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 September 18, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman. Commissioner Shelton C. Dixon offered the invocation. Commissioner Sandra Davis led the pledge of allegiance. Roll was taken, and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Shelton C. Dixon, Vice Chairman; Larry Selders, Treasurer; Sandra Davis; Davis Rhorer; and Rossie Washington, Jr. Commissioner Jerry Jones Jr., arrived immediately after roll call and Commissioner Kenneth Pointer arrived at 5:06 p.m. Commissioner David Tatman was absent. Staff members present were Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent Planning and Construction; Brandon Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation; Phil Frost; Steven Knight; Cheryl Michelet; Mike Raby; Lester Rainey; Justin Smith; Stephanie Trim; and Chris Marchiafava. Jim Raines, 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.

Mr. Benson asked the Commission if there was any objection to moving the Greenwood Park and Zoo Master Plan presentation and resolution up on the agenda. He stated that it would be presented after the construction update. There was no objection to moving the item.

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. Mr. Benson recognized Coleman Brown, representing the East Baton Rouge Parish Chamber of Commerce, to comment on the Greenwood Master Plan. He expressed his concern about the loss of Dumas Golf Course in the redesign of the park. He requested that the Commission consider delaying the vote for a month to consider this request. Mr. Benson asked Mr. Richard how long it would delay the process if the Commission decided to wait until the next meeting to vote on the master plan. Mr. Richard stated that it would delay the process for a month. He further stated that Dumas Golf Course would remain open until the second phase was started which would begin in about two years. Mr. Richard stated that BREC could take the time between the first and second phase to consider Mr. Brown’s request. Mr. Brown again asked the Commission to delay the vote. The Chairman clarified with Mr. Richard that there would be time to consider this request during the first phase. Commissioner Jones stated that he thought the request deserved more consideration which could be done during the first phase. He also said that he supported moving forward with the vote. The Superintendent stated that after receiving a great deal of public input on the project BREC presented three different designs to the public in May all of which showed the repurposing of the 18 holes of golf. He noted that the first phase of the project would address the issues for the Zoo’s accreditation and he wouldn’t want to delay the project for that reason also.

Hearing no one else requesting to comment, Mr. Benson closed the floor.
Adoption of Minutes
Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of August 22, 2019 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 Mr. Jones
Second by Mr. Selders
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 September 2019.

Presentations
The Chairman recognized Mr. Wilson who presented employee service awards to the following staff:

5 Years
Dominique Barlow
Willie LeBouef IV
Michael Raby
Ronald Sensley

10 Years
Henry Pointer
Jennifer Shields
Nicole Strauss
Norma Valasquez

15 Years
Ron Brady
Nora Brown
Kimberly Lodrigue
Yvette Marshall

20 Years
Chris Marchiafava

The Superintendent presented spot awards to Phil Frost, Zoo Director, and Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent Planning and Construction, for their work not only on the master plans over the past 18 months for Greenwood and the Zoo but also for their contributions to BREC throughout their careers. The Superintendent then presented a spot award to Kelly Wall, Assistant Director of Golf, for receiving his credential as a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.
Mr. Benson recognized Brandon Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation and Special Facilities, for a presentation to Carl Stages, Executive Director of BREC Foundation. Mr. Smith told the Commission that Mr. Stages, through the Foundation, was able to raise $20,000 to be used for financial assistance for the summer camp program. Mr. Smith introduced Theresa Griffin, Rec Manager, who was accompanied by several children who attended summer camp at Saia Park. Ms. Griffin who expressed her gratitude to Mr. Stages and the BREC Foundation for the financial assistance provided for children to be able to attend summer camp at Gus Young and Saia Park. They presented Mr. Stage with a framed summer camp poster with letters from some of the children who were able to attend because of the assistance. One of the children, Christian Mauk read the letter he wrote. Mr. Stages expressed his appreciation to the children and told the Commission that the funds were donated and raised by BREC Foundation board members.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Richard who gave the construction update.

The Chairman recognized Anna Cawrse, with Sasaki Associates, Inc., who gave the presentation showing the final master plan for Greenwood Community Park. She explained the different aspects of the reimagined park and how public input helped define the four guiding principles used to as the foundation for the park’s final design – Celebrate Louisiana’s Nature, A Park for the Everyday and the Big Day, Open Up and Reach Out, and Welcome and Grow. The plan also includes a new 500 car parking lot which connects the park to the Zoo.

