



BATON ROUGE NORTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2020

COMMISSIONERS: Dr. Jacqueline Mims, Brian LaFleur, Dr. James Gilmore, Andrea Cosey, Gary Chambers, Bill Pizzolato, Ronald Smith, Stephanie Cargile, Jessie Glasper, Terra Williams, Dezmon Barrow, Dr. Leroy Davis

PRESENT:

Williams
Mims
Cosey
Smith
Chambers
Barrow
Davis
Gilmore
Cargile
LaFleur
Pizzolato

ABSENT:

Glasper

STAFF:

Jerry W. Jones Jr., Executive Director (ED)
Jasmine McClendon, Admin. Assistant

A. Call to Order

Commissioner Mims called meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Eleven (11) members were present. One (1) Absent. Quorum was met.

C. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer and Pledge was led by Commissioner LaFleur

D. Public Comments (3) Minutes

none

E. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Chambers motioned to approve the January 9, 2020 board meeting minutes. Commissioner Gilmore seconded; approved unanimously.

F. Financial Reports *Deferred*

- a. BRNEDD 2020 Budget**
- b. Monthly Financial Statements**
- c. Auditor's Engagement Letter**



BATON ROUGE NORTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2020

G. Partner(s) Reports

1. Donnie Miller, BRAC Business Development

Mr. Miller spoke on the expansion project for Etheredge Electric and their quest to be approved by Metropolitan Council to receive an Industrial Tax Exemption. He mentioned a letter of support from the board would be helpful.

Commissioner Chambers motioned we offer a letter of support for Etheredge Electric for their property tax abatement, before the Metropolitan Council & our meeting next week; Commissioner Pizzolato seconded.

MOTION CARRIED - APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Mims asked that Mr. Jones would draft the letter and send to entire board for comments and edits.

Commissioner Chambers asked that we have the letter to Council by Monday (Feb. 10th).

2. Judy Bethley, Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) Executive Director Kaia Simmons, VIPS Volunteers and Community Partners Director

VIPS recruits and trains volunteers to tutor underperforming students in public school and they are having a struggle with volunteers coming to NBR schools. They have proposed an initiative, NBR Aim Opportunity, that will involve 3 churches receiving a grant to appoint a liaison for VIPS and to manage volunteers from their congregation. They are asking to have the word spread about the initiative, as well as their Grant & Greet meeting Feb. 28th, 10 am at Montgomery Center 4070 Tunica Street. (vipsbr.com)

H. Action Items

a. Executive Director Coach

Commissioner Chambers expressed his thoughts on there being an opportunity for growth and proposed getting Mr. Jones an Executive Coach.

Executive Coach, Fredell Butler, introduced himself and spoke on his service.

This item was sent to personnel committee to get further details and determine the process of contracting an Executive Coach.



BATON ROUGE NORTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2020

b. **Impact 2020 (Goals and Objectives)**

Mr. Jones presented his goals and objectives for 2020. Commissioner Cargile expressed that a lot of information was shared, a lot of questions should be considered, and she had a lot of suggestions. Concern arose on accepting or approving the plan in its entirety. Commissioner Mims suggested sending parts of plan to its respective committee.

Commissioner Chambers motioned to approve Mr. Jones to move forward with plan/goals and objectives considering amendments by committees.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

Commissioner LaFleur proposed approving idea/concept of plan while vetting budgets and timelines. Commissioner Williams proposed having a special board meeting. After deliberation, it was decided to vote on the plan in sections to determine what from the plan can move forward.

Commissioner Davis motioned to approve Retail Strategies (portion of Impact 2020 plan); Commissioner Cosey seconded.

MOTION CARRIED – APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Chambers motioned to move forward with Façade Grant; Commissioner Smith seconded. Commissioner Mims commented that we entertain an initiative with blight alongside façade program.

MOTION CARRIED – APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Chambers motioned to approve events calendar.

Commissioner Davis seconded. Commissioner LaFleur questioned if this was to approve schedule, Commissioner Chambers clarified this is to approve Mr. Jones to raise funds to make these things happen.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF VOTE.

Commissioner Mims offered a substitute motion to approve events already discussed (Canvas Trip & NBR Economic Development Week)

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Mims reintroduced the motion to vote on entire events calendar and approve it as presented. Roll call vote was requested.

3 Abstained – 4 Yays – 3 Opposed MOTION FAILED.



BATON ROUGE NORTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Commissioner Chambers motioned to approve AT&T; Commissioner Smith seconded. 6 Yays – 2 Opposed – 2 Abstained MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Chambers motioned to approve TIF District conversation with both senators; Commissioner Smith seconded.

MOTION CARRIED – APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Chambers motion to approve building outlook plans; Commissioner Barrow seconded.

MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF MAJORITY.

Commissioner Chambers motioned to approve staff organizational goals.

MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

Commissioner Mims directed that items that did not pass will be sent to committee and a special meeting can be requested to finish items on agenda.

c. Executive Director Report

- Millennial Park Project Cameron Jackson informed board of his project that is underway on Florida Blvd across from Baton Rouge General. It is using revitalized shipping containers to house restaurants and retailers, that will be like a food court/mall concept. He asked for help with permitting, any funds for future phases, and advertising connections. Commissioner Chambers mentioned meeting with councilmen. Mr. Jones confirmed those steps were in process. Commissioner Chambers offered 3 months free of advertising on his social media platform and to write an editorial on the project.
- Octagon Media Website Presentation *Deferred*

I. Committee Reports

1. Business Attraction/ Retention/ Expansion Committee Meeting Feb. 26th 6pm
2. Community Wellbeing/Revitalization Committee Meeting Feb. 19th 11:30 am
3. Education/ Workforce Development Committee Meeting Feb. 20th 11:30 am
4. Entrepreneurship/Small Business Innovation Committee Meeting TBD
5. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Feb. 26th 11:00 am
6. Executive Committee
 - Discussion on Commissioner Term *Deferred*

J. New Business

K. Next Board Meeting Date/Time: March 5th 12:00 p.m.

L. Adjournment Commissioner Chambers motioned to adjourn at 2:05 pm, Commissioner LaFleur seconded.