



**BioDistrict New Orleans  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday, December 5, 2018**

**1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

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

---

**Commissioners Present:** Gene D’Amour, Alison Bordelon, Andy Kopplin, Blake J. Stanfill, Harold Gaspard, Lowry Curley, and Michael Pernici  
Sharon Courtney was represented by Lauren Jardell (Tulane University, Director of Local Government and Community Relations)

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

**Others:** Ellen Lee (Mayor’s Office, City of New Orleans), Paul Richard (Latter & Blum), Dr. Monique Cola (New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School), Jennifer Fallon (New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School), Dr. William Wainwright (Delgado), Leigh Ferguson (Downtown Development District, Aaron Miscenich (New Orleans BioInnovation Center)

**New Orleans Business Alliance Staff:** Ashleigh Gardere, Louis David, Sally Lindsay, Dominique Flugence, Jeanette Weiland, Nolan Marshall

- I. Call to Order 1:07pm  
The fourth quarter BioDistrict Board Meeting of 2018 was called to order at 1:07pm.
- II. Roll Call  
Sally Lindsay performed a roll call of the Board commissioners at 1:08pm. 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)  
Chairman D’Amour announced the newest member of the BioDistrict Board, Michael Pernici. Commissioner Pernici is Director of Business Development at Louisiana Economic Development; he has been at LED for seven years. Commissioner Pernici works with companies in the oil & gas and manufacturing

industries to open or expand operations in Louisiana. Commissioner Pernici previously worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers in their Advisory practice. Commissioner Pernici holds an MBA from Tulane's A.B. Freeman School of Business and a Bachelor degree from Louisiana State University. He also is on the Louisiana Cancer Research Center Board.

Members and guests introduced themselves. Guests included Ms. Ellen Lee (Mayor's Office, City of New Orleans), Mr. Paul Richard (Latter & Blum), Dr. Monique Cola (New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School), Ms. Jennifer Fallon (New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School), Dr. William Wainwright (Delgado), Mr. Lee Ferguson (Downtown Development District), Mr. Aaron Miscenich (New Orleans BioInnovation Center).

- V. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items  
No public input cards were collected.
- VI. Adoption of BioDistrict Minutes  
The minutes from the third quarter BioDistrict Board of Commissioners Meeting, held on September 6, 2018, were adopted.
- VII. Financial Report – Ms. Dominique Flugence  
The BioDistrict Board has accrued total of \$12,000 in investor contributions. Of that, \$6,000 remain in receivables. The total current account fees are \$1,200, leaving the Board with a new income of \$7,220.08 as of November 30, 2018.
- VIII. Chairman's Report  
Chairman D'Amour delivered the Chairman's Report. He said that there are currently four open positions on the BioDistrict Board and he is actively communicating with the Mayor's Office to determine who will fill them. He is hoping to have a full board by our next meeting.  
  
Chairman D'Amour passed out a document that outlined some of the goals for the BioDistrict Board over the next 5-10 years. He noted that this was a draft document and is seeking feedback from members. Some of the goals included determining key performance metrics, developing physical assets in the District, outlining equity-driven workforce development initiatives, increasing research funding, improving quality of life within the district, and promoting BioDistrict media coverage. Ideally, the Board will take action on the goals in the next meeting.
- IX. Geography of Innovation Conference Update – Chairman Gene D'Amour, Mr. Paul Richard, Ms. Ashleigh Gardere, and Mr. Andy Kopplin

Chairman D'Amour noted we had had several successful events since the last meeting, including the "Economic and Real Estate Forecast" and the "Geography of Innovation" Conference.

Mr. Richard agreed, noting the strong attendance as evidence of community interest and participation. Mr. Richard highlighted a recommendation from Bruce Katz's presentation to specify which industries are encapsulated in the term 'bio.' He also emphasized the strength of the Copenhagen case study, which outlined how the city reclaimed public wealth by rallying around transit development.

Commissioner Kopplin noted that network governance is also a crucial element; leaders in business, philanthropy, education, and government must have sustained connections over an extended period of time. Commissioner Kopplin cited Smoothie King Center and the Pelicans as a previous success, where community leaders worked together to deliver on a major economic development project.

Mr. Richard added that developing a capital strategy is also important in identifying investment opportunities in business and real estate, including factoring in Opportunity Zones. Chairman D'Amour suggested a subcommittee as a vehicle to move the conversation forward.

Ms. Gardere agreed there is more work to be done; the events that were held were key steps in the right direction. She highlighted the power of partnerships to date, praising the group's planning efforts, energy, and openness thus far. She also lauded the Mayor and her team for their integral leadership in driving the conversation and outlining a path forward. Ms. Lee said the Mayor's team was happy they were able to participate in the Geography of Innovation event and stand ready to explore future opportunities.