Ms. Cawrse then turned the presentation over to Ace Torre, with Torre Design Consortium, Ltd., who gave the presentation showing the final master plan for the Zoo. He explained that the first phase of the plan will include a new entry building and orientation plaza, a great meadow for events, new exhibits for the colobus and pigmy hippos plus opportunities for feeding giraffes. Additionally, the issues that would enable the Zoo to regain accreditation will be addressed in the first phase. The future exhibits will highlight the continents of Africa, Asia, and South America as well as the ecosystem of Louisiana’s Atchafalaya Swamp and a reptile complex.

Mr. Torre introduced Jill Macauley, with Schulz and Williams, who gave a presentation which took the vision behind the Zoo and analyze it on a business scale. Schulz and Williams goal was to develop strategic business plan goals that integrate with facility master plan. That included fulfilling facility priorities specifically to ensure AZA accreditation by 2022 and developing and maintaining a sustainable financial model that leverages BREC’s support and services and significantly increases the Zoo’s ability to generate earned revenues. Ms. McCauley outlined how these goals could be accomplished.

Mr. Benson asked how many new jobs would be created and the overall economic impact. Ms. McCauley stated that the phase one investment would support 131 direct jobs and 23 indirect jobs. The Chairman commend the consultants for their visionary work on this project which has a great deal of support in the community.

Mr. Benson then read the following resolution:
Resolved, That the Commission approve the Greenwood / Zoo Master Plan as presented.
Motion to approve by Mr. Jones
Second by Mr. Washington
Unanimously approved.
Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Wilson for the Superintendent’s Report. Mr. Wilson stated there were no administrative matters. Under communications, Mr. Wilson updated the Commission about a lease approved in October 2015 with Verizon to allow the installation of a cell tower in a small area in Industriplex Park. Verizon had only recently received the wetlands permit that will allow them to move forward with the project. The lease will be effective January 1, 2020 and BREC will receive income of $1,800 per month.

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Selders for the Finance Advisory Committee report. Mr. Selders asked Mr. Rainey, Interim Finance Director, to review the items needing approval. Mr. Rainey reviewed the executive summary from the financial statements. Mr. Rainey then read the resolution that follows:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited financial statements for the eight (8) months ending August 31, 2019 (fiscal year-to-date period January 1 – August 31, 2019), as presented.

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

With the concurrence of the Commission, Mr. Selders asked to take all contracts and bid together. Mr. Rainey read the following resolutions under contracts and bids:

Resolved, That the Commission award Sealed Bid #1762 – BREC CIP Administration Building to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, W. H. Ward, LLC, for the base bid of $554,000.

Resolved, That the Commission award Sealed Bid #1763 – Central Sports Park: Field-Two Artificial Turf to the lowest responsive bidder, GeoSurfaces, Inc., for the base bid of $265,000 contingent upon concurrence from State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control.

Resolved, That the Commission award Sealed Bid #1764 – Central Sports Park: Artificial Turf Fields to the lowest responsive bidder, GeoSurfaces, Inc. for the base bid of $544,000 contingent upon concurrence from State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control.

Resolved, That the Commission approve accepting all qualified high bidders for the sale of surplus equipment opened September 6, 2019 as noted in the bid recap.

Mr. Pointer made a motion to approve the four items under contracts and bids.
Ms. Davis seconded the motion.
Unanimously approved

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Rhorer for the Planning and Park Resources Advisory Committee report. Mr. Rhorer asked Mr. Richard to review the items. Mr. Richard reviewed the first item and explained that this item and the next item would provide shade structures for the playgrounds at these parks. Mr. Richard then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana regarding the 2019 Act 20 Capital Outlay General Fund (Direct) Non-Recurring Appropriation of $75,000 for Cadillac Street Park Site Improvements; and authorize superintendent to execute appropriate related documents.

