



**BioDistrict New Orleans**  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2026 | 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: Greater New Orleans Foundation, 919 St. Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70130**

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**I Call to Order**

The BioDistrict Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Andy Kopplin, at 2:37 pm.

**II Board Member Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Kaneisha Akinpelumi, Larissa Littleton-Steib, Emily Arata, Charlotte Parent, Nicole Honoree, Gregorie Tillery, Josh Fleig, Patrick Norton, Andy Kopplin (Chair)

Commissioners Present via Zoom: None

Commissioners Absent: Arnel Cosey, Blake Stanfill (Vice Chair), Michael Hecht, Lowry Curley, Judith Dangerfield

Quorum: Present

**III Introduction of Guest(s)**

Andreas Pashos (Consultant to BioDistrict), Sharonda Williams (Counsel to BioDistrict), Rene Pastorek (DDD), Jared Brossett (DDD), Lauren Siegel (Trepwise), Jason Neville (Lafitte Greenway), Ron Carrere (XULA), Istvan Molnar (Entergy)

**IV Adoption of Previous Board Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Kopplin requested approval of the minutes from the previous BioDistrict board meeting on November 5, 2025. Ms. Honoree motioned for approval, and Dr. Steib seconded. There was no discussion or public comment, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**V Financial Report**

Mr. Pashos began by reviewing the full fiscal year that closed at the end of December 2025, followed by the budget forecasts for the upcoming year. The profit and loss and balance sheets were displayed first. Mr. Pashos reminded commissioners that the district organizes

expenditures into three categories: administration, communication and programming. Administration includes the internal costs while communications and marketing expenditures in 2025 related to event sponsorships. The program services category includes entrepreneurship support work, workforce development work, and infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Pashos concluded the 2025 summary by highlighting the district bank account as of fiscal year end is at almost \$725K. Mr. Kopplin highlighted that the district bank account was very low until late third quarter when the second City EDD payment was received, which means the district had nearly expended all of its received funds from earlier in the year before receiving the latest round of funding.

**a. Update on City and State Funds**

Dr. Littleton-Steib asked about the schedule of the City EDD funds. Mr. Kopplin mentioned that the City owes the district funds and should be receiving a payment soon. These payments should in the future be received quarterly. He also explained the district is funded through Economic Development District funding. Mr. Kopplin also verified that State EDD funds should be received quarterly after they are initiated, once the Secretary of Economic Development has approved the BioDistrict's proposed budget for state funds..

Mr. Pashos also referenced the expected City funding schedule on the report. Some of the values are estimates, some are values provided by the City, and the maximum the district is eligible to receive based on our CEA is also listed. The district has received payments to cover 2023 and the Q1 2024 to date. The estimate for the end of 2026, is the City would owe the district an additional \$4.4M. This number reflects accrued funding and does not take into consideration the lag in the Q4 payment which is paid out the following fiscal year in Q1.

Mr. Norton questioned how much the City is estimated to owe the district by the end of the year, as two different values allude to that answer. Mr. Kopplin clarified that the City is estimated to owe \$4.4M by the end of the year, and Ms. Honoree recommended relabeling the total funds expected to be earned by the district by end 2026 as ~\$5.6M.

**b. Review 2026 Budget**

Mr. Pashos then began to share information related to 2026 budget projections. He explained that the budget for 2026 includes planned expenditures for 2026, and also expenditures that had been planned for 2024 and 2025, but had not been realized, because the district did not receive funds timely. He also went through the encumbered funds that have not yet been realized which total a little more than \$200K. The budgeted amounts the district is aiming to spend this year, which was approved by the Board and by the City, is about \$2.4M.

Mr. Kopplin drew attention to the budgets attributed to the City and State, and communicated that the State funds are all tied to public infrastructure improvements,

and that the Charity Redevelopment support the board approved last meeting would be likely allocated from the State funds to be received by the district.

Mr. Norton also asked if there is a consolidated budget combining both the City and State information. Mr. Kopplin requested for Mr. Pashos to create and include that in the report going forward.

Mr. Kopplin reminded Mr. Fleig that Secretary Bourgeois was requested to approve the district 2026 budget. He also explained the State fund receipt process which requires the district to work with LED for various approvals, but that the Department of Revenue will handle actually transferring the state funds.

## **VI Chair's Report / Action Items**

### **a. Authorization for Chair to sign CEA with Tulane University memorializing the funding commitments approved at the November 5, 2025 board meeting to support the Charity Hospital Redevelopment**

Mr. Kopplin communicated that the district and Tulane are finalizing a CEA for the two funding commitments the district approved in the previous meeting.

Ms. Arata moved to approve the CEA with Tulane University. Dr. Steib seconded. There was no further discussion or public comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Norton recused himself from this discussion and the vote.

