

**RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
FOR THE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE**
Regular Meeting – 5:00 p.m.
Meeting held through Zoom Meeting App
Meeting ID: 922 528 8157
Commission Minutes
June 25, 2020

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) was held through the Zoom meeting app on June 25, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman. Chairman Benson explained that the meeting was being held through the Zoom meeting app with the meeting ID 922 528 8157. He further stated that a link to the meeting can be found on the BREC website and that the public could submit comments to public.comment@brec.org or comment through the Zoom app when recognized. Commissioner Jerry Jones, Jr. offered the invocation. Commissioner Davis Rhorer led the pledge of allegiance. Roll was taken, and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman; William Scheffy, Treasurer; Connie Bernard; Sandra Davis; Jerry Jones, Jr.; Kenneth Pointer; Davis Rhorer; Collis Temple, Jr. 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; Rhett Butler; Phil Frost; Angela Harms; Steven Knight; RaHarold Lawson; Cheryl Michelet; Michael Raby; Michael Smith; Stephanie Trim; and Chris Marchiafava. Murphy Foster, legal counsel, was also in attendance. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff, media, and the general public.

The Chairman asked for a consent to consider adding an item to the agenda regarding selection of the Official Journal of Record for the Commission. Mr. Jones made a motion to add the item, Mr. Rhorer seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Mr. Benson read the public comment protocol prior to opening the floor for public comment. Mr. Benson then opened the floor for public comment on the agenda action items. He stated that Ms. Marchiafava would read submitted comments. Ms. Marchiafava stated that there were no requests to speak that had been submitted through chat or email. Ms. Marchiafava then read a comment submitted by Cathy Coates, Ann Guercio, and Holly Carville in support of the East Baton Rouge Parish Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

There being no further comments, Mr. Benson closed the floor.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of May 28, 2020 be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion to approve by Ms. Bernard

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 Mr. Washington
Second by Ms. Bernard
Unanimously approved

The following items were 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 June 2020.

Acceptance of Recommendations for the Finance Advisory Committee

Resolved, That the Commission approve awarding SB 1788 Annual Plaque and Trophy Contract. This is an all or none bid and the lowest responsive bidder for this annual contract is Carco Awards, LLC. It is recommended that the annual contract be awarded Carco Awards, LLC in the amount of \$21,447.54. This is an estimate as the annual contract amount is unknown at this time. Annual contracts are not based on quantity. The contract is to begin 7/3/20-7/2/21 with 2 available 12-month options to renew by mutual consent by both parties under the same terms, conditions and pricing.

Presentations

Mr. Benson recognized Reed Richard who presented the construction update and answered related questions.

The Commission viewed the Gold Medal video highlighting BREC's programming, conservation and resiliency efforts, recent and upcoming construction projects, and commitment to the community during the current public health crisis. Each Gold Medal finalist is required to submit a video to be considered during the final deliberations for the award. The Superintendent commended the Communications staff for putting the video together.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Wilson for the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Wilson stated that there was one administrative item that was added to the agenda. Mr. Wilson read the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the Official Journal of Record for the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge will continue to be The Advocate; approve continuing the contract through June 30, 2021 to be used for the public posting of minutes, resolutions, budgets, and other official proceedings and announcements of said Commission as required by law for the current price of \$0.33/agate line with the same terms and conditions.

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

Under communications, Superintendent Wilson gave a general update of operations entering the third week of BREC's phase two of reopening. Mr. Wilson stated the Zoo was doing well and as part of the celebration of the Zoo's 50th birthday the admission was reduced to 50 cents on Wednesday afternoons which was a tremendous success. The Zoo currently is allowed to operate at 50% capacity in phase two. BREC Golf recorded, in May, one of the highest months for revenue and rounds played in the past several years. In person summer camps began June 8 and were well received by the public with 90-100% attendance. Mr. Washington asked for information about some of the precautions being taken for the camps. Mr. Wilson told the Commission about the drop-off procedure and recognized Brandon Smith who provided additional information. Ms. Davis asked about field trips and Mr. Smith stated that because of current

restrictions BREC is bringing speakers and activities into the camps instead of going offsite. Mr. Wilson stated that BREC had received approval to move forward with opening splashpads and Liberty Lagoon. Splashpads are open and but Liberty Lagoon remains closed at this time. Staff continues to take proper precautions.

Mr. Wilson stated that a full report on the BREC's utilization of DBE businesses in 2019 and the first half of 2020 will be presented next month. BREC staff will be developing a policy regarding DBEs for recommendation to the Commission. Mr. Wilson stated that the audit will not be completed by the end of June, but BREC has requested an extension which is expected to be granted.

Mr. Rhorer asked when outside basketball may be available again. Mr. Wilson explained that it is considered a contact sport and will not be open until phase three.

Mr. Benson asked which firm we have contracted with for the work on the DBE project. Mr. Wilson stated that Jade Russell, with JD Russell Consulting, has been contracted.

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Scheffy to give the Finance Advisory Committee report. Mr. Scheffy asked Michael Smith, Finance Director, to review the May financial statements executive summary. Mr. Scheffy then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited financial statements for the five (5) months ending May 31, 2020 (fiscal year-to-date period January 1 – May 31, 2020), as presented.

