



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

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

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

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Minutes

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

Also attending: Gretchen Siemers, COO; Kendra Hendricks, Director of Operations and Programs; Tricia Prewitt, Office Coordinator; Amanda Robertson, VGraham; Kincaid Jackson, Kean Miller; Byron Turner; Felicia Fortune; Shomari Pugh; Vashti Jenkins; Mitchell De Conner Esq.

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 2:02 p.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.
- The Board reviewed the minutes from the BBR Board of Commissioners November 18, 2024, regular meeting. Mr. Landry made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Hamilton 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, 2024. 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 Items: Adopt Resolution Approving the Proposed Budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year**

- Mr. Braxton opened up questioning for the Proposed Budget as it is currently presented. There were no questions or concerns. Mr. Braxton entertained a motion to Adopt Resolution Approving the Proposed Budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year. Ms. Turner made a motion to Adopt. Mr. Landry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Ms. Siemers stated that the proposed budget was the same as what was presented in the November regular meeting. There will be some supplemental budget coming in from the general funds to make up for the 20% cut that will be introduced and voted on at the upcoming Council meetings. The budget will need to be amended once that happens.
- Ms. Siemers reported that BBR is in the middle of our accounting system rollover, and we are hoping not to have any delays in any of our outgoing payments.
- Ms. Siemers opened a brief discussion on 2025 Board Meetings and Dates. The Board prefers to keep the schedule of every 3rd Thursday of the month with exceptions and would like to continue to meet at the current location.
- Ms. Siemers notified the board that BBR has a pocket listing to sub-lease some of the current office space and requested that the board keep that in mind if they know of any small organizations/nonprofits looking for space available.
- Ms. Siemers updated the board on the collaboration for the facade improvement program, stating that BBR will be working collaboratively with the LSU architecture team and the council members, without holding back the progress that we've made with BREAA to follow line with the council timeline for funding. The Council members are attempting to potentially amend or create a new EDD to obtain funding for Evangeline Economic Development District, a program that is part of the JPMorgan Chase Grant for BBR to do improvements along Plank.
- Ms. Siemers updated the board on progress made with the YMCA and the 3:00 Project, stating that they met with City Parish on obtaining potentially some funding through OCD for predevelopment and were instructed to apply for funds and apply for availability for the grocery money that is out right now. Ms. Siemers reported that Build Baton Rouge has a MO with the YMCA and the 3:00 Project and is working with the 3:00 Project architect and a development consultant on putting together an RFP. An update should be available at the next meeting.
- The Board briefly discussed the new mayor, board terms, and encouraged Mr. Braxton to remain involved with the transition.
- Mr. Braxton provided the Board with an update on the search for a CEO. He reported that the search is going well, and the Search Committee has vetted some potential candidates and will begin interviewing them.



- ❖ **Action Items: Consideration resolution authorizing the return of lots bearing Assessment No. 144800, 4731, and 96814 (Squares 321 and 325, Magnesiaville) to the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge to facilitate use thereof by Community Partner applicant pursuant to alternative programs available.**
- ❖
 - Ms. Siemers gave an update on Mr. Quarels progress in acquiring property through the Community Partners Program and opened a discussion on the possibility of returning the lots to the city as their program to acquire landbank property has fewer restrictions. After some discussion, Mr. Braxton made a motion to approve. Mr. Landry and Mr. Campbell seconded the motion.
- ❖ **New Business**
 - No new business
- ❖ **Action Item: Public Comment**
 - Ms. Fortune requested an update on the Florida Corridor Plan that Ms. Siemers addressed.
- ❖ **Action Item: Adjournment to Executive Session**
 - The Board did not adjourn to Executive Session.
- ❖ **Action Item: Adjournment**
 - Mr. Hamilton made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Campbell seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned the regular meeting at 2:22 p.m.