

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
MAIN OFFICE AT 4731 NORTH BOULEVARD & VIA TELECONFERENCE
March 14, 2024, AT 12:00 PM**

The Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority of East Baton Rouge Parish convened in Regular Session on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 12:00 pm at the main office 4731 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 for Staff and via teleconference for Commissioners.

Meeting Called to Order **Commissioner Dianna Payton, Chair (via teleconference)**

Invocation **Commissioner Chris Brown (via teleconference)**

Roll Call: **(Commissioners attended via teleconference)**

Members Present **Commissioner Dianna Payton, Chair**
Commissioner Al Barron, Vice Chair
Commissioner Chris Brown
Commissioner Lynn Farris
Commissioner Justin Gaudet
Commissioner Brandon Kelly
Commissioner Terry Landry, Jr.

Members Absent **None**

QUORUM PRESENT

Public Comments

The floor was open for public comments. None were voiced. The public comment period was closed.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 1:

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EAST BATON ROUGE
PARISH HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD FEBRUARY 08, 2024**

A motion was made by Commissioner Barron to approve, and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. No abstentions or oppositions were noted. No further discussion was made.

MOTION PASSED

Mission Statement

To provide and develop quality affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families while promoting self-sufficiency and neighborhood revitalization

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 2:
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT
a. EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Mr. Daniels updated the Board on Choice Neighborhoods and the grant is finally achieving momentum. Phase II will be closed by the middle of 2024. The neighborhood activities will continue throughout the year. He stated there will be a stakeholders meeting that will provide an update on the process, projects, outcomes, , and function as an advocacy point for our financial partners to fill financial gaps. He further stated that Congress approved a one-year grant extension in the 2024 Legislative budget extending our grant expenditure deadline to 2026. Mr. Daniels mentioned the introduction of several housing bills in the state legislature: one bill includes the allowance of housing authorities across the State to exit from Civil Service, and another Housing Bill regarding the membership of the insurance risk pool related our tax credit developments.

Commissioner Payton asked if there were any questions. None were voiced. There was no further discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 3:
DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS
a. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & REPORTS (JANUARY 2024)

Mr. Daniels addressed the December financials as they relate to the departments and the budget. Mr. Daniels explained that HUD allows “inter-AMP” transfers between the properties that have larger reserves; thereby, reallocating funds to the properties that may demonstrate budget gaps or shortfalls. He concluded that Shannon Sterling (CFO) would include the reserve fund balances in the report to reflect the balances in the next budget meeting. Commissioner Payton inquired about the public housing eligibility appointments that were missed. Mr. Daniels explained that our population is nomadic, which decreases effective communication. Commissioner Kelly questioned the timeframe from application waitlist to intake. Doris Mejia, Chief Housing Officer, replied that tenants are at risk of waiting for years to receive communication. Commissioner Kelly asked if we could provide another avenue of communication through electronic mail instead of postal mail. It was decided that there will be more functionality within our new enterprise software (Yardi) that will give the option to tenants to use electronic mail for communications regarding their status. There was no further discussion.

- b. HUMAN RESOURCES**
- c. CHIEF HOUSING OFFICER REPORT**
 - i. HOUSING CHOICE**
 - ii. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
- d. Capital Fund Program**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 4: BR CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

Ms. Brown noted that on March 4, 2024, staff submitted a CNI supplemental funding application. If awarded, additional funding would go towards our housing components of the grant.

There was no further discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 5: PARTNERS SOUTHEAST COO REPORT

Ms. Brown updated the Board on the status of Prime III application for North Blvd. She highlighted the conditional commitment from the City for gap financing strengthening the application.

The departmental reports were included in the board packets distributed to the board members prior to the board meeting. Commissioner Payton asked if there were any questions. No further questions were voiced.

This concluded the departmental reports.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 6: NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Daniels stated that Southern University secured funds from the State for the expansion of the Southern Laboratory School. In conjunction, we are seeking to donate the Clarksdale property for the expansion to Southern in January 2025. Commissioner Payton asked if there will be any opposition to the SAC application and Clarksdale. Mr. Daniels stated that he felt confident that the proposition of this application would be approved knowing that this is in coordination with Southern University and the expansion of their Laboratory school.

Commissioner Barron mentioned that he is looking forward to the joint effort between our organizations and 100 Black Men to allow participation to the programs they offer to middle school kids. Mr. Daniels committed to a collaboration with 100 Black Men within our CNI grant.

Commissioner Payton commemorated the team for the upcoming award from NAHRO for Cypress Pinchback. Commissioner Payton asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion.

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**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 10:
ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED

APPROVED:

**Dianna Payton
Chair
East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority**

**J. Wesley Daniels, Jr.
Secretary/Chief Executive Officer
East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority**

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