Motion to approve by Mr. Jones

Second by Mr. Washington

Unanimously approved

Mr. Scheffy stated that the first item under Contracts and Bids had been approved on the consent calendar. He stated that the next item was the approval of the contract for the construction of the education building at Frenchtown. He also stated that though the bid came in higher than the amount allocated, staff was able to work with the contractor to get the bring the cost down under the budgeted amount. Mr. Scheffy then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve awarding SB 1783 – BREC Frenchtown Conservation Area – Education Building to the lowest responsive bidder, Capital Construction, LLC, for the base bid of \$1,759,000 and concurrently accept a deductive change order to reduce the project cost by \$114,500 for a total contact price of \$1,644,500.

Mr. Scheffy briefly discussed BREC tax millages and asked for the chart displaying the related information to be shown on the screen. The chart was unavailable for display so the Chairman directed that the item will be put on the July agenda.

Special Orders

Mr. Benson announced the next item of business was the election of officers. Mr. Benson stated that an election would be held for Vice Chairman. Mr. Benson announced nominations were open for Vice Chairman. Mr. Scheffy nominated Mr. Pointer. Mr. Benson asked if there were any other nominations. There being no further nominations, Mr. Benson declared that Mr. Pointer was elected Vice Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Benson then took up the appointments of representatives to standing committees as follows:

Lloyd H. Benson Jr.

Mpho Mmopi / Golf

Connie Bernard

Stacy Luther / Communications & I.T.

Jerry Jones Jr.

Luke St. John McKnight / Communications & I.T.

Myra Richardson / Finance

Rev. Shelton Dixon / Golf

Johnathan Hill / Human Resources

Byron Washington / Planning & Park Resources

James Tatman, Jr. / Recreation & Special Facilities

Al Jarreau / Zoo

Motion to approve by Mr. Rhorer

Second by Mr. Pointer

Unanimously approved

Unfinished Business and General Orders

The Chairman read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the East Baton Rouge Parish Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, as presented.

Motion by Mr. Jones

Second by Mr. Washington

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Scheffy for comments on the item. Mr. Scheffy stated he was in favor of the plan. He further stated that there is no recognition of who oversees implementation in the plan. Mr. Scheffy said other things not addressed were the Louisiana Mississippi River Trail connecting New Orleans to Baton Rouge. He stated that there is no recognition of the work being done on the drainage projects and BREC's work with the Corp of Engineers on the Comite Diversion Canal. Mr. Scheffy commented that there is also a need for signage to educate the public on the rules of the road and wayfaring signage that is developed in coordination with City-Parish. He stated that a planning and zoning component is needed that includes consideration of incorporating access to trails when new developments are being planned. Mr. Scheffy stated that he was in favor of approval of the plan.

Mr. Benson directed the Superintendent and Mr. Richard to take Mr. Scheffy's comments into consideration moving forward.

Mr. Benson restated that there was a motion by Mr. Jones, a second by Mr. Washington and asked if there were any objections to the motion. Seeing none, the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

New Business

Mr. Benson stated that the upcoming resolution has nothing to do with a personal preference or anything outside of us having a strong partnership between the school board and BREC and continuing the great work BREC has done. He stated that as Chairman, he wanted to do everything possible to ensure that the Commission is productive and that is not distracted from BREC's work in the community with children and diverse families.

Mr. Benson then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Chairman requesting that the President of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board appoint a new representative to the BREC Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Benson asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve and Mr. Washington seconded. Mr. Benson then asked if there were any objections. Mr. Scheffy indicated that he was objecting. Mr. Benson recognized Murphy Foster, legal counsel, for a point of order. Mr. Foster stated that since a motion and second was received the Chairman needed to open the floor for discussion.

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Washington, Mr. Pointer, and Mr. Jones who each spoke in support of the action being taken to request a new representative from the school board.

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Scheffy who spoke in opposition to the Commission taking the action.

Mr. Benson asked if there were any further comments and noted that there was a motion and a second. The meeting was then hacked and disrupted by lewd drawings and profanity. Ms. Marchiafava was unable to regain control of the meeting and had to suspend the meeting by ending the meeting for all participants at 6:32 p.m. The Zoom meeting app was then cleared of everyone and a waiting room was set up to limit access and maintain control of the meeting.

The meeting resumed at 6:51 p.m. with a quorum of the Commissioners present including, Mr. Benson, Mr. Scheffy, Ms. Davis, Mr. Jones, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rhorer, Mr. Temple, and Mr. Washington. Ms. Bernard did not return to the meeting.

Mr. Benson directed Ms. Marchiafava to take a roll call vote on the resolution with the following results:

Yeas: 7	Mr. Benson, Ms. Davis, Mr. Jones, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rhorer, Mr. Temple, and Mr. Washington
Nays: 1	Mr. Scheffy
Abstain: 0	
Absent: 1	Ms. Bernard

Adjournment

Mr. Rhorer made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Jones seconded, and Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:53 p.m.

Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent
and Ex-Officio Secretary

Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman

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