



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

Date: Monday, November 18, 2024

Place: 100 North St #800, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Minutes

Attending Board Members: Charles Landry, Vice Chair; Will Campbell, Treasurer; Suzanne Turner, Secretary; (each, a "Commissioner")

Excused Board Members: Rodney Braxton, Chairman; Bobby Hamilton

Also attending: Gretchen Siemers, COO; Kendra Hendricks, Director of Operations and Programs; Tricia Prewitt, Office Coordinator; Amanda Robertson, V.Graham; Kincaid Jackson, Kean Miller; Byron Turner; Felicia Fortune

Meeting Called by: Charles Landry

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

Note Taker: Tricia Prewitt

❖ **Action Item**

- Mr. Landry called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.
- Mr. Landry confirmed receipt of proof of notice of meeting and the posting of public notice.
- Mr. Landry Confirmed the number of Board Commissioners present and the constitution of a majority.
- The Board reviewed the minutes from the BBR Board of Commissioners October 14, 2024, regular meeting. Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Turner 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 October 31, 2024. Ms. Robertson reported that October 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.



❖ **Discussion Item: Administrative Update/Land Bank**

- Ms. Siemers reported that staff is in the process of migrating our accounting software and thanked Vgraham for their assistance in this process.
- Ms. Cunningham updated the Board on the Search Committee. The consultant team will provide the committee with an update at the next meeting. There are currently 5 top candidates to discuss.
- Ms. Siemers gave an update on the Community Partners Program.
- Mr. Jackson reported that Shada is going well with no appeals and that he is working with staff to get a better process and timeline for the Community Partners Program.
- Ms. Siemers gave an update on the Facade improvement project, reporting that Councilman Hurst requested we work with LSU Design School on implementing the program, and there are meetings set up for the following week. Ms. Turner stated it would be nice if it could be both landscape architecture and architecture.
- Ms. Siemers opened discussion on Amendment 4, which is coming up on the ballot, and, as it would be beneficial for the agency, asked the board if they were interested in pursuing an education/outreach program to inform the public. The board declined due to a timeline issue.
- Ms. Siemers gave an update on a request from TruFund to transmute our redevelopment loan fund into small business lending, reminding the board that keeping it as redevelopment is priority, as it is targeted at Plank Road, and a change would spread it out too far for real impact.
- Ms. Siemers gave an update on the 3 O'Clock Project and the YMCA. It is moving in a positive direction, and we hope to have an update at the next meeting.
- Ms. Siemers informed the board that the Florida Corridor Plan was approved by the council and, working collaboratively with BRAF and other entities, we will know if we got the grant at the beginning of next year.

❖ **Action Item: Consideration of Resolution authorizing the Authority to enter into a dation en paiement and giving in payment with Capital Area Finance Authority (CAFA) in connection with three properties in Suburb Prosperity, Rosalie Park, and Roppolo Villa currently mortgaged to CAFA in return for a release from the indebtedness secured thereby.**

- Mr. Jackson gave an update on the mortgages with CAFA and the one year extension that is up. CAFA requested that BBR return the property to CAFA for them to release the debt. Mr. Landry reminded the board that we are being released from our obligations with no fault.
- Mr. Cambell made a motion to authorize the Authority to enter into a dation en paiement and give in payment with Capital Area Finance Authority (CAFA) in connection with three properties in Suburb Prosperity, Rosalie Park, and Roppolo Villa currently mortgaged to CAFA in return for a release from the indebtedness secured thereby. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. A voice call was made. Mr.



Campbell, yes; Ms. Turner, yes; Mr. Landry, yes. The motion passed unanimously.

- ❖ **Action Items: Approval of Updates to General Empowering Resolution and Approval of Updates to Accounting Policies and Procedures**
 - Ms. Siemers opened the two action items up for discussion. There were no issues. Ms. Turner made a motion to approve the two action items, Approval of Updates to General Empowering Resolution and Approval of Updates to Accounting Policies and Procedures. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. A voice vote was called. Mr. Campbell, yes; Ms. Turner, yes; Mr. Landry, yes. The two action items passed unanimously.

- ❖ **Discussion Item: Introduction of Proposed 2025 Budget**
 - Ms. Siemers opened discussion of the proposed budget, stating that the city parish is cutting 20% from previous years and sending it from the American Rescue Plan Fund instead of the General Fund as in previous years. Ms. Siemers stated that the cut in funding will require BBR to pull from reserves in order to meet obligations. Ms. Siemers stated that this is the introduction of the budget, the next meeting will be the approval. We do have mandatory posting period, which is 10 days before our next meeting, we need to have a final by December 2.

- ❖ **New Business**
 - No new business

- ❖ **Action Item: Public Comment**
 - Mr. Landry welcomes members of the public, Byron Turner, from Fannie Mae, and Feliciana Fortune, from Magnolia Solutions LLC. Ms. Fortune gave the board a brief overview of her work in our area and how it aligns with the mission of BBR.

- ❖ **Action Item: Adjournment to Executive Session for discussion of rservitude matters relating to Shada property.**
 - Ms. Turner made a motion to adjourn to executive session, Mr. Campbell seconded.
 - The Board did not take any action during the executive session.

- ❖ **Action Item: Adjournment**
 - Ms. Turner made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Campbell seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned the regular meeting at 11:03 a.m.