

**RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
FOR THE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
Regular Meeting – 5:00 p.m.
BREC Administration Building
6201 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Commission Minutes
February 27, 2020**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) was held at BREC's Administrative Offices on February 27, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman. Commissioner Rossie Washington Jr. offered the invocation. Commissioner Kenneth Pointer led the pledge of allegiance. Roll was taken, and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman; Shelton C. Dixon, Vice Chairman; William Scheffy, Treasurer; Connie Bernard; Sandra Davis; Jerry Jones Jr., Kenneth Pointer, Davis Rhorer; and Rossie Washington, Jr. Staff members present were Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent System Planning; Brandon Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Legal Officer; Andrea Roberts, Chief Operating Officer; Phil Frost; Steven Knight; RaHarold Lawson; Cheryl Michelet; Michael Raby; Michael Smith; Stephanie Trim; and Chris Marchiafava. Murphy Foster, legal counsel, and Carl Stages, Executive Director of BREC Foundation, were also in attendance. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff, BREC consultants, media, and the general public.

Public Comment

Mr. Benson opened the floor for public comment on the agenda action items. He asked if there was anyone who would like to speak on any agenda action item. Hearing none, Mr. Benson closed the floor.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of January 23, 2020 be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion to approve by Mr. Dixon

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Unanimously approved

Consent Calendar

Resolved, That the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge does hereby approve the Consent Calendar items.

Motion to approve by Ms. Davis

Second by Mr. Pointer

Unanimously approved

The following item was approved as part of the Consent Calendar:

Acceptance of Recommendations for the Human Resources Advisory Committee

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Routine Personnel Transactions for the month of February 2020.

Presentations

Mr. Benson recognized Reed Richard who gave the construction update. The Chairman recognized Mr. Rhorer who stated that the Expressway Park concept plan, shown in the

construction update, pulls in the downtown and Old South Baton Rouge communities and the mid-city area. Mr. Richard stated that DOTD will be committing funds for the trail connection from Expressway to Dalrymple and from Expressway to the levy. Mr. Rhorer stated that this is a very important project for the inner city.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Dixon who asked if there were any emergency call boxes planned along the bike paths and pedestrian walkways. Mr. Richard stated that the call boxes would be discussed with the police.

The Commission viewed a brief video highlighting the recent teen “Go Red Gala” event at BREC’s Jefferson Highway Park and the upcoming events in March. Mr. Benson commended all the staff who are actively involved with coming up with the great creative events throughout the park system. Mr. Wilson stated the credit goes to Brandon Smith and the recreation staff.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Wilson for the Superintendent’s Report. Mr. Wilson stated that there were no administrative matters. He formally welcomed the Commissioner Scheffy and Commissioner Bernard and stated that he looked forward to working with them to serve the community.

Under communications, Mr. Wilson informed the Commission about a feature article in the March issue of the national parks and recreation magazine. The article highlighted the Greenwood / Zoo master plan, the Commission’s decision to invest in an area that had seen a lot of disinvestment, the resiliency plans for stormwater management, and the community engagement aspect used in the development of the master plan.

The Superintendent also told the Commission about the second year of a partnership with Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. Visitors were offered discounted admission to ZooLights if they brought a canned good to contribute. The Zoo collected over 3,700 pounds of canned goods. Mr. Wilson commended Zoo Director Phil Frost and the Zoo staff.

The Superintendent offered his condolences for three community members with long time relationships with BREC who recently passed away, Mr. Richard Raby, Jr., Ms. Ginger Vann, and Ms. Winnifred “Winnie” Evans Byrd. Mr. Wilson offered some thoughts on their contributions to BREC. Mr. Benson then asked for everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Standing Committee Reports

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Scheffy for the Finance Committee report. Mr. Scheffy asked Finance Director Michael Smith to review the items for approval. Mr. Smith reviewed the executive summary for the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2019. Mr. Scheffy then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited financial statements for the twelve months ending December 31, 2019 (fiscal year-to-date period January 1 – December 31, 2019), as presented.

Motion to approve by Mr. Dixon

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Approved by unanimous consent

Next Mr. Smith reviewed the executive summary for the financial statements for the month ending January 31, 2020. Mr. Scheffy then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited financial statements for the one month ending January 31, 2020 (fiscal year-to-date period January 1 – January 31, 2020), as presented.

Motion approved by Mr. Rhorer
Second by Mr. Pointer
Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Scheffy stated that reporting for construction projects would include greater detail in the future. Additionally, the cost recovery percentages are now included on the financial statements and staff may need to review and make adjustments in the future.

