



BATON ROUGE NORTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 12pm

MINUTES

Attendees:

Dr. James Gilmore, Chairman
Tasha Clark-Amar, Vice Chairwoman
Dr. Eugene Johnson

Board Staff:

April Hawthorne, Executive Director
Melvin Davis, Board CPA

Absent:

Stephanie Cargile, Treasurer
William "Bill" Pizzalota
Dr. Leroy Davis
Terra B. Williams
Gary Chambers

Quorum was not established for this meeting.

I. Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

II. Roll Call

III. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

IV. Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2022

a. Deferred to Next Board Meeting – September 15, 2022

V. Partners Reports

i. Senator Regina A. Barrow

a. Senator Barrow thanked members for their commitment to the Baton Rouge North Economic Development District. She noted the extension of the airport to meet FCA guidelines and expressed concern regarding the potential that businesses in the area will need to be relocated. Should this occur, an effort will be made to keep these businesses in close proximity to the community. It is currently unclear whether the residents in the vicinity will also need to move or, if not, the anticipated level of disruption.



- b. Senator Barrow shared that she has received calls from several longstanding small businesses within the community seeking assistance to stay afloat in the current economic environment. She expressed a desire to create and identify opportunities and initiatives to extend assistance to communities.
- c. Legislation has been introduced to reduce the size of the Board and improve its effectiveness. The process has, however, been delayed due to conflicting language in the proposed and previous legislation.

Action #1: *BRNEDD to connect with Kelly's Meat Mart and identify opportunities to provide support.*

Action #2: *BRNEDD to connect with the airport and submit written concerns on behalf of the businesses and residents of North Baton Rouge.*

VI. Financial Reports

i. May, June & July 2022 Financial Reports

- a. Mr. Davis presented an overview of the Financial Statements for May 31, 2022, June 30, 2022 and July 31, 2022.
- b. The Chairman noted that a condition of employment for the Executive Director included the provision of professional development opportunities related to economic development in support of professional growth and value for the organization. Such expenditures are reflected in the budget.
- c. Total fund balance as of July 31, 2022 was \$624,798.63.
- d. The Façade Grant Program has a balance of \$125,876.

VII. Chairman Report

i. Audit Report Findings

- a. Rosalyn. J Johnson presented the Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2022. The audit found no material weaknesses or material instances of non-compliance.
- b. Regarding the application of agreed policies and procedures, the audit found that two (2) of 13 Commissioners did not complete the required ethics training.

ii. Bayou Kitchen Program Proposal Update

Action #3: *Letter to be sent to external parties advising of BRNEDD's withdrawal from the negotiation process for the Bayou Kitchen Program.*

Action #4: *Board to consider alternate opportunities/programs to expend the funds within adherence to funding requirements. An effort to be made to do this within the current calendar year.*

VIII. Executive Director Report

- a. Notice of incomplete projects was sent to applicants from the Façade and Signage Improvement Program on April 25, 2022. There was no response; a notice of grant



disbursement deadline was subsequently sent on June 24, 2022. As of July 18th, 27 applicants have been awarded and 18 remaining.

- b. Proposal developed for Brownfield Grant in the amount of \$600,000 for BRNEDD to complete site assessments within target area in North Baton Rouge. Environmental specialists on the project will be Terracon. Executive Director has met with EPA Director.
- c. Dr. Gilmore moved to approve the Executive Director Report. Seconded by Mrs. Amar. Motion carried.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. Announcements

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 8, 2022.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at the close of scheduled business.