



**BioDistrict New Orleans  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Tuesday, July 23, 2019  
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Location: New Orleans Business Alliance  
1250 Poydras Street, Suite 2150  
New Orleans, LA 70113**

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**Commissioners Present:** Andy Kopplin, Alison Bordelon, Blake J. Stanfill, Gene D'Amour, Larry Hollier, Lowry Curley, Sharon Courtney

**Commissioners Absent:** Harold Gaspard, Michael Hecht, Roger Ogden

**Other Guests:** Bonita Robertson (Greater New Orleans Foundation), Ben Johnson (New Orleans Chamber)

**New Orleans Business Alliance Staff:** Sally Lindsay, Dominique Flugence, Jeanette Weiland, Julia Clark (intern)

- I. Call to Order  
The third quarter BioDistrict Board Meeting of 2019 was called to order at 1:08pm.
- II. Roll Call  
Ms. Sally Lindsay performed a roll call of the Board Commissioners at 1:09pm. 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 Guest(s)  
Chairperson Kopplin had guests introduce themselves, including Bonita Robertson (Greater New Orleans Foundation), and Ben Johnson (New Orleans Chamber).
- 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 April 30, 2019, were adopted. Commissioner Hollier moved and Commissioner Courtney seconded at 1:10pm.

VII. Financial Report – Ms. Dominique Flugence

As of June 30, 2019, there was no new income for the Board; the BioDistrict Board had \$5,014.52 in its account.

VIII. Chairperson's Report:

Chairperson Kopplin began the report with some housekeeping, letting Commissioners know that they would likely be required to fill out financial disclosure forms and complete an annual ethics training. The financial disclosure forms would be sent out to Commissioners who served in 2018, and all current Commissioners should plan to take the ethics training before the end of the calendar year.

Chairperson Kopplin updated the Board that Commissioner Michael Pernici took a new job and was no longer affiliated with Louisiana Economic Development (LED). As a result, LED was in the process of appointing a new Commissioner and was considering Brad Lambert, Deputy Secretary of LED.

Beyond that vacancy, there were four additional vacancies because Commissioner Klein had officially termed out: the vacancies included two gubernatorial appointments and two community representatives. Chairperson Kopplin said that Commissioner Hecht had nominated Allen Square and Todd James for the gubernatorial appointments. Chairperson Kopplin said that he would set up informal meetings if any Commissioners wanted to get to know the candidates.

He noted that he had consulted Karen Carter Peterson and Royce Duplessis about the community representative vacancies, and encouraged Commissioners to recommend potential candidates.

Ms. Sally Lindsay noted that she had recently met Antonio Carbone who could be a good candidate for a community representative position. He is a banker at J.P. Morgan with a background in finance and real estate. He is a Board Member of the Tulane-Canal Neighborhood Development Association and has worked on affordable housing initiatives by serving on Project Homecoming's Finance Committee. He represents an underrepresented group.

Chairperson Kopplin said nominations for all positions are welcome through August 15.

Commissioner D'Amour updated the Board that a previous Board Commissioner, Donna Klein had passed away in May from Cancer. All expressed their sadness about the news and noted her remarkable record of civic involvement and leadership.

After pause, Chairperson Kopplin reported out an update on the Investment Prospectus that the Greater New Orleans Foundation commissioned with GNO, Inc. He anticipated the report would be released on September 19, 2019. In addition,

the Greater New Orleans Foundation, GNO, Inc., and the New Orleans Business Alliance would be hosting a meeting to recruit investors to strategically partner on targeted development projects.

Chairperson Kopplin also provided an update on the Tax Increment Financing Study. The report was being finalized by Dr. James Richardson of LSU and Mark Quinn of Xavier; it would be presented to the BioDistrict Board upon completion. He anticipated that the BioDistrict Board would be the recommended engine through which to implement the Spirit of Charity's strategic neighborhood plan. He noted that Ms. Bonita Robertson was supporting the initiative; she was exploring what the next steps would entail, including potential pathways for a cooperative endeavor agreement or new sales / property taxes. She noted that imposing a new tax would require a vote from residents.

Recommendations from the report would be presented to the BioDistrict Board in an upcoming meeting. During that time, the group would be presented the possible partnership paths with the city and state, recognizing that ultimately the tax increment financing process would be a political decision that would have to be handled with care, including a clearly articulated case for the value added to the community. Commissioner Kopplin said the Spirit of Charity report spoke to the collective aspiration of the community – including transportation, affordable housing, workforce development, and more – that could be funded through the TIF. Determining which viable initiatives would make the biggest difference in the district was imperative.

