioInnovation Center. NOBIC had the first exit of a portfolio company. It was a Tulane University technology created in a lab legacy 2000s. NOBIC



started helping the company in 2012 with early-stage support then the BioFund lent 1% capital with no fee to the business for their first pilot and prototype. The company was taken out of the university and is now sold to a strategic partner in Japan. The company moved out of New Orleans to Texas in 2022 to sell to that partner in Japan.

**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 litigation and threatened litigation citing Louisiana Constitutional Article 506. Ms. Parent motioned to enter executive session and Dr. Bostanian seconded. Mr. Kopplin called for discussion and public comment.

Mr. Kinney asked if there would be anything else discussed after the executive session. Mr. Kopplin stated there are no other items on the agenda and there are no plans at this point, but Mr. Melero will call Mr. Kinney if anything else is added.

Ms. Mysing-Gubala asked where the meetings are being publicly announced. Mr. Kopplin answered that it is posted in two places. The first is on the state website, Boards & Commissions, and the second is on the BioDistrictnola.com website. Mr. Kopplin also noted there is a proposed monthly meeting schedule which will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2:30pm starting in March, which may be subject to change.

Mr. Kinney stated that generally, the open meetings law requires that notice is sent to the press. Mr. Kinney asked if it would be an imposition to ask that the notice is sent to members who are signed up at the same time it is sent to commissioners. Mr. Kopplin said the BioDistrict could set up a request list for meeting notices.

Ms. Mysing-Gubala asked about two board positions that were originally set by the State to be residents in the BioDistrict. Mr. Kopplin re-stated that he has notified Sen. Duplessis and will notify the successor of Sen. Duplessis' previous seat on the House of Representatives.

There was a unanimous vote to enter the executive session which was passed at 3:01pm.

Ms. Courtney motioned to exit the executive session, and Mr. Stanfill seconded. Mr. Kopplin called for discussion and public comment. Ms. Honoree noted that no votes were taken and nothing was discussed that was not allowed under the law. There was no public comment. A unanimous vote to exit the executive session was passed at 3:27pm.

IX. Public Comment(s)

Public comments were made throughout the meeting and thus there were none made at this time.



X. Adjournment

Dr. Littleton-Steib moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Bostanian. The chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:26pm CST.