- X. Update on the Spirit of Charity Initiative – Commissioner Andy Kopplin
- Commissioner Kopplin said that the Geography of Innovation Conference was a key moment for the Spirit of Charity Initiative over the last few months. The Spirit of Charity group has been briefing the Mayor's team and legislature on the current state of the District. He noted that the Spirit of Charity team is not proposing a development structure, but rather trying to get feedback from elected officials on boundaries, resources, governance, and funding. He is soliciting feedback from elected officials regarding appropriate geographic boundaries of the proposed Spirit of Charity tax increment financing district.

Commissioner Kopplin also said that he has requested a prospectus on Opportunity Zones within the Charity District from Greater New Orleans, Inc. Chairman D'Amour asked how the Charity building developers (1532 Tulane

Partners) are utilizing the Opportunity Zone and TIF frameworks; Commissioner Kopplin said they do not need either tool for the overhaul of the building and that the developers are not focusing on the outlying areas; the Opportunity Zone and TIF legislation will mostly be leveraged for the surrounding neighborhood enhancement projects.

Ms. Lee said that the building developers have been in touch about permitting processes.

Mr. Richard underscored another unique element of the Opportunity Zone legislation, namely, is the power for businesses in the Zones to benefit from investment. Opportunity Zone benefits extend beyond real estate transactions by creating incentives for companies, as well. Commissioner Curley said AxoSim has been monitoring the conversation around business investment, but have outstanding questions on the 10-year holding framework, particularly if a company goes public or merges before the 10-year mark. There are still many outstanding questions.

XI. Update on the New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School – Dr. Monique Cola

Next, Dr. Monique Cola provided the BioDistrict Board with a presentation about the New Orleans Charter Science & Mathematics High School, or “Sci High.” Dr. Cola has been Head of School since July and noted that she grew up professionally in the BioDistrict, including earning her PhD at Tulane, completing her postdoctoral research in Neurology, and spending 20 years at Tulane.

Sci High currently has 460 students in grades nine through twelve. They believe the city will be stronger when every New Orleanian can contribute to innovation and advancement through the tools of math and science. They offer paid internships and certifications, in addition to advanced college preparation coursework. 100% of Sci High students who chose to attend college have been accepted; others are empowered to go straight into the workforce after securing certifications in topics ranging from engineering and construction, to digital media and computer science. Other unique elements of Sci High include an exploratory makerspace classroom, project-based individualized learning, and many STEM electives. Dr. Cola said this past summer 87 students had paid internships and they are always looking for more partners to take on interns; Lowry said AxoSim would be interested in connecting to discuss internship opportunities.

Just one week prior to the meeting, Sci High broke ground on their new facility, a three-story, 130,000 sq. ft. building on the edge of the BioDistrict (on Bienville between Claiborne and Galvez). They anticipate the building will be completed in Winter of 2021. Sci High has secured half of its \$1MM campaign and are excited

to use the funding to buy specialized equipment for its many state-of-the-art labs.

Dr. Cola said the building will be able to house 750 high school students. She said the location within the BioDistrict is really important, as the students will be exposed to the professional opportunities within the district that will help paint a picture for their future career pathways.

XII. New Orleans Business Alliance Update – Ms. Jeanette Weiland

Ms. Weiland began with an update on the New Orleans Health Innovators Challenge; outreach is the current priority as NOLABA sources companies on the four Challenge Statement topics: social determinants of health data, access to care for underinsured, reducing out of pocket costs, and improving electronic medical records. She is excited that University Medical Center has come on this year to support the “Access to Care” Challenge Statement proposed by the New Orleans Health Department. Applications are due by January 13<sup>th</sup> and the Board will be invited to the Pitch Finale Event in March.

She also mentioned a new conference that will be coming to New Orleans with a focus on investors in the health-tech space. More details will be announced shortly.

Another priority has been establishing a New Orleans presence at the International Bio Convention. As of now, Louisiana State University, Tulane University, New Orleans & Company, and Greater New Orleans, Inc. have joined NOLABA to host a cocktail party at the convention that will focus on highlighting all of the developments happening in our area and outlining why New Orleans is a great place to do business.

XIII. BioDistrict Goals for 2020 – Chairman Gene D’Amour

Chairman D’Amour asked all to review the handout previously mentioned, which outlined draft BioDistrict Goals for 2020. Commissioner Stanfill asked about a subcommittee and volunteered to use his professional expertise to help organize the group.

Commissioner Stanfill suggested multiple subcommittees could support the work, noting that finance could have its own group. Commissioner Pernici said the previously-developed Master Plan should be a reference point, as well, to help guide the goals of the group.

XIV. Other Old Business

No old business was presented.

XV. New Business

No new business was presented.

XVI. Public Comment(s)

Mr. Richard noted that the original Master Plan was developed prior to the comprehensive zoning ordinance, so recommendations should consider those limitations. Historic districts have additional limitations.

XVII. Adjournment

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