



Meeting of Build Baton Rouge Board of Commissioners

MINUTES	JUNE 16, 2021	9:00 AM	ZOOM VIRTUAL / RIVER CENTER LIBRARY
MEETING CALLED BY	Rodney Braxton		
TYPE OF MEETING	Build Baton Rouge (BBR) Board of Commissioners - Board Retreat		
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; Cornelius Payne, BBR Director of Real Estate; Gretchen Siemers, BBR Director of Planning and Special Projects; Leonard Briscoe, Grants Program Manager; Dominique King, BBR Executive Assistant; Laura Brunner, President and CEO, The Port - Cincinnati</p>		
	CALL TO ORDER		RODNEY BRAXTON
DISCUSSION	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Braxton at 9:25 AM		
	BREAKFAST AND WELCOME		CHRISTOPHER TYSON
DISCUSSION	Mr. Tyson welcomed the Board and meeting attendees and provided a brief overview of the retreat agenda.		
	APPROVAL OF MINUTES		RODNEY BRAXTON
DISCUSSION	The Board reviewed the minutes from the BBR Board of Commissioners meeting held on May 20, 2021 and June 1, 2021 meetings.		
ACTION	Mrs. Turner made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2021 and June 1, 2021 meetings. Mr. Haymon seconded the motion. The May 20, 2021 and June 1, 2021 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.		
	FINANCIAL REPORT		CHRISTOPHER TYSON
DISCUSSION	Mr. Tyson presented the YTD Profit and Loss Actual vs. Budget, Program Statement of Activity and Monthly Cash Flow Projections for the period ended May 31, 2021. BBR will seek reimbursement of approximately from the City Parish for federal grants administration as soon as the contract amendments are approved by the City Parish for the Entitlement and CARES Act funding.		

	LINCOLN TRAILS PROJECT UPDATE	TARA TITONE
DISCUSSION	<p>Ms. Titone asked the board to consider adoption of a resolution to approve the filing of an application for grant funds from the FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana, and authorize the President & CEO to conduct all negotiations necessary for the sponsorship and completion of the project. BBR will work with the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame to submit an application for \$100,000 to complete sidewalk and phase II urban trail enhancements along Myrtle Street that will connect Lincoln Theater to Expressway Park and Park Blvd. The funding awards will be made in 2022.</p>	
ACTION	<p>Mr. Landry made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the filing of an application for grant funds from the FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana, and authorizing the President & CEO to conduct all negotiations necessary for the sponsorship and completion of the project. Mrs. Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.</p>	
	REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE	CHRISTOPHER TYSON
DISCUSSION	<p>Mr. Tyson asked the board to consider adoption of a resolution to authorize the President & CEO to secure financing for Plank Road development and associated Louisiana Bond Commission approval.</p>	
ACTION	<p>Mr. Haymon made a motion to adopt the resolution to authorize the President & CEO to secure financing for Plank Road development and associated Louisiana Bond Commission approval. Mrs. Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.</p>	
	BUILD BATON ROUGE CEO PRESENTATION	CHRISTOPHER TYSON
DISCUSSION	<p>Administration Mr. Tyson welcomed new hires Gretchen Siemers, Cornelius Payne and Leonard Briscoe. BBR's audit consultant has submitted a draft of BBR's 2020 financials. The audit finalization is partially held up by the City Parish's CEA processing for the HUD grant that BBR administers. BBR has apprised the city of the pressing matter. BBR's 2022 budget request is due on Jan. 25 to the City-Parish. Mr. Tyson reported he expects the allocation to be around the same allocation as in 2021 and will be sharing more information about the budget projects. BBR has experienced a few staff departures and is in a season of transition. Marla Morris, at BBR since 2018 as the Grants Fiscal Manager, departed BBR on June 11 but will be staying on to assist as consultant for the next several weeks; Matthew Johnson, BBR's Staff Attorney, has accepted a law firm job in New Orleans where he resides. His last day is Friday; Tasha Saunders, BBR Grants Director, will become the new Urban Development Director at the City-Parish on June 21 and will continue to be in communication with BBR regarding the administration of the HUD grants.</p> <p>Real Estate and Land Bank BBR has identified two parcels on Plank and Erie St. that are adjudicated with the City-Parish. BBR met with Councilwoman Coleman. The item will be introduced for transfer into BBR's land bank at next week's Council meeting.</p> <p>Federal Grants 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 and is working to to finalize the amended CEA's with the City.</p>	

DISCUSSION

- **Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (as of 6/15/2021)
 - Applications Submitted—5,132
 - Applications Approved—105
 - Total Funding Approved—\$689,837.67
 - Total Funding Disbursed—\$338,852.97
- * The Call Center volume is high—23,473 calls total
- **CARES Act Administration- CDBG**
 - Dollar value of all CARES Act projects: \$1,031,630
 - Processed Reimbursements: \$380,500.01
 - Reimbursements Pending Approval: \$123,777.73

Ardendale

The EBR Housing Authority is planning to purchase 23 acres for housing development as part of the BRChoice HUD Choice Neighborhoods Grant. The plans are in-line with the HUD CNI plan submittal. BBR and The Housing Authority have been working with the City on the Lobdell-Ardenwood connector road and the location has been set. BBR has additional property at the northeast intersection outside of the wetlands footprint at Ardendale and is working on the determining the size of a developable footprint.

Electric Depot

Electric Depot continues to pay rent on time and Red Stick Social is re-opening for events. No additional updates. BBR continues to work towards the purchase of S. 14th property which is now under contract. The purchase of this property will assist in facilitating development as recommended in the Rail Station Master Plan.

Projects

- **JPMorgan Chase Advancing Cities Grant/ Plank Road Master Plan:** The New Markets Tax Credits closing is still in-progress and wrap-up is targeted for July. All entities have confirmed reservation letters and all partners are at the table. Weekly coordination calls continue.
- **Florida Blvd Economic Development District (EDD)-** The drafting of the CEA is underway with the Parish Attorney. BRAC and the mayor are partnering with BBR on this efforts. Mr Braxton asked when the item will be introduced to the Metro Council. Mr. Tyson stated that the item is projected to go before Council in late July and that two additional members from the district would join the EDD board in addition to BBR board members.

THE PORT-CINCINNATI PRESENTATION

LAURA BRUNNER

DISCUSSION

Ms. Brunner gave a virtual presentation on the Port - Cincinnati and provided the board with a history of the organization, the funding, challenges and strategic planning goals set forth to ensure future success of the agency. The board thanked Ms. Brunner for her willingness to share her experiences and impressive work.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

RODNEY BRAXTON

DISCUSSION

The Board moved to enter into Executive Session at **10:05 AM** to discuss real estate and personnel matters. The board moved out of executive session at **10:28 AM** and reported that no action was taken in Executive Session.

LUNCH AND STRATEGY SESSION

RODNEY BRAXTON

DISCUSSION	Mr. Tyson began reviewing the draft strategic plan as prepared by Emergent Method in 2019. The board determined it would revisit a strategic planning session when all board members were physically present and encouraged BBR to hire a facilitator.
	ADJOURNMENT RODNEY BRAXTON
ACTION	Mr. Haymon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 PM.

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