



**BioDistrict New Orleans  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 AM  
Location: New Orleans Business Alliance  
935 Gravier St, #2020  
New Orleans, LA 70112**

**Commissioners Present:** Gene D'Amour, Alison Bordelon, Sharon Courtney, Kelisha Garrett, Harold Gaspard, Larry Hollier, Darrick LeBeouf, Kaseem Short, Rebecca Conwell, Kurt Weigle (pending appointment), Michael Hecht (pending appointment), Andy Kopplin (pending appointment) Donna Klein attended by phone

**Commissioners Absent:** Roger Ogden

**Others:** Paul Richard, Aaron Miscenich, Ben Johnson, Coleman Ridley  
NOLABA Staff: Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Ashleigh Gardere, Louis David, Sally Lindsay, Dominique Flugence

**Quorum:** 13 present; 1 absent – quorum attained.

**I. Call to Order**

The first quarter BioDistrict Board Meeting of 2018 was called to order at 11:03am

**II. Roll Call**

Gene D'Amour performed a roll call of Board commissioners at 11:05pm. Quorum was present.

**III. Adopt Agenda for Board Meeting**

Board commissioners adopted 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 introduced Michael Hecht (Greater New Orleans, Inc.), Kurt Weigle (Downtown Development District), and Andy Kopplin (Greater New Orleans Foundation) who are intending to transition onto the BioDistrict Board and are awaiting appointment.

Guests were also introduced including:

Paul Richard, Latter & Blum

Aaron Miscenich, New Orleans BioInnovation Center

Ben Johnson, New Orleans Chamber

Coleman Ridley, Business Council of New Orleans

Ashleigh Gardere from the New Orleans Business Alliance also introduced herself and noted that she will help handle the staffing and managerial responsibilities of the Board. Gene D'Amour emphasized her career of community development, policy crafting, and civic engagement.

**V. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items**

None

**VI. Adoption of BioDistrict Minutes**

The minutes from the October 24, 2017 BioDistrict Board of Commissioners Board Meeting were adopted at 11:09am.

**VII. Financial Report – Dominique Flugence**

Dominique Flugence reported that the total liabilities and equity of the BioDistrict was \$6,194.49. The expenses of \$5,179 from the previous meeting including accounting fees and insurance costs. She noted that the insurance renews in May of 2018 and costs \$1,132.

Motion was moved by Darrick, seconded, and approved.

**VIII. Chairman's Report:**

- **ULI presentation**

Gene D'Amour walked through the features of an Innovation District as defined by the Brookings Institute. He walked through the five features including (1) highly productive University research and workforce institutions; (2) institutions that move technologies to the marketplace and assist startups; (3) capital to invest in advanced tech startups; (4) physical assets designed and organized to promote advanced tech business and healthcare; and, (5) a strong, focused network that brings together universities, business, and government for the purpose of economic development. He noted that the BioDistrict of New Orleans has assets one through three, well laid out plans for asset four, and its biggest challenge is asset 5. He noted that Charity Hospital is an opportunity to advance asset four.

- **Process for Election of Officers**

Gene D'Amour outlined that he would like to appoint a subcommittee that will consult with Board members to determine who will be the next Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. He hopes that there will be consensus throughout the group and that, by the next BioDistrict meeting, we can vote on new officers. This motion was moved forward, seconded, and approved.

- **Biodistrict Associates Program**

Gene D'Amour encouraged Board Members to consider being a part of the BioDistrict Associates Program, which constitutes a \$3,000 fee that would go to support the finances of the BioDistrict.

**IX. Update on Urban Land Institute Charity Hospital study – comments by Andy Kopplin and Michael Hecht**

Three groups have requested to write the ‘Request for Proposals’ on behalf of Charity Hospital; the LSU Foundation Committee must approve the choice by two-thirds vote. Andy noted that this is an opportunity to not only create an innovation district, but that we should also aspire to more – a job creating entity with equity as a major part of the economic strategy, including thoughtful housing, transit, and business assets.

All emphasized that having the state on board, in addition to the city, was crucial and were hopeful that this would be the case, as Governor Edwards agrees with the vision of Charity Hospital.

There was a discussion about the definition of the boundaries of the innovation district and how this would overlap with the TIF district. Kurt noted that the overlay of the boundaries is just another tool to help the venture be successful. A broader net results in more taxation power, and the creation of another TIF. Larry Hollier emphasized that, per the ULI recommendations, adding an additional TFF district would be redundant given that the BioDistrict already has taxing and bond-issuing authority.

**X. Update on Latter and Blum Innovation District/Biodistrict seminar for Business Community – Paul Richard and Kurt Weigle**

Paul Richard led this agenda item, discussing opportunities to present the BioDistrict in two upcoming events. The first of which would be a two-hour seminar, potentially with a keynote speaker luncheon to follow. This seminar would cover what an innovation district is, what it could mean for New Orleans, the current real estate trends in the city, a review of city incentives (if an update is available to discuss publicly), and an opportunity to engage the new mayoral administration.

The second event would be on October 9, 2018, when Latter & Blum will host a Real Estate Forecast Seminar at Loyola on the theme of the Innovation Economy. Paul hopes that one segment will be about the medical industry and present an opportunity to discuss the BioDistrict.

Andy Kopplin also noted that there is a Walk / Bike / Places Conference (presented by the Project for Public Spaces) coming to New Orleans from September 16-19 that would present another opportunity to discuss updates with a national audience.

**XI. New Orleans Business Alliance Update on NOLAHI– Louis David**

Louis David presented an update on the New Orleans Health Innovators Challenge (NOLAHI). He noted that the goal of NOLAHI was to inspire and inform the community, and enable entrepreneurs to access the amazing healthcare assets of

our city to improve health outcomes in our region. The initiative has garnered much media attention, including over 140,000 Twitter impressions during both launch events and was picked up on several local and national news cycles. He outlined the partners, challenge statement themes, project timeline, and finalists.

The title partners of NOLAHI are Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana and Ochsner Health System, but many local partners have also come on board (including LanchPad, Capital One, Stone Pigman, Propeller, The Shop, The Warehouse, Lookfar, and the New Orleans BioInnovation Center). Going forward, NOLAHI is interested in expanding partnerships with local and regional medical institutions.

At the time of this meeting, the 35 applications had been narrowed down to three competing finalists for the Diabetes Care Challenge and winners for both the Navigator Challenge and the Interoperability Challenge. The BioDistrict Board, guests, and public at large were invited to join at the live NOLAHI Pitch Finale Event being held on March 20, 2018 at 10:30am at The Shop at the CAC.

**XII. Other Old Business**

No other old business was presented.

**XIII. New Business**

No new business was presented.

**XIV. Public Comment(s)**

No public comments were presented.

**XV. Adjournment**

The first quarter BioDistrict Meeting of 2018 was adjourned at 12:05pm.