



**BioDistrict New Orleans
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Thursday, September 6, 2018
4 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Location: New Orleans Business Alliance
935 Gravier St, Suite #2020
New Orleans, LA 70112**

Commissioners Present: Gene D'Amour, Alison Bordelon, Harold Gaspard, Andy Kopplin, Blake J. Stanfill

Sharon Courtney was represented by Stephen Wright (Tulane University, Executive Director, State & Local Affairs)

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hollier, Donna G. Klein, Roger Ogden, Lowry Curley,

Others: Ben Johnson (New Orleans Chamber), Kurt Weigle (Downtown Development District), Paul Richard (Latter & Blum)

New Orleans Business Alliance Staff: Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Ashleigh Gardere, Louis David, Sally Lindsay, Dominique Flugence, Jeanette Weiland, Nolan Marshall, Morgan Stewart

Quorum: 6 present; 4 absent – quorum attained.

- I. Call to Order
The third quarter BioDistrict Board Meeting of 2018 was called to order at 4:09pm.
- II. Roll Call
Sally Lindsay performed a roll call of the Board commissioners at 4:10pm.
Quorum was present.
- III. Adopt Agenda for Board Meeting
Board commissioners adopted the agenda for the current Board meeting. No comments were made regarding the agenda.
- IV. Introduction of New Board members and Guest(s)
Gene D'Amour announced that we have two new members on the BioDistrict Board of Commissioners.

One of the two new members, Blake J. Stanfill, introduced himself to the Board. Blake J. Stanfill is the Director of Growth at **trepwise**, where he guides the firm's business development and expansion strategy. Blake leverages data to identify

and pursue growth opportunities and partnerships for **trepwise**. Blake has broad experience at the intersection of the public and private sector—boasting a career in economic development, education and financial risk management, as well as entrepreneurial strategy and analysis. Drawing from his varied perspective, Blake is dedicated to helping his clients think outside-the-box and craft custom solutions for the problems businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies face. Blake is a fifth generation New Orleanian -- as such, he is deeply committed to helping New Orleans—and all of its citizens—reach its full potential.¹

He is excited to be on the Board, particularly because he is passionate about the biosciences and their potential to impact New Orleans. His wife is currently a medical school student at LSU. He is serving as the Mayoral appointee of the Business Council.

The second new Board member, Dr. J Lowry Curley, regretfully could not attend, as he had to represent his company, AxoSim, at a conference. Lowry received his PhD at Tulane University in biomedical engineering. He then completed postdoctoral research in Antwerp, Belgium developing neural engineering technology. Subsequently, Lowry was the Director of Product Development with a startup commercializing pharmaceutical research products. His passion for translating scientific breakthroughs to market adoption led him to co-found AxoSim in 2014 with the mission of enabling advancements in human health, so that patients in need can get the care they deserve. AxoSim's Nerve-on-a-Chip platform is revolutionizing the search for cures to the most devastating neurodegenerative diseases in the world. Lowry is named on several patents and has received small business funding from the National Institute of Health and National Science Foundation. Lowry also serves on the New Orleans BioDistrict Board.²

- V. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items
No public input cards were collected.
- VI. Adoption of BioDistrict Minutes
The minutes from the second quarter BioDistrict Board of Commissioners Meeting, held on June 12, 2018, were adopted.
- VII. Financial Report – Dominique Flugence
Dominique Flugence reported that, as of August 31, 2018, \$3,000 in public support has been collected since the previous Board meeting. A remaining

¹ Blake J. Stanfill's biography: <http://trepwise.com/about/team/blake/>

² Dr. Lowry Curley's biography: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lowrycurley/>

\$9,000 in pledged support is outstanding. There were new accounting fees totaling \$1,200 and the current net income was \$8,420.

VIII. Chairman's Report:

Gene D'Amour informed the board that a law firm may contact board members regarding a matter that is only indirectly related to the BioDistrict. The Board is not involved in any dispute.

Gene D'Amour provided an update on the Geography of Innovation Conference which was designed to provide insight into the potential economic impact of Innovation Districts; discuss current public incentives available for development; and offer commentary on the future impact of BioMedical District and the redevelopment of the former Charity Hospital. The Conference was postponed from its September 5th date due to projected severe weather related to Tropical Storm Gordon. Dr. D'Amour noted that the organizing team is searching for a new date that will work for speaker Bruce Katz and Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

Morgan Stewart (Vice President of Marketing and Communications for New Orleans Business Alliance) said that through a combination of digital and traditional media, we were able to get the event registration to the maximum capacity at 300 guests. This point was underscored by Paul Richard, who said that the interest was immense; he received calls and emails asking to be admitted into the conference after registration was closed.

Ashleigh Gardere took a moment to emphasize how important partnerships were in successfully positioning the Conference. She thanked all who were part of the planning process.

Andy Kopplin said that the Greater New Orleans Foundation has already been working with Bruce Katz on new date options. He noted mentioned a few case studies in Katz's most recent book *New Localism* and recognized New Orleans' ability to meet and surpass current national models if we continue to leverage partnerships to activate the city's potential.