### **b. Authorization for Chair to sign twelve month contract with AAAM LLC for \$12,500 per month to provide administrative, programmatic, and financial support**

Mr. Kopplin summarized that as part of a pilot project the district received consulting support from Mr. Pashos since the NOLABA dissolution, and that the relationship has gone very well. It includes administrative support, accounting support and, more recently, programmatic support. As the BioDistrict doesn't have permanent staffing, Mr. Pashos acts as the staff. This authorization increases the monthly fee to \$12,500 per month, and will allow the district to continue receiving that support. Mr. Kopplin shared that Mr. Pashos' skillsets uniquely correlate to the district needs. Mr. Kopplin recommends signing a year long agreement with a 90 day termination notice for convenience if any plans change. Mr. Kopplin stated that Vice Chair Mr. Blake Stanfill was also in support of this authorization.

Mr. Kopplin mentioned that this is a good year for the district to look at and plan for overall long-term staffing to meet the objectives in the strategic plan. In the meantime, Mr. Pashos is managing a significant level of complexity including legal compliance,

drawing down funds from City and State, making sure annual reports are submitted timely, assuring board members submit ethics training and managing subcontractors.

Ms. Parent moved to approve the contract with AAAM LLC. Mr. Tillery seconded. There was no further discussion or public comment and the motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Honoree expressed thanks to Mr. Pashos for his great work, and Mr. Pashos in return thanked the board for its continued support and confidence.

## **VII Chair's Report / Discussion Items**

### **a. Update on EDA Funding Opportunity**

Mr. Kopplin summarized that a contract was approved at the prior board meeting with economic development consultant Jason Rittenberg to work with stakeholders to identify, evaluate, and prioritize projects for the district. This analysis will be used to submit a proposal for the EDA disaster funding NOFO but also to gather information for general future opportunities.

#### **i. Stakeholder meetings took place in Mid-December**

Mr. Kopplin thanked members and colleagues who met with Mr. Rittenberg in December to kickoff these discussions. Mr. Rittenberg was not able to join as planned to share an update.

### **b. Update on CEA with NOBIC to support SBIR/STTR grant writing efforts**

Mr. Pashos communicated that Ms. Williams drafted a CEA and it has been sent to NOBIC for their feedback. NOBIC'S work has already started and is ongoing.

### **c. Update on Groundwork New Orleans Tree Planting Project on Tulane Avenue**

Mr. Pashos shared that the LSHHSC area on Tulane Ave has undergone a transformation after LSU acquired some additional land, and is improving it, with trees currently being planted on it. Trees planted on LSU property are not subject to City and State permitting requirements so that process is moving faster.

A parallel effort is taking place for trees that must go through the permitting process. Drawings are being finalized to submit to State and City to gain approval before moving forward with planting alongside Tulane Avenue and other connecting streets.

Ms. Honoree communicated she has seen this progress live and there will be oak trees planted soon. She also observed that trees that had been planted over the last few years that did not fit DOTD requirements are being moved right now.

### **d. Update on Bus Shelters & RTA**

Mr. Kopplin shared that conversations with RTA are continuing so the district can provide support for high quality bus shelters in the district. The district has budgeted a significant amount to support this work.

RTA is working on a draft CEA to send to the district.

**e. Update on RFP process**

Mr. Kopplin shared two draft RFPs to review, one for communications and the other for public realm master planning and advisory support.

Ms. Williams is reviewing the language, particularly related to DBE requirements.

Future RFPs to expect will include public affairs/government affairs and an auditor.

Ms. Parent questioned if there are estimates for the costs for the contractors and Mr. Kopplin communicated there are some rough placeholder figures in the budget, but they are very preliminary and likely will need to be updated.

Mr. Fleig asked if the State guidelines for releasing these need to be followed. Ms. Williams confirmed the district has to follow State Law but not State procurement code. Mr. Fleig mentioned that often RFQs are used instead of RFPs because of more flexibility in the process. Ms. Williams highlighted the major difference being that with RFQs multiple vendors can be qualified, but with RFPs a single vendor is selected.

Mr. Kopplin concluded that nothing will be signed without the board's approval in the future, but next steps will be taken in issuing these RFPs.

**f. Recognize 100% on time completion of ethics training**

Mr. Kopplin thanked the board members for completing their training on time and Mr. Pashos for his assistance. He also reminded the board that financial disclosures will be due May 15<sup>th</sup>, and to expect receiving communications related to that soon.

**VIII Vice Chair's Report / Discussion Items**

**a. Update on partnership discussions regarding best ways to support entrepreneurs in the BioDistrict**

Mr. Kopplin stated that Mr. Stanfill is having ongoing conversations with the startup ecosystem stakeholders to find impactful ways for the district to support and Mr. Stanfill will share more detail updates in the future.

Ms. Akinpelumi reminded the board to engage with the small business development center during these conversations as well.

**IX New Business**

There was no discussion or comment.

**X Partner Updates**

Mr. Pastorek from the Downtown Development District shared that a new design project is starting with Studio West for the Molly Marine Plaza. Mr. Kopplin reminded the board that he had asked the DDD if they would be able to do any work outside of their usual boundaries to support BioDistrict efforts, and that conversation is ongoing.

**XI Public Comment(s)**

There was no discussion or comment.

**XII Adjournment**

Ms. Arata moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Parent. The Chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:24pm.

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