**BioDistrict New Orleans-Draft 1**

**Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**

**March 3, 2021**

**3 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Location: New Orleans Business Alliance Zoom**

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keBjo2Ioof**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keBjo2Ioof)

**Meeting ID: 842 5480 6408**

**Passcode: 330998**

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1. Call to Order at 3:02pm
2. Roll Call:

Board members present: Andy Kopplin, Blake Stanfill, Allison Bordelon, Sharon Courtney, Gene D Amour, Harold Gaspard, Michael Hecht, Brad Lambert, Nicole Honoree, Lowry Curley

Stakeholders: Kris Khalil

NOLABA staff: Nolan Marshall, Jeanette Weiland, Norman Barnum, Victoria Miles, Louis David, Chandra Teddleton

GNOF: Caitlin Berni

Adopt Agenda for Board Meeting: agenda adopted at 3:04pm

Adoption of previous board meeting minutes at 3:05pm

1. Introduction of Guest(s) Introduction of Caitlin Berni by Andy Kopplin (she will support BioDistrict after Bonita Robertson’s departure)
2. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items- no public input cards on agenda items
3. Financial Report by Norman Barnum

* Directors and Officers Insurance (filed; waiting on final documentation and invoice from Eagan Insurance)
* Summary financial statement: is $33,000.00 to be received for Revenues as of February 28,2021.  The current balance in the Bank Account is $23,014.57. Gene D Amour motioned to approve the financial report, Harold Gaspard seconded the motion
* Bank Accounts: Norman Barnum recommended that NOLABA have access to BioDistrict financials and for the three executive officers to be listed as check signers on the BioDistrict bank account. A motion to approve access and for the executive officers as check signers made by Nicole Honoree, seconded by Harold Gaspard.

1. Chairperson’s Report

* General Updates: CBDG block grant expenditure report requested from the federal government. Board members Nolan Marshall, Sharon Courtney (referencing previous secretary documents), Gene D Amour and NOLABA staff will work on gathering the requested documents and providing the needed information. Gene D Amour stated all expenditures and corresponding reports were provided and double checked by the state before submission to the federal government.
* Tax Increment Financing Update: March 2020 meeting highlight focused on pausing the TIF based on feedback from local government due to the volatile market after the inception of the pandemic. Currently the market, specifically focusing on bioscience nationally and locally have seen large gains in capital due to increase in science needs related to Covid-19 and beyond. I.e., Tulane University funding and research increase, universities allotted additional science research grants; national political support from the Biden administration and DOT infrastructure support.

Andy Kopplin will be presenting on the TIF before the state Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. The slide presentation will be provided to all board members for feedback ahead of that presentation. Andy Kopplin acting on behalf of the BioDistrict board will present the TIF. City CEA presentation of the BioDistrict budget to the City will also take place before expenditures are made.

Some references used to analyze state tax data came from Jim Richardson (LSU). Andy will also seek insight from LED in regards to the TIF (point person Mandi Mitchell). Presentation includes BioDistrict highlights/success stories from AxoSim and Obatala Sciences. Commissioner Darwin and the joint committee will review the presentation.

Request that all companies review the presentation and provide feedback. Request made that NOBIC, Xavier University and other Universities provide examples of success that can be captured and placed in the presentation.

Presentation will likely take place either March 19th or 26th. Caitlin Berni noted meetings take place on the third week of the month usually.

Note: A special meeting may be called before the presentation before the state legislature.

Questions:

Jeanette Weiland asked if the (Spirit of Charity) TIF is a separate TIF, or the same? Andy stated it is the same, and he and Caitlin will modify the language to clarify and use BioDistrict as the broader term and the designated authority. Blake Stanfill and Gene D ’Amour agreed in the text chat that BioDistrict has the ability, but needs the legislative approval to act.

Jeanette asked if the innovation district listed in the presentation incremental tax revenue generated is for the entire BioDistrict boundaries? Andy stated yes.

Jeanette also asked that if the state and city grant authority is simultaneous. Andy stated the process hasn’t changed and it goes through the state joint budget committee versus both chambers.

Nicole Honoree suggested the presentation focus on the visionary historical context of the TIF and the current relevance in which Spirit of Charity moves forward, but propelled from the historical endeavors and many of the partners currently on the BioDistrict. Andy stated that the current economic activity in the district (Tulane, The Pythian, NOBIC and others such as AxoSim) activate the space, but the potential to support more activation of the space through an equitable lens is a compelling plan.

