**BioDistrict New Orleans**

**Board of Commissioners Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 30, 2020**

**3 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Location: New Orleans Business Alliance Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88448355212>

Meeting ID: 884 4835 5212

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**Board members present:** Andy Kopplin, Gene D’Amour, Alison Bordelon, Sharon Courtney, Harold Gaspard, Blake Stanfill, Lowry Curley, Brad Lambert, Michael Hecht

**Board members absent**: Larry Hollier, Roger Ogden

**New Orleans Business Alliance Staff:** Quentin Messer, Louis David, Norman Barnum, Victoria Miles, Jeanette Weiland, Chandra Teddleton, Sheldon Ballom, Nolan Marshall

**Other Guests:** Kris Khalil (New Orleans BioInnovation Center), Patrick Norton (Tulane University and New Orleans BioInnovation Center), Bonita Robertson (Greater New Orleans Foundation), Stephen Wright (Louisiana Bio)

1. Call to Order

The BioDistrict board meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm.

1. Roll Call

 Mr. Kopplin performed a roll call of the Board of Commissioners at 3:05 pm and a quorum was present.

1. Adopt Agenda for Board Meeting

Board of Commissioners adopted the agenda for the current Board meeting. No comments were made regarding the agenda.

1. Introduction of Guest(s)

Guests introduce themselves, including Kris Khalil (New Orleans BioInnovation Center), Patrick Norton (Tulane University and New Orleans BioInnovation Center), Bonita Robertson (Greater New Orleans Foundation), Stephen Wright (Louisiana Bio)

1. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items

No public input cards emailed or submitted.

1. Adoption of Bio-District Minutes

Motion made by Alison Bordelon, seconded by Harold Gaspard

1. Financial Report- Norman Barnum of NOLABA
* $3,628.00 in current account (after $1,064.00 for insurance renewal; paid on 5/5/2020)
* Invoices were shared with board members earlier today through email from NOLABA. Any questions regarding details of payment please contact Andy Kopplin. The payment supports the administrative fees, operations and insurance costs to run the board
1. Chairperson’s Report:
2. COVID-19 updates

Chairperson Kopplin shares that this is a risk aversive time period, but bio is positioned to gain support during this period. The presentation by NOLABA & GNO Inc with speaker Bo Kemp highlighted opportunities in bio like what is happening in Tampa, FL. during his presentation. Norman will provide presentation to Blake Stanfill (Blake will work on strategic plan for New Orleans Bi District specifically to New Orleans), concentration on private and public investment during this time period.

Mr. Messer shared that there was a Urban Land Institute webinar featuring Tampa, Fl as a case study and they focused on opportunity zones and social determinants of health – how these opportunities can address the disparities in healthcare. Quentin also shared that engaging legislative taskforce- Resilient Louisiana Commission could be helpful.

Chairperson Kopplin shared that the Louisiana legislative session, second session ends today and that we can potentially now shift to work on TIF adoption.

Mr. Lambert shared that there is still legislative interest present for TIF, Rep. Jimmy Harris passed opportunity zone in TIF. However, LED was asked to take $3 million cut into the October timeframe. Mandy Mitchell will return at the end of July and can provide a more substantive update regarding tax increment financing.

1. TIF updates/ Update on Process for Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget

Mr. Kopplin shared that based on CARES ACT there is the potential for a fourth stimulus that will trickle funds from state, local, to businesses. We need to ensure there are plans based on funding projects including CARES ACT funding and without CARES ACT funding.

Mr. Hecht shared that there will be a short session from July-August and there are some potential bio developments with state senators supporting.

Ms. Courtney shared that there is the opportunity for economic development based on the support for Bio.

Mr. Kopplin shared request that projects be more streamlined so that we can point to project and return on investment. For example, a graduation commercialization facility project and potential for bio to support subsidy to uplift. Andy to meet with specific board members regarding project focused biotech in downtown New Orleans in the coming months.

1. Downtown Storm Water Study

Mr. Kopplin shared that the Greater New Orleans Foundation is working with investors and architectural firm Waggoner & Ball to conduct a study to address historic water mitigation efforts. The study focus areas include: Duncan Plaza, Lafitte Greenway, the old VA, Armstrong Park (most of which are encompassed in the geographic footprint of the BioDistrict). The Foundation is currently working with the City and potential Bio companies to highlight green infrastructure projects.

