



## Build Baton Rouge Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, May 19, 2022

**Place:** River Center Branch Library, 250 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**Time:** 9:00 A.M.

### Minutes

**Attending Board Members:** Rodney Braxton, Chairman; Brian Haymon, Vice Chairman; Will Campbell, Treasurer; Susan Turner, Secretary; Charles Landry

**Also attending:** Tara Titone, BBR Interim President & CEO; Gretchen Siemers, BBR Director of Planning; Cornelius Payne, BBR Director of Real Estate; Tricia Prewitt, BBR Office Coordinator; Vanessa Graham, VGraham; Manny Patole, NYU/Co-City BR; Bradly Brown, KMT Holdings & Development and Cortana EDD Board member; Jay Colar, Prime Occupational and Cortana EDD Board member; Jeremy Miller, BBR Community Ambassador; Lois Dorsey, BBR Community Ambassador

**Meeting Called by:** Rodney Braxton

**Type of Meeting:** Build Baton Rouge (BBR) Board of Commissioners - Joint Meeting with Cortana Corridor Economic Development District Board of Directors

**Note Taker:** Tara Titone

- I. **Action Item** Mr. Braxton called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.
- II. **Action Item** Mr. Braxton confirmed receipt of proof of notice of meeting and Ms. Titone confirmed posting of public notice.
- III. **Action Item** Mr. Braxton confirmed the number of Board Commissioners present in person and the constitution of a majority.
- IV. **Action Item** The Board reviewed the minutes from the BBR Board of Commissioners March 24, 2022, regular meeting and April 4, 2022, special meeting. Mr. Landry made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2022, meeting. Mr. Haymon seconded the motion. Mr. Landry made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2022, meeting. Mr. Haymon seconded the motion. Both motions carried unanimously.
- V. **Discussion Item** Mrs. Graham presented the YTD profit-loss actual vs. budget, program statement of activity, and cashflow projections for the period ended April 30, 2022. There were no objections.



- VI. **Discussion Item** Ms. Titone provided a brief administrative update. The 2021 audit is underway. BBR staff are currently working remotely and continue to search for a suitable office space.
- VII. **Action Item** Mr. Braxton asked for the Board's consideration in approving a resolution for the Interim President and CEO to enter into an Administrative Services Agreement with the Cortana Corridor Economic Development District. Mr. Landry made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Haymon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- VIII. **Action Item** Ms. Titone asked for the Board's consideration in soliciting proposals for legal counsel. Mr. Haymon made a motion to authorize the Interim President and CEO to solicit proposals for general counsel and legal services for Build Baton Rouge. Mrs. Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- IX. **Discussion Item** Mr. Payne provided a brief update on the Land Bank. BBR is in communications with 5-6 individuals who are interested in purchasing property. Mr. Payne and Ms. Titone will be working with legal counsel to update the Community Partners program policies and contracts prior to transfer of any additional properties.
- X. **Discussion Item** Mrs. Siemers reported that BBR has submitted the 2022 work plan to JPMorgan Chase as required by the AdvancingCities grant. A follow-up meeting with the collaborative partners is being scheduled and a grant extension request is underway with the funder. Mrs. Siemers provided an update on Plank Road master plan implementation. BBR, in partnership with Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge and Republic Services, was awarded a \$120,000 grant for the Plank-Erie Pocket Park. This fully satisfies funding needs for Phases I and II which will now be implemented concurrently. BBR will be entering into a joint venture agreement with the Plank Road Community Land Bank and Trust (PRCLBT) and BREC for construction administration, programming and operations of the park. Estimated park groundbreaking is late 2022 with an anticipated park opening in early 2023.



BBR was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Wilson Foundation for the continued establishment and initial operation of the Plank Road CLBT. BBR has filed for 501 c3 status on behalf of the CLBT. A CLBT board meeting will be held in the coming weeks to approve the bylaws and discuss operational policies, timeline and budget.

**XI. Action Item**

Ms. Titone asked the Board's consideration in approving a payment to Gulf Coast Housing Partnership in the amount of \$22,375.50 for unbudgeted New Markets Tax Credits legal expenses incurred in 2021 related to the proposed Plank-Calumet development. Mr. Landry made a motion to approve the payment of \$22,375.50. Mr. Haymon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**XII. Action Item**

Mr. Braxton asked for the Board's consideration in authorizing the Interim President and CEO to execute agreements related to Senator Fields 2021 Appropriation for Shada Plantation. Mr. Landry made a motion to authorize the Interim President and CEO or Chairman Braxton to execute Shada Plantation agreements. Mrs. Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**XIII. Discussion Item**

Ms. Titone gave a brief redevelopment projects update. BBR CFO and Ms. Titone will be collecting and reviewing financials from Model Block to determine if a loan repayment can be made in 2022. Electric Depot is up to date on rent payments and additional development is underway on the site.

**XIV. Discussion Item**

No Public comment

**XV. Action Item**

The Board adjourned to Executive Session for discussion of real estate and personnel matters at 10:05 a.m. The board exited out of Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. and reported that no action was taken.

**XVI. Action Item**

Mr. Haymon adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.