Commissioner Curley asked if the Opportunity Zone Prospectus was primarily for real estate. Chairperson Kopplin said it was, as most Opportunity Zone investing across the country was for real estate, however he noted that Launch Pad was working on a fund for businesses located within Opportunity Zones.

Vice Chair Stanfill asked how the report intersected with the City's work on opportunity zones. Ms. Bonita Robertson said that she was aware of the Mayor's strategic priorities but noted that those priorities were not completely synced in the Investment Prospectus, however they would reach out and determine how best to align going forward.

Next, Chairperson Kopplin said 1532 Tulane Partners was making progress on their due diligence period, perceiving no major roadblocks in the development. The developers had noted that lab space and workforce housing were some of the uses being considered. Additionally, while the contracts were not official, Commissioner Courtney said she was feeling optimistic that Tulane University would be an anchor tenant for the building.

#### IX. Strategic Plan – Vice Chair Blake Stanfill

Vice Chair Stanfill said that the Strategic Plan had been on hold momentarily. While the mission and vision had been set forth, the Executive Committee was calling for a Strategic Planning Subcommittee to ramp up the initiative and tie the objectives to other developments, such as the Investment Prospectus and TIF Report. He

encouraged commissioners to join the committee, noting that he planned on resuming meetings in early September.

Commissioner Courtney emphasized that tangible plans and metrics would be key in making the case for the BioDistrict Board's strategic plan and path forward.

**Xi. New Orleans Business Alliance Update – Ms. Jeanette Weiland**

Ms. Jeanette Weiland began with an update on the MedCity INVEST: Population Health Conference that the New Orleans Business Alliance held on May 22, 2019 at the Louisiana Cancer Research Center. She said that the population health theme was unique to our community and the event brought new companies and investors to our market as leads and collaborators. The national press coverage benefited our BioInnovation community and she anticipated that the conference would continue next year -- she hoped to continue to grow its reach.

Next, she said that the 2019 BIO International Convention was another success. There were over 17,000 attendees at the conference. Ms. Weiland completed over 125 partnering meetings, presenting a unified front with LSU Health and Tulane.

In partnership with LED, Tulane, LSU Health, GNO Inc., Louisiana Bio, and New Orleans & Co., the New Orleans Business Alliance hosted a successful Happy Hour event at the conference, which presented developments in the New Orleans ecosystem and engaged new potential leads. Commissioner Curley underscored the success of the event, saying that he heard from people outside the ecosystem that they were impressed. Commissioner Courtney applauded the second line close out of the party.

At 1:49pm, Chairperson Kopplin regretfully excused himself, noting he had an 2:00pm meeting he could not move. Vice Chair Stanfill presided over the rest of the meeting.

Ms. Jeanette Weiland continued with an update on the Biotechnology & Innovation Legislation Meeting, which took place that morning and included representatives from LSU, Baker Donelson, AxoSim, Ochsner, Tulane, Tides Medical, Downtown Development District, GNO, Inc., NOLA Angel Network, the New Orleans BioInnovation Center, Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges, Louisiana Bio, SBIR Consortium, Xavier University, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Ms. Weiland said there was a 2019 legislative recap, then continued to discuss non-fiscal possibilities for the 2020 session, as well as a 2020 legislative strategy. One of the goals is to amplify Phase 0 state grants to support the SBIR STTR application process. Commissioner Curley said the SBIR STTR federal grants are an important vetting mechanism for investors.

Another element they discussed was amplifying the Quality Jobs program for the bio sector, noting that other areas, such as film, benefit from bigger Quality Jobs incentives. That adjustment could be addressed in a non-fiscal session.

Ms. Weiland said that the New Orleans Business Alliance put in a bid to host the STTR/SBIR Conference and was also in early conversations about bringing BIO International to New Orleans.

Finally, she invited all to attend the Quarterly Bio Community Happy Hour taking place that evening at the Jung Hotel.

Mr. Nolan Marshall was not in attendance to provide an update on Opportunity Zone conversations.

XII. Other Old Business

No old business was presented.

XIII. New Business

No new business was presented.

XIV. Public Comment(s)

No public comments were submitted.

XV. Adjournment

The third quarter BioDistrict Board Meeting of 2019 was adjourned at 2:04pm.