



**Build Baton Rouge Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting**

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025

Place: 100 North St #800, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Minutes

Attending Board Members: Rodney Braxton, Chairman; Charles Landry, Vice Chair; Suzanne Turner, Secretary; Will Campbell, Treasurer; Bobby Hamilton (each a "Commissioner")

Also attending: Deidre Robert, President and CEO; Tricia Prewitt, Administrative Officer; Marlee Pittman Miller, Executive Vice President; Jessica Purnell, VGraham; Kincaid Jackson, Kean Miller; Helena Cunningham; Rinaldi Jacobs; Vanessa Graham via Zoom

Meeting Called by: Rodney Braxton

Type of Meeting: Build Baton Rouge (BBR) Board of Commissioners – Regular Meeting

Note Taker: Tricia Prewitt

❖ **Action Item**

- a. Mr. Braxton called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- b. Mr. Braxton confirmed receipt of proof of notice of meeting and the posting of public notice.
- c. Mr. Braxton confirmed the number of Board Commissioners present and the constitution of a majority.
- d. The Board reviewed the minutes from the BBR Board of Commissioners April 2, 2025, regular meeting. Ms. Turner made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Campbell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

❖ **Discussion Item: Budget**

- a. Ms. Purnell presented the profit-loss actual vs. budget, program statement of activity, and cashflow projections for the period ending April 30, 2025. Ms. Purnell reported that she had a review with Ms. Robert and revenue and income are in line with expectations. Expenses are a little bit less than budgeted. The funding from City Parish was received in April. Mr. Landry requested information on one line of income. Ms. Purnell reminded the Board that Build Baton Rouge subleased part of their office to Teach for America, and that income was rent payments. There were no concerns.



❖ **Discussion Item: CEO Report (Deidre Robert)**

- a. Ms. Robert updated the Board on changes in staffing, introducing Marlee Pittman Miller, who has joined Build Baton Rouge as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Build Baton Rouge. Kendra Hendricks is now the Senior Planning and Development Coordinator, and Tricia Prewitt is now the Administrative Officer. Ms. Robert reported having regular meetings with VGraham to get a full assessment of our financial standing, including looking at any outstanding debts that we may owe or owe to us. The 2024 Audit for BBR and CCEDD are underway, and we are preparing our budget for submission to the City Parish while also actively exploring grant opportunities. We are in the process of adding more staff members. Existing staff have been working on creating a master template for the BBR RFP/RFQ, a Blight Playbook that will serve as an internal and external facing guide to blight management and remediation. Ms. Robert reported that we have submitted a finding request to CAFA for a Title Clearing Pilot and gave the Board a bit more information on the pilot.
- b. Ms. Robert updated the Board on the proposed legislation that BBR is monitoring. Mr. Landry opened a discussion on Proposal 247. Mr. Landry and Mr. Braxton provided clarity on the Proposal, that while BBR is currently cooperating with the mayor's office, Proposal 247 did not originate with Build Baton Rouge. The initial bill had language in it that conflicted with some of BBR's Governing Procedures, and Mr. Braxton and Mr. Landry requested that that language be removed. Mr. Braxton and Mr. Landry have made themselves available to give advice and counsel on the bill, as it still has some language that needs to be removed, but it is not BBR's bill.
- c. Ms. Robert reported that the master mapping group is continuing. Ms. Robert reported that she has met with representatives from EBRB to discuss their realignment and potential opportunities for redevelopment. Mr. Robert encouraged the board to identify any other potential redevelopment partners, leading up to a strategic planning launch that would include Board and staff.
- d. Regarding the CLBT, Ms. Robert reported that new Board President Lynn Clark is focused on fundraising and board engagement and is seeking grant writing support with remaining funds.
- e. Ms. Robert reported on the progress of ECO Park, alerting the Board to a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 18, 2025. Ms. Robert also updated the Board on the JPMC Grant, Plank Facade Improvement, and Plank-Choctaw, Florida Corridor, and Ardendale, before asking Mr. Jackson to give the legal update, which he deferred until the discussion of the resolution.

❖ **Discussion Item: Redevelopment and Land Bank Report (Marlee Pittman Miller)**

- a. Ms. Pittman updated the Board on various projects, including the Lincoln Trail Project.

❖ **Action Item: General Empowering Resolution to amending and updating provisions for approval of the Board (Kincaid Jackson)**

- a. Mr. Jackson introduced the resolution, stating that its purpose is day-to-day authority, now that Build Baton Rouge has an acting CEO. It still has our normal oversight protections. Instead of listing multiple officers, it puts CEO Deidre Robert in charge, to the fullest extent of the law. It allows her to authorize, on a case-by-case basis,



individual members of staff operating permissions. The Board did not have any questions, comments, or concerns. Mr. Braxton entertained a motion to pass the Resolutions, Mr. Landry made a motion, Mr. Hamilton seconded, the motion passed with full support of the Board.

❖ **New Business**

- a. Mr. Landry reported that, as requested by the Chairman, he has started setting up members of the Metro Council with Deidre Robert and updated the Board on that progress. Ms. Cunningham

❖ **Old Business**

- a. There was no old business

❖ **Action Item: Public Comment**

- a. Rinaldi Jacobs expressed optimism on the new developments at BBR.

❖ **Action Item: Adjourn to Executive Session to discuss negotiations between the authority and prospective seller(s), purchaser(s), lessor(s), or lessee(s) of immovable property owned by the Authority pursuant to LA. R.S. 4720.151(G)(12)**

- a. Mr. Braxton entertained a motion to adjourn to the executive session. Ms. Turner made a motion to adjourn to executive session; Mr. Hamilton seconded, the board adjourned to executive session at 10:33 a.m.
- b. The Board returned from executive session at 10:48 a.m., Mr. Braxton noted that no action was taken during executive session. The Board discussed noting that no members of the public were still in the lobby waiting to return to the meeting after the executive session. There were no members of the public waiting in the lobby to return to the meeting after the executive session.

❖ **Action Item: Adjournment**

- a. Mr. Braxton made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Turner seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.