IX. Update on the Spirit of Charity Initiative - Andy Kopplin

Andy Kopplin reported that three (3) public meetings were hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation to gather input for the Spirit of Charity initiative. In addition, seven (7) subcommittees -- covering the topics of housing, mobility, anchor institutions, workforce, economic development, land use, and equity -- contributed recommendations. All of the findings will be collected by the leadership teams and implemented into a final report scheduled for a late September release date with the hopes of aligning with the developer selection timeline.

Andy Kopplin said, broadly, the vision is to create an innovation district that allows us to leverage our anchor institutions to build strength in the area. He sees a district that creates the jobs we need but does so in an equitable fashion. He recognized the blueprint of equity that NOLABA is utilizing as the comprehensive vision that they are working towards. Transit, affordable housing, and public spaces are some of the key development components he outlined. The collaboration and partnerships formed from the strategic planning process has given him optimism for the future of the district.

Blake J. Stanfill asked about the relationship between the BioDistrict Board, the Spirit of Charity initiative, and the redevelopment decision-makers.

Andy outlined that the state of Louisiana assigned responsibility of the building to LSU's Board of Directors. LSU selected the LSU Real Estate and Facilities Foundation as the thought leaders of the process.

Initially, Urban Land Institute was tapped to complete a study of the redevelopment and, in their report, they recommended that there be two groups: one to develop the building, and another to plan for the surrounding community area. Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) was selected to lead the community development planning process.

Andy Kopplin noted that GNOF and the Spirit of Charity initiative does not have the power of law to implement their recommendations, but he is hopeful people will embrace the vision. The state of Louisiana and the developer will be the decision makers, and GNOF will continue to advocate for the recommendations outlined in the Spirit of Charity report.

Andy Kopplin noted that the BioDistrict Board of Commissioners fits into the equation because it is a partner of the city, and one that can take legal action because of its power to administer tax increment financing in the district. The BioDistrict Board also has a central role in promoting the district's assets and vision.

Gene D'Amour underscored the importance of all partners working together to meet the needs of the innovation district. He also complemented the Spirit of Charity process, saying that the stakeholders are diverse and are 'walking the walk' when it comes to taking inclusion seriously.

Andy and Gene both remarked that the process will be long, but in the end, it can be a model for the city for how we can collaborate, build momentum, and achieve equitable results for major projects.

Ashleigh Gardere took a moment to note how Dr. Lowry Curley and AxoSim are great examples of what the innovation district can achieve when partnerships are formed. He took his PHD research from Tulane to develop a commercial nerve on a chip technology that has successfully raised several rounds of funding, positioning their company for success.

Blake Stanfill also noted that AxoSim won Idea Village's Coulter Pitch during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week. Sally Lindsay added that AxoSim is based out of another key institution, the New Orleans BioInnovation Center (NOBIC) and was recently featured in Biz New Orleans Magazine. Gene D'Amour applauded the success of technology transfer process and hopes for the trend to keep accelerating.

X. New Orleans Business Alliance Update

Quentin L. Messer, Jr. said that there is a strong level of intentionality present and we need to keep the momentum going. He said that at the end of the day, economic development matters only to the extent that people matter. He is excited to see the Spirit of Charity initiative accelerate and is thrilled that Jeanette Weiland has joined the NOLABA team as the Senior Director of Bio Business Development and Strategy. He noted her presence will help continue this momentum and work to connect the dots between many important bio and healthcare initiatives in the city.

Louis David announced that the New Orleans Health Innovators Challenge (NOLAH) is underway for 2019. NOLAH creates partnerships between our local healthcare partners and startups that meet the partners' business development goals. NOLAH has renewed partnerships with last year's partners – Ochsner Health System, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, HCA Tulane, and Lafayette General Foundation – and is looking forward to increased involvement from the New Orleans Health Department, as well. He invited all to attend our November Launch Event to learn the Challenge Statement themes for this year (date to be determined).

Sally Lindsay also invited all to stay after the BioDistrict Board Meeting for a NOLABA reception welcoming Xavier University of Louisiana's President, Dr. C. Reynold Verret.

Jeanette Weiland then took a moment to introduce herself. Jeanette joined the New Orleans Business Alliance as Senior Director for Bio Business Development & Strategy. She values the opportunity to work with a dynamic team to promote New Orleans as an ideal intersection of commerce and culture, all the while knowing that her contributions will help enrich the lives of all New Orleanians. Jeanette most recently served as the Financial Operations Manager for the Retail Division of Ochsner Health System (OHS) in New Orleans, LA. Before joining

OHS, she was a partner of a privately-owned independent wealth management firm with several offices located within the Washington, DC area. Jeanette graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in International Trade and Finance, and received both her Master of Arts degree and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of New Orleans.

XI. Other Old Business

Andy Kopplin said that although he is now no longer brand new to the Board, he wanted to thank the New Orleans Chamber for nominating him to serve on the BioDistrict Board of Commissioners. He thanked the Mayor for her appointment and Ben Johnson for being a great mentor and supporter.

XII. New Business

No new business was presented.

XIII. Public Comment(s)

No public comments or questions were presented.

XIV. Adjournment

The third quarter BioDistrict Meeting of 2018 was adjourned at 4:53pm.