



**BioDistrict New Orleans**  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**August 9, 2023 | 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Location: NOLABA 1250 Poydras St. Suite 2150 New Orleans, LA 70113**

**I. Call to Order**

The March BioDistrict Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Andy Kopplin at 2:45pm.

**II. Roll Call**

**a. Board members present**

Commissioners Present: Emily Arata, Kaneisha Bailey- Akinpelumi, Lowry Curley, Michael Hecht, Nicole Honoree, Andy Kopplin, Judith Dangerfield, Blake Stanfill

Commissioner(s): Present via Zoom: Brad Lambert

Commissioners Absent: Sharon Courtney, Larissa Littleton-Steib, Roger Ogden, Charlotte Parent,

Quorum: Present

**b. Adoption of Agenda for Board Meeting**

Mr. Kopplin requested the approval of the agenda for BioDistrict board meeting for August 9, 2023. Ms. Dangerfield motioned for approval, and Ms. Bailey- Akinpelumi seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**c. Adoption of previous board meeting minutes from March 8, 2023**

Mr. Kopplin requested the approval of the minutes from the previous BioDistrict board meeting on March 8th, 2023. Ms. Arata motioned for approval, and Mr. Stanfill seconded. There was no discussion or public comment and a vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

**III. Introduction of Guest(s)**

NOLABA Attendees: Sherelle K. Bowser (EA to Interim President & CEO), Louis David (Interim President & CEO) Victoria Miles (VP of Finance)

Others Present: Tyler Correa (DDD), Maisha Mena (REMIXEcology), Shaun Mena (The Mena Law Firm), Stephen Ostertes (TIMBS Consultant), Sharonda Williams (Counsel to BioDistrict)



#### **IV. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items**

There were no public input cards submitted to board at this time during the meeting.

#### **V. Financial Report by NOLABA**

Ms. Miles reported that the current balance in the BioDistrict account was \$7,602.82.

#### **VI. Chairperson's Updates**

##### **a. Board Approval of CEA request to the State of Louisiana**

Mr. Kopplin noted that the BioDistrict is still working to approve a CEA with the State of Louisiana. Under the proposed CEA, all state sales tax collected within the District's boundaries up to the current baseline will continue to be retained by the state. The state would match up to \$25 million in revenue generated locally through the CEA between BioDistrict and the City of New Orleans, with annual caps so that state contributions do not exceed local contributions. The \$25 million state match requested is similar to prior State action in support of projects in Lake Charles and Baton Rouge.

Mr. Kopplin said that legislators had requested the BioDistrict detail how it would invest revenues from the State CEA during the first five years of the CEA, which would be a maximum of \$6.7 million. Mr. Kopplin noted that the previous strategic plans prepared for the BioDistrict in 2014 and 2018 had highlighted the importance of the Tulane Avenue corridor, which is the major throughfare in the BioDistrict connecting Tulane, LSU, Louisiana Cancer Research Center, University Hospital, VA Medical Center, and Xavier University. He outlined how investments in bus infrastructure, safety lighting, beautification and storm water management, and cross-walks and sidewalk repairs for pedestrian safety are consistent with those recommendations. He further detailed the estimated costs of different expenditures for each category. The commissioners discussed the budget allocations to propose to the state as part of the CEA.

Ms. Honoree moved to approve the proposed allocations for state investments and received a second from Mr. Curley. There was no public comment and a vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

##### **b. Updating the BioDistrict's Strategic Plan**

Mr. Stanfill said that a consultant has been selected by the New Orleans Community Support Foundation, a supporting organization of the Greater New Orleans Foundation, to support the BioDistrict with strategic planning. The consultant that has been chosen is HR&A Advisors. The BioDistrict completed a comprehensive strategic plan in 2014, with an update in 2018 for the Spirit of Charity area, followed by ongoing engagement with community leaders and neighborhood organizations. Mr. Stanfill said that momentum from passage of City revenue sharing agreement galvanized community partners, including the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the City of New Orleans, and the Downtown Development District, to provide funding and hire consultants to help the BioDistrict update its strategic plan prior to March 2024. The plan will provide a road map for how the BioDistrict uses public resources and catalyzes private investment to encourage job growth in the healthcare and life sciences sectors. Investments in the



BioDistrict are in alignment with the state and region's Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) that call for diversifying the economy through growing the biosciences and health industry sectors.

Mr. Stanfill thanked Commissioner Parent for serving on the selection committee along with himself and representatives of the organizations funding the consulting work.

Mr. Stanfill asked for volunteers from the board to serve on the Strategic Planning committee. Ms. Dangerfield inquired about when the committee will meet. Mr. Stanfill stated that the New Orleans Business Alliance will assist with scheduling all strategic planning committee meetings so that attendance can be optimized.

### **VII. Partner Updates | Claiborne Corridor Culture Innovation District**

Ms. Dangerfield stated that Ujamaa has a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City to manage the Claiborne Corridor's Cultural Innovation District (CID), a 19-block development that will begin in July 2023 with Phase 1. The CID masterplan has Phase 1A-infrastructure and Phase 1B-marketplace. The CID construction team for 2023 for Backatown Plaza (Orleans to St. Louis) includes:

- City of New Orleans, Capital Projects Administration
- Design Architects/Engineers:
  - Phase 1A: Meyer Engineers, LTD
  - Phase 1B: Design Jones, LLC Landscape Architectural Firm
- CNO Contractor: CDW Services, LLC
- Ujamaa Construction Manager: Whawn Allen Architects
- Arts Council of New Orleans, Public Art Campaign

Ms. Dangerfield said that the CEA has been approved and signed by the City of New Orleans to begin programming. A grant has been given by the economic development administration to assist with building a marketplace that will be adjacent to the Lafitte Greenway, and the EDA has approved having a marketplace kiosk on site.

The chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none.

### **VIII. Executive Session: Pending Litigation and Threatened Litigation (La. C.E. Art. 506) *Kinney v. The BioDistrict New Orleans, Orleans Parish Civil District Court No. 2022-11481***

Mr. Kopplin sought a motion to move into executive session regarding pending and threatened litigation citing Louisiana Constitutional Article 56. Ms. Honoree motioned, and Ms. Dangerfield seconded. There was no discussion or public comment, and a board gave unanimous approval to enter executive session.

Afterward, Ms. Arata motioned to exit the executive session, adding that the board took no action and held no votes, Mr. Hecht seconded. There was no additional discussion or public comment, a vote was unanimously approved, and the board exited executive session.



**IX. Public Comment(s)**

There was no public comment at this time during the meeting. The board discussed further the vacancy of two board seats.

**X. Adjournment**

Ms. Parent moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hecht. The chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:32pm.