

**THE 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
March 26, 2009

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge was held at BREC's Administration Building on March 26, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Collis Temple, Jr., Chairman. Roll Call was taken and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Bill Benedetto, Vice-Chairman; Bettsie Miller, Treasurer; Verge Ausberry, Jr.; Audrey Nabors-Jackson; Bert Neal; Darryl Robertson; and Kenith Woodall. Commissioner David Guillory was absent. Staff members present were William Palmer, Superintendent; Dale Auzenne; Ken Caldwell; Jack Dirks; Bob Epperson; Tommy Green; Ted Jack; Donna Mitchell; Mike Proctor; Debbie Spica; Stephanie Trim; Kristi Williams; and Chris Marchiafava. Carl Stages, Executive Director of BREC Foundation, and Stephen Whalen, legal counsel, were also in attendance. The audience consisted of BREC staff, the media, and the general public.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting of February 26, 2009 be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion by Ms. Nabors-Jackson

Seconded by Mr. Ausberry

Approved by unanimous consent

Consent Calendar

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

Motion by Ms. Miller

Seconded by Mr. Woodall

Approved by unanimous consent

The following items were approved as part of the Consent Calendar:

Acceptance of Recommendations of the Finance Advisory Committee

Resolved, That the Commission approve a bid from Harcros Chemicals Inc. for annual swimming pool chemicals in the amount of \$53,421.

Resolved, That the Commission accept a check for \$1,316.09 from the insurer of Xu Yao for damages to BREC's fence (guard rail) when it was struck by his vehicle on December 29, 2008.

Resolved, That the Commission approve paying Entergy Corporation \$2,850.09 for the cost of repairs to a gas utility main line for damages caused when BREC crews were digging at the site at Farr Park on January 9, 2009.

Acceptance of Recommendations of the Human Resources Advisory Committee

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Routine Personnel Transactions for the month of March 2009.

Acceptance of Recommendations of the Special Facilities, Athletics, Therapeutics Advisory Committee

Resolved, That the Commission approve the 2009 BREC / YMCA Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for aquatics programs and swimming pools.

Presentations

Mr. Palmer presented the following employee service awards:

5 Years

Paul Foretich

Brenda Gehling

Dan Hebert

The Commission viewed a brief informational video.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Mr. Palmer was recognized to give the Superintendent's report and he recommended the approval of the following items on Administrative Matters:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for FP&C Project No. 50-NC2-07B-02, between BREC and the State of Louisiana to construct a Children's Museum at City Park; appropriating \$3,000,000 from the CIP funds as BREC's matching funds; authorize the Superintendent to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and all necessary documents pertaining to the project including certifying requests for State disbursements.

Motion by Ms. Nabors-Jackson

Seconded by Mr. Robertson

Approved by unanimous consent

Resolved, That the Commission authorize William G. Palmer, Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary, to execute the necessary documents for the exchange of ~1.3 acre portions of Elvin Drive Park for Lots 128 – 132 of Hidden Cove Subdivision with The Resource Foundation, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Neal

Seconded by Mr. Ausberry

Approved by unanimous consent

The Commission viewed a brief video summarizing the annual report. Mr. Palmer made some comments and expressed his appreciation to the Commission for their support of him and the staff throughout the year. He also thanked the directors, assistant directors, and all of the staff for their hard work and professionalism. The Chair recognized Kristi Williams, Director of Communications, to tell the Commissioners about how the annual report and program guides are distributed throughout the parish. A brief discussion followed.

Resolved, That the Commission approve the 2008 Annual Report.

Motion by Mr. Benedetto

Seconded by Ms. Miller

Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Palmer pointed out the Summer Program Guide that was mentioned in the previous discussion. He noted that BREC received recognition at the recent Good Growth Awards banquet for City•Brooks Park and Stanford(Wampold) Park.

Mr. Palmer recognized Tommy Green, Director of Athletics, who introduced two new staff members. Lennie Reason, head tennis professional at Independence Park, is a certified USPTR instructor, has a Master's in Sports Management and was an Assistant with LSU Tennis Team. Ojo Thompson, the Urban Tennis Development Manager at City Park, has a Ph.D in Public Policy and formerly worked with YMCA. Mr. Green also noted that Yvette Marshall, BREC Tennis Manager, was named the 2009 PTR (Professional Tennis Registry) Member of the Year for the State of Louisiana.

The Commission viewed the 2009 Champions of BREC videos.

Ms. Miller was recognized and gave the Finance Advisory Committee report. She asked Mike Proctor to provide a summary of each of the items that required approval.

Resolved, That the Commission approve financial statements for month ended February 28, 2009.

Motion by Ms. Miller

Seconded by Mr. Benedetto

Approved by unanimous consent

A motion to approve the following items was made by Ms. Miller:

Resolved, That the Commission approve change order #3 to a contract with Charles Carter Construction for equipment materials, labor and all other costs to install an automatic irrigation system meeting BREC specifications at six (6) soccer fields at Flanacher Road Park. The total change order will not exceed \$95,000.00. Change order #3 will raise the existing contract from \$3,096,000.00 to a total not to exceed \$3,191,000.00.

Resolved, That the Commission approve the acquisition of land adjacent to Highland Road Park having dimensions of 96' by 192' on the corner of Amiss Road and North Amiss Road for a sum not to exceed \$75,000; and further, a corresponding increase to the budget of the Capital Improvement Fund, increasing expenditures from \$5,285,000.00 to \$5,360,000.00.

Seconded by Mr. Robertson

Approved by unanimous consent

The Chair recognized Ms. Nabors-Jackson who gave the Human Resources Advisory Committee report. The committee unanimously supported forwarding to the Commission the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Theodore "Ted" Jack for the position of Assistant Superintendent for Planning, Operations, and Resources.

Ms. Nabors-Jackson made a motion to approve the recommendation.

Seconded by Mr. Neal

Approved by unanimous consent

Ms. Nabors-Jackson was recognized to give the Selection of Professionals Committee report. She asked Ted Jack and Jack Dirks to provide information on the agenda items. Ms. Nabors-Jackson made a motion to approve the following and authorize the Superintendent to execute the contract and necessary documents:

Resolved, That the Commission approve hiring The Library Design Collaborative, A Joint Venture, for design development, construction documents, bidding, and construction administration services for BREC Café and Teaching Garden Building and support spaces which will be integrated into the “Library in the Park” and Thought Square project at BREC’s Independence Park for a fee not to exceed \$141,000, plus prior approved reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$2000.

Resolved, That the Commission approve hiring Benecom for Network Wiring Services for BREC sites and buildings at a rate of \$65 per hour base rate plus journeyman fee for additional laborers as necessary; annual contract not to exceed \$100,000 per year to expire Dec. 31, 2009 with an option to renew for two additional years through Dec. 31, 2011.

Resolved, That the Commission approve hiring CC Technologies to provide Network Maintenance Services for BREC’s servers and equipment at a rate of \$85 per hour; annual contract not to exceed \$100,000 per year to expire Dec. 31, 2009 with an option to renew for two additional years through Dec. 31, 2011.

Seconded by Mr. Woodall

Approved by unanimous consent

Special Orders

The following appointment of a citizen representative to a BREC Advisory Committee was made:

Bettsie Miller

Jermaine Watson Human Resources

The Chair introduced Stephen Whalen, legal counsel.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

William G. Palmer, Superintendent
and Ex-Officio Secretary

Collis Temple, Jr., Chairman