Blake Stanfill asked how do plans for Duncan Plaza fit into the work. Andy stated they will start to outline the fit more and provide more specifics to the board before the presentation.

Board and stakeholders decide the TIF financial support. Previous year in the BioDistrict meeting highlighted the need to support RTA infrastructure, importance of transmittal housing assistance, Duncan Plaza and potential portion of the TIF used to support operations aligned with DDD flood mitigation plans.

Andy stated the plan outlines support for research, acceleration of bio, greenspace, housing, workforce, incentive to develop commercial space and offer bonding capacity/incentive for developers of commercial space.

Jeanette requested that support for NOBIC be evaluated when TIF support in the BioDistrict is outlined. GNO INC, Tulane, Delgado and state supporting, but state funding withdrawn means support needed. GNO Inc working on buildout of NOBIC upper floors to occupy companies such as DXC Technology and other business)

Andy acknowledged that GNO Inc, Michael Hecht working on a science highlight specifically on being a hub for neuro degenerative diseases. Focus similar to how Houston focuses on Oncology and other cities receive visitors year-round based on the specialization. Opportunity to use current bioscience to provide clinicals and cutting-edge technology (Lowry Curley and Michael Hecht will convene to outline potential ways to highlight opportunities to bring neuro generative technology and services in New Orleans).

* Board Appointments: Board reappointment letters will be provided to all universities and Andy Kopplin will follow up with board members directly to collect the reappointment letters.

1. New Orleans Business Alliance Update:

* Jeanette Weiland provided the updates for a bio focused EDA grant that would support biotech companies; partners NOLABA, UNO and LED funding the buildout that will house the first in the region non private GMP free standing asset. The letters of support from various board members were also helpful to secure the EDA grant (building constructed in 2002 has never built-out 8500 sq ft that will now be put into commerce)

NOLABA is in consistent contact with NIH and still set to host their 2023 conference in New Orleans if restrictions are lifted.

1. Partner Updates
   * New Orleans BioInnovation Center (update by Kris Khalil): Continuing to rebuild programs, received grant funding, and working with companies (reference aforementioned GNO Inc buildout update) to support the occupancy rate of the upper office building space in the building; majority of the lab space is leased out. Continuing to support the BioFund and companies associated with the fund (AxoSim, Obatala. BioAesthetics). Next month large “mass charity” event partnered with Velocity and highlighted on the federal level with New Orleans/NOBIC being the only South East representation. EDO Deal; NOBIC is hiring and continuing to rebuild programs.
   * Tulane University (update by Sharon Courtney): Tulane is continuing to be busy with Covid-19 and research overall. The Warwick hotel development project will provide housing for visiting faculty and graduate students and have 1st floor retail. Tulane is working with the DDD and GNOF on the storm mitigation plans in the area. Tulane is continuing the COVID-19 testing and serving as a vaccine distribution site and support the Tulane community, the City and community partners
   * LSU (update by Nicole Honoree): LSU is also working on COVID-19 initiative and operating in a closed pod system and vaccinating staff and city 1st responders. Construction has begun on the Poydras dormitories and LSU is seeking clearance to erect a bridge that connects Tulane Ave and UMC to safely accommodate high volume of walking traffic. Working with faculty and potential to move to on campus the summer of 2021.
   * LCRC (update by Gene D ‘Amour): Actively seeking NCIA director and using new firm to support the search; also hiring media and fundraising.
   * Xavier (update by Gene D ‘Amour): Three new NIH grants ($2.5 million) support research in vulnerable, minority communities that are hesitate to facilitate listening sessions, assessments and focus groups to compile communication interventions to highlight the importance of vaccination.
   * Delgado (update by Harold Gaspard): Covid-19 driven as well, functionally mostly remote, but nursing and allied health are face to face and were the 2nd group in vaccination. Most faculty are vaccinated but only 58% students in allied health are willing to receive the vaccination. Fall 2021 more normalcy with class structure. Match of funding by Ochsner of $10million to develop on Delgado Campus (not downtown site) and start at the end of March 2021.
2. New Business

* Disaster CDBG grant: Identify old records pertaining to grant deliverables and request for report and submit files and expense, solicitation process, contract awarded documentation. NOLABA and volunteer board members will identify the documents and submit to the requesting authority.

1. Public Comment(s) no public comments provide through email, chat or verbally during the 3/3/2021 meeting
2. Adjournment at 4:17pm

**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 Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021 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.](mailto:cteddleton@nolaba.org) Please include your name and the agenda item you wish to comment on.