



Meeting of Build Baton Rouge Board of Commissioners

MINUTES	APRIL 15, 2021	9:00 AM	ZOOM VIRTUAL
MEETING CALLED BY	Rodney Braxton		
TYPE OF MEETING	Build Baton Rouge (BBR) Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting		
NOTE TAKER	Tara Titone		
ATTENDEES	<p>Attending Board Members: Rodney Braxton, Chairman; Brian Haymon, Vice Chairman; Susan Turner, Secretary and Treasurer; Charles Landry; Will Campbell</p> <p>Also Attending: Christopher Tyson, BBR CEO; Tara Titone, BBR COO; Marla Morris, BBR Grants Fiscal Manager; Jacques Hawkins, BBR Intern; Dominique King, BBR Executive Assistant; Amanda Spain, Baker Donelson and BBR Board Counsel; Sam Sanders, Mid City Redevelopment Alliance; Marlee Pittman, Mid City Redevelopment Alliance; Byron Turner, Fannie Mae; Evelyn Ware, Red Stick Project; Jonathan Hill, Franklin Associates; Cordell Seals, BR Resident</p>		
	CALL TO ORDER		RODNEY BRAXTON
DISCUSSION	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Braxton at 9:01 AM		
	APPROVAL OF MINUTES		RODNEY BRAXTON
DISCUSSION	The Board reviewed the minutes from the BBR Board of Commissioners meeting held on March 17, 2021.		
ACTION	Mr. Haymon made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2021 meeting. Mrs. Turner seconded the motion. The March 17, 2021 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.		
	FINANCIAL REPORT		HEATHER LEBLANC
DISCUSSION	Mrs. LeBlanc presented the Board with the YTD Profit and Loss Actual vs. Budget, the Program Statement of Activity, and Monthly Cash Flow Projections for the period ended March 31, 2021. BBR will seek reimbursement of approximately \$560,000 from the City Parish for federal grants administration as soon as the contract is approved through the City Parish process. There were no objections by the Board.		
	CEO UPDATE		CHRISTOPHER TYSON
DISCUSSION	Mr. Tyson reported that BBR staff will begin to return to the office full-time on		

May 3. This decision was based off of staff polling and the LA State Open Safely Guidelines. BBR will ensure that it continues to follow guidelines as they are updated by the State.
 A number of responses have been received for the Director of Real Estate and Special Projects position. Mr. Tyson and Ms. Titone will be interviewing a subset of applicants next week and will will keep the board apprised.

Real Estate and Land Bank

- There are no new transfers in and out of the land bank to report. A number of the properties in the land bank are being held for certain development projects. BBR has received interest in a few of the land banked properties and invites others who are interested to reach out. BBR hopes to provide an update soon on a few transfers out of the land bank.

Federal Grants

In Ms. Saunders' absence, Mr. Tyson reported that BBR continues to manage the City-Parish's HUD CDBG Entitlement, HOME, Lead Hazard, and ESG and HOPWA CARES Act programs. The administration of fiscal year 2020 programs has begun; the contract was approved by the City Parish this week. The HUD Entitlement contract was conditionally approved at the City Parish Grants Review meeting Tuesday.

- **Roof Reset Program** - BBR is moving into phase 4. Inspections were requested for 114 properties yesterday. To date 117 roofs are complete. There are 25 roofs in progress.
- **Energy Rental Assistance Program**- BBR is assisting with helping to save people from eviction. Eviction case management started last Wednesday.
- **Home Rehabilitation Program**- No update.

Projects

- **JPMorgan Chase Advancing Cities Grant/ Plank Road Master Plan:** BBR continues to work with grant partners. TruFund Financial is working on the design of the small business lending program. BBR is facilitating monthly update calls and JPMorgan Chase will begin participating in the calls. Plans are still developing for the pocket park; BBR is addressing nearby land acquisition issues and hopes to have an update soon. The master plan called for a grocery anchored mixed-use development, and BBR has been working with partners in a a collaborative effort to identify a location in North BR.
- **BR Housing Alliance:** BBR continues to work with Sam Sanders and Mid City Redevelopment Alliance on the housing study underway for Baton Rouge. Mr. Sanders stated his appreciation of BBR's involvement in the project.
- **Electric Depot:** No updates. BBR continues to make updates to the rail station master plan and is hopeful that the recently federal government and Amtrak support of rail funding and implementation will bring to fruition some developments in the near future.
- **Ardendale:** BBR is still waiting on a master plan update from EBRPHA but is pleased with the direction. The Critical Community Improvements (CCI) Plan that was submitted to HUD as part of the BRChoice Implementation Grant was recently approved by HUD. EBR Housing Authority and BBR are awaiting a formal notice to proceed and will then begin implementing components of the CCI plan.

DISCUSSION

NEW BUSINESS

RODNEY BRAXTON

DISCUSSION

No new business.

	PUBLIC COMMENT	RODNEY BRAXTON
DISCUSSION	No public comment.	
	ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION	RODNEY BRAXTON
DISCUSSION	The Board moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:21 AM to discuss real estate matters, with a motion by Mrs. Turner and second by Mr. Haymon. The board moved out of executive session at 10:36 AM and reported that no action was taken in Executive Session.	
	ADJOURNMENT	RODNEY BRAXTON
ACTION	Mr. Haymon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM .	

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