Motion to approve by Mr. Jones
Second by Mr. Dixon
Unanimously approved
Mr. Richard reviewed the second item and read the following resolution:
Resolved, That the Commission approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana regarding the 2019 Act 20 Capital Outlay General Fund (Direct) Non-Recurring Appropriation of $75,000 for Maplewood Park Site Improvements; and authorize superintendent to execute appropriate related documents.
Motion to approve by Mr. Jones
Second by Mr. Dixon
Unanimously approved

Mr. Richard explained the next item regarding the programmatic agreement. In response to questions from the Commission Mr. Richard explained that the slides presented displayed different concepts used for interpretation instead of standard signage. Mr. Richard then read the following resolution:
Resolved, That the Commission approve a Programmatic Agreement with FHWA, LADOTD, LA State Historic Preservation Officer (LASHPO), Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and LA Preservation Alliance, Inc. dba LA Trust for Historic Preservation (LTHP) regarding Improvements to I-10 from LA 415 to Essen Lane and public informational displays of historic district information within the proposed ROW at Expressway and E. Polk Street Parks for which BREC will receive $200,000 to develop and install. Authorize superintendent to execute necessary documents.
Motion to approve by Mr. Dixon
Second by Mr. Rhorer
Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Dixon recognized Mr. Pointer to give the Selection of Professionals Committee report. Mr. Pointer deferred to Mr. Wilson who explained that the Selection of Professionals Committee did not meet. Mr. Wilson reviewed the first item and then read the following resolution:
Resolved, That the Commission approve Amendment No. 3 on the contract with CSRS awarded under RFP No. 163 - Recovery Program and Grants Management Services to add $40,898.00 ($30,898 for work done through 7/31/19 and an additional $10,000 to assist BREC staff on an on-call basis, if needed until 12/31/19) for a total amount not to exceed $1,062,898; in addition to amend the contract end date from September 12, 2019 to December 31, 2019.
Motion by Mr. Dixon
Second by Mr. Pointer
Unanimously approved

Mr. Benson recognized Ms. Davis who asked how much money was still outstanding from FEMA. Mr. Wilson stated that the information would be provided following the meeting.

Mr. Wilson recognized Mr. Richard to review the next three items. The Chairman with the concurrence of the Commission told Mr. Richard that they would take these items together. After a brief explanation Mr. Richard read the following resolutions:
Resolved, That the Commission approve hiring GWS Engineering, Inc. to provide a boundary survey and topo survey for a lump sum of not to exceed $22,000, and civil design, drawings and specs, and contract administration for the construction of the CAPP Mansions in the Park to Perkins Bridge Segment for a fee of approximately $130,853 based on the BREC fee curve and $1,625,450 estimated construction cost. GWS was previously recommended by staff and approved by the Commission on 1/28/16 for a project To Be Determined based on their submittal in the advertised Selection of Professionals process.
Resolved, That the Commission approve hiring Benchmark Group, LLC to provide a boundary survey and topo survey for a lump sum of not to exceed $8,500, and civil design, drawings and specs, and contract administration for the construction of the CAPP High Grove to Mall of LA Segment for a fee of approximately $48,102 based on the BREC fee curve and $552,425 estimated construction cost. Benchmark was previously recommended by staff and approved by the Commission on 1/28/16 for a CAPP project based on their submittal in the advertised Selection of Professionals process.

Resolved, That the Commission approve hiring Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. to provide a boundary survey and topo survey for a lump sum of not to exceed $28,000, and civil design, drawings and specs, and contract administration for the construction of the CAPP Perkins to Paulet Segment for a fee of approximately $149,314 based on the BREC fee curve and $1,873,170 estimated construction cost. Evans-Graves was previously recommended by staff and approved by the Commission on 1/28/16 for a CAPP project based on their submittal in the advertised Selection of Professionals process.

Mr. Dixon made a motion to approve the three contracts related to the CAPP trail project.
Mr. Washington seconded.
Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Frost read the following resolution to contract for security guard services at the Zoo:
Resolved, That the Commission approve the award of RFP 190 – Security Guard Services for BREC’s Baton Rouge Zoo to Vets Securing America in the amount of $86,716.36 per year for two years from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2021, with option to renew for three additional twelve month periods at the same price, terms, and conditions.
Motion to approve by Mr. Dixon
Second by Mr. Selders
Unanimously approved

Mr. Benson then took up the appointments to standing committees as follows:
Lloyd H. Benson Jr.
Harry Dunston Human Resources
Rossie Washington Jr.
Donnie Miller Finance

Motion to approve by Mr. Pointer
Second by Mr. Selders
Unanimously approved

New Business
Mr. Benson stated that a performance appraisal forms for the Superintendent. The Superintendent requested feedback on his performance from the Commission.

Adjournment
Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Davis seconded, and Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:45 p.m.