1. Homelessness within the BioDistrict

Ms. Courtney states that the focus on an update on this issue would be to determine how the City is addressing the homeless population in light of COVID-19. Potentially could get further information from Ellen Lee, the Director of the City’s Office of Economic Development.

Mr. Kopplin shares that this is part of the BioDistrict mission to use resources to uplift downtown, we could potentially work with UNITY to support housing strategies with some TIF proceeds.

1. New Orleans Business Alliance Update

Ms. Weiland shares that Dr. Frazier testified in legislative session for STEM support and asks Stephen Wright to share additional information on the session.

Mr. Wright (Louisiana BIO) Louisiana Bio with the national Bio organization pivoted in response to Covid-19 and supplied PPE and research across the nation. Several eligible universities in a consortium were awarded 1 million to support federal communications money to provide tech support in district. Session 4 of legislature addressed the angel tax and RND. Louisiana Bio took lead with LED and gained middle ground with the extension provided for bio investors for continued stability during this time period. Mr. Wright also shared that the Angel bill passed including investment in opportunity zones - local governments are able to take underutilized property for low lease or cost after constitutional hearing with the Department of Administration presiding over the process.

1. Partner Updates
* New Orleans BioInnovation Center

Mr. Norton (Chair of the New Orleans BioInnovation Center board and Senior Vice President at Tulane University) shares that NOBIC has suffered financial constraints due to resource funds and has restructured. Recently $ 6 million in lease & grants have been raised including from large financial supporters including LSU, Tulane, and Louisiana Economic Development. Tulane also has entered into a master service agreement to support the back office of NOBIC, providing 5-year gratis services. NOBIC is currently 95% occupied with 15% lab space occupied by Tulane.

Mr. Khalil (Interim President of NOBIC and BioFund Managing Director) shares that the BioInnovation Center will continue to support access to customization, labs, office space, network facilities and since COVID-19 has pivoted to provide lab and PPE support. NOBIC has also hired University of New Orleans bio safety expert and 1.5 companies within NOBIC are providing hospital lab overflow for COVID-19 tests. NOBIC providing commercialization services as well. During the legislative session, the Angel tax credit and Senate Bill 24 passed with capital investments, life sciences, and opportunity zones which can support bio development in New Orleans.

Mr. Kopplin shares as a board we should identify projects that can make a difference to expand bio within the district.

* + Tulane University

Mr. Norton and Ms. Courtney share that Tulane University is opening in the Fall 2020 with a new strategy (refer to Tulane University website for details). The strategy includes renting an entire downtown hotel for the Fall of 2020. The university received an A rating and has taken on $130 million in new debt. The redevelopment of the Warwick hotel is ongoing and is slated to be complete in 2021 with 154 units. Tulane is expanding, the Tidewater building is filled, the legal office is moving to NOBIC, the university still has a focus on Duncan Plaza and ways to support Loyola Ave Main Library.

* + Louisiana Bio Update

Mr. Wright shares that Louisiana Bio & National Bio worked with the House Health and Welfare to develop a legislative roundtable for August 2020 with a focus on building allies. Mr. Wright wants groups to come to the table to leverage resources to make concerted push for Bio and there will be an October 2020 stakeholder meeting. Please see the Louisiana Bio website for more details. There might also be an opportunity for the BioDistrict to host a New Orleans area road tour on bio.

* + LCRC Update

Dr. D’Amour shares that there are currently researchers in labs at LCRC with PPE. LCRC hired media specialist Mary Mouton (article highlighted in City Business) which was also featured in Chamber of Commerce. There is currently a fundraising job available. In this past legislative session, LCRC was able to secure recurring appropriation of $3.6 million (from Harrah’s Casino revenue) to support staff including a Scientific Director to advance cancer research to help LCRC become a cancer epicenter and work towards NCI designation.

1. New Business- no new business
2. Public Comment(s)-no public comments as of 4:10pm
3. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:12pm

**Certification Under JBE 2020-30 Related to Open Meetings**

The Board of Commissioners of the BioDistrict New Orleans is unable to operate due to quorum requirements. Therefore, under Section 4 of Proclamation Number JBE 2020- 30 of March 16, 2020, the BioDistrict board will conduct the Tuesday, June 30th, regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners by telephone conference. The public is invited to observe and provide input to the Board via email. A person may email a comment related to a particular actionable agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. Emails should be sent to cteddleton@nolaba.org. Please include your name and the agenda item you wish to comment on.