Mr. Smith read the following resolution for the Contracts and Bids item:

Resolved, That the Commission award SB #1779 – Flood Damage Repair - Maplewood Park Recreation Center to the lowest responsive bidder, Task Industries, LLC for the base bid and alternate #1 for a total of \$400,000.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rhorer
Second by Mr. Washington
Unanimously approved

Mr. Smith read the following resolution for Claims and Settlements item and answered related questions:

Resolved, That the Commission approve paying \$3,112.80 to Leon Franklin for damages to his vehicle as a full and final remedy and settlement.

Motion by Mr. Dixon
Second by Mr. Pointer
Unanimously approved

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Rhorer to give the Planning and Park Resources report. Mr. Rhorer asked Mr. Richard to review the items. Mr. Richard introduced Amanda Takacs to give a presentation on the Frenchtown Conservation Master Plan. Mr. Richard and Ms. Takacs answered questions from the Commission. Ms. Takacs then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Frenchtown Road Conservation Area Master Plan as presented.

Motion to approve by Mr. Jones
Second by Mr. Rhorer
Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Richard and Ms. Takacs reviewed the next item and answered questions from the Commission. Mr. Richard then read the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the acquisition of three (3) ± acres of land located at 17739 Frenchtown Road in Central, LA, adjacent to Frenchtown Road Conservation Area for the appraised value not to exceed \$95,000 contingent upon final legal review.

Motion to approve by Mr. Dixon
Second by Mr. Rhorer
Unanimously approved

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Pointer for the Selection of Professionals report. Mr. Pointer recognized Brandon Smith who reviewed the first item and answered questions. He then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve awarding the contract for RFP 200 – Camp Transportation Services to First Student, Inc. to provide school bus transport services for BREC

Programs from March 6, 2020 to March 5, 2021 with two potential one-year extensions, at the rates shown on the rate sheet. The projected annual cost is \$250,000.

Motion by Mr. Dixon

Second by Mr. Washington

Unanimously approved

Mr. Richard reviewed the second item and read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve awarding a contract for RFP No. 188 – Professional Consultant Services for Airline Community Park Master Plan to TBG Partners for a total lump sum design fee of \$275,000, plus reimbursable travel expenses at cost not to exceed \$20,000 and other reimbursable expenses at cost not to exceed \$10,000.

Motion by Mr. Washington

Second by Mr. Scheffy

Special Orders

Mr. Benson announced the next item of business was the election of officers. Mr. Benson turned the meeting over to the Vice Chairman Shelton Dixon for the election of Chairman. Mr. Dixon announced that the nominations were open for Chairman. Mr. Washington nominated Mr. Benson, Mr. Rhorer seconded the nomination. Mr. Dixon asked if there were any further nominations, hearing none he closed the nominations and declared that Mr. Benson was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Benson announced nominations were open for Vice Chairman. Mr. Pointer nominated Mr. Jones. Mr. Benson asked if there were any other nominations. Mr. Rhorer nominated Mr. Dixon, Mr. Jones seconded the nomination and withdrew his name from consideration. There being no further nominations, Mr. Benson declared that Mr. Dixon was elected Vice Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Benson announced nominations were open for Treasurer. Mr. Rhorer nominated Mr. Scheffy, Mr. Dixon seconded the nomination. Mr. Benson asked if there were any further nominations, hearing none he closed the nominations and declared that Mr. Scheffy was elected by acclamation.

New Business

Mr. Benson announced the introduction of a proposed ordinance authorizing the sale of 1.13± acres of vacant land described as Lot 6, Lafitte Hill Subdivision, not needed for public recreation purposes, for the minimum price of \$190,000. Any opposition received during the fifteen-day notice period of March 4 through March 18, 2020 will be heard at a public hearing held during the regular meeting of the Commission on March 26, 2020 at BREC Administrative Office in Womack Park, 6201 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This ordinance shall become effective on April 5, 2020 ten days after its adoption.

Mr. Dixon made a motion to approve the introduction.

Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

Approved unanimously

Mr. Benson announced the introduction of a proposed ordinance authorizing the sale of Starwood Court Park in Baton Rouge described as Tract A of the Ellzey Development, Inc. property located in Sections 40 and 41, T8S, R1E containing 8.541± acres, not needed for public recreation purposes, for the minimum price of \$120,000 appraised value. Any opposition received during the fifteen-day notice period of March 4 through March 18, 2020 will be heard at a public hearing held during the regular meeting of the Commission on March 26, 2020 at BREC

Administrative Office in Womack Park, 6201 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This ordinance shall become effective on April 5, 2020 ten days after its adoption.

Mr. Washington made a motion to approve the introduction.

Mr. Rhorer seconded the motion.

Approved unanimously

Adjournment

Ms. Davis made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Dixon seconded, and Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:25 p.m.

Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent
and Ex-Officio Secretary

Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman