



**Build Baton Rouge Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting**

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023
Place: 757 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70817
Time: 9:00 A.M.

Minutes

Attending Board Members: Rodney Braxton, Chairman; Will Campbell, Treasurer; Bobby Hamilton (each, a "Commissioner")

Excused Board Members: Charles Landry, Vice Chair; Suzanne Turner, Secretary

Also attending: Gretchen Siemers, Vice President; Tricia Prewitt, BBR Office Coordinator; Amanda Robertson, VGraham; Kincaid Jackson, Kean Miller; Helena Cunningham, Consultant; Rinaldi Jacobs, Jr.

Meeting Called by: Rodney Braxton

Type of Meeting: Build Baton Rouge (BBR) Board of Commissioners – Regular Meeting

Note Taker: Tricia Prewitt

❖ **Action Item**

- Mr. Braxton called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- Mr. Braxton confirmed receipt of proof of notice of meeting and the posting of public notice.
- Mr. Braxton Confirmed the number of Board Commissioners present and the constitution of a majority, with excused absences of two board members.
- The Board reviewed the minutes from the BBR Board of Commissioners November 16, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Hamilton made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Campbell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

❖ **Discussion Item: Budget**

- Ms. Robertson presented the YTD profit-loss actual vs. budget, program statement of activity, and cashflow projections for the period ended November 30, 2023. Ms. Robertson reported that November ytd results, revenue and income are in line with expectations, expenses are a little bit less than budget, and there are no concerns. There were no objections.

❖ **Action Item: Adopt Resolution Approving Budget**



- The proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year and the 2023 amended budget were presented by Ms. Robertson. The numbers were the same as what the board reviewed in November.
- Mr. Braxton entertained a motion to approve the amended budget for the 2023 fiscal year for the land Bank. Mr. Campbell made the motion. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Mr. Braxton entertained a motion to approve the 2024 budget for Build Baton Rouge General Fund. Mr. Hamilton made the motion. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Mr. Braxton entertained the motion to approve the 2024 budget for the Build Baton Rouge Land Bank. Mr. Campbell made the motion. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- ❖ **Discussion Item: Administrative Update/Land Bank**
 - Ms. Siemers invited the board to the upcoming city council meeting where the approval of the Build Baton Rouge budget will be going before the city council.
 - Ms. Siemers recommended the board review the 2024 proposed meeting dates. Ms. Siemers updated the board on attendance requirements and states that we will now note excused absences on board minutes.
 - Ms. Siemers reminded the board to submit their completion of preventing sexual harassment training and ethics certificates, and to finish their financial reporting if they haven't already done so.
 - Regarding the community land bank and trust, Ms. Siemers updated the board on the previous CLBT meeting. The CLBT Board is recommending a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement that will codify Build Baton Rouge's relationship with the Land Trust. It is pretty straightforward and will be available at the next meeting.
- ❖ **Discussion Item: Smiley Heights/Ardendale Options**
 - Ms. Siemers and Mr. Jackson reviewed the evaluation of proposed cooperative endeavor with EBRPHA for the development of portions of Smiley Heights/Ardendale Property and alternative options. After much discussion, the board agrees to continue with the present course of action, which includes working with the City Parish, HUD, LAOCD, and EBRPHA for a resolution before the end of this calendar year.
- ❖ **Action Item: Motion to Grant Mr. Braxton Negotiating Authority**
 - Mr. Campbell made a motion to grant Mr. Braxton the authority to continue with the negotiations to finalize the Smiley Heights/Ardendale Plan before the end of the year. Mr. Hamilton seconded. The motion passed.
- ❖ **Action Item: Adjournment to Executive Session for discussion of real estate and personal matters**
 - The Board did not adjourn to Executive Session
- ❖ **Action Item: Adjournment**
 - Mr. Hamilton made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Campbell seconded. The meeting adjourned the regular meeting at 9:50 a.m.