

**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  
October 22, 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 October 22, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman. Commissioner Rossie Washington 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; Kenneth Pointer, Vice Chairman; William Scheffy, Treasurer; Connie Bernard; Jerry Jones Jr., Davis Rhorer; and Rossie Washington, Jr. Commissioners Sandra Davis and Collis Temple, Jr. were absent. Staff members present were Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent System Planning; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Legal Officer; Andrea Roberts, Chief Operating Officer; Shanda Crosby; Phil Frost; RaHarold Lawson; Michael Raby; Michael Smith; and Chris Marchiafava. Murphy Foster, legal counsel, was 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 September 24 be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion to approve by Mr. Washington

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. Rhorer

Second by Mr. Pointer

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 September 12, 2020 to October 7, 2020.

Resolved, That the Commission approve BREC's 2021 Holiday Schedules for General Fund employees and Capital Improvement employees, as presented.

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Voluntary Supplemental benefits for 2021 with no increase in premium and no change in benefits:

- 1.) Dental Insurance administered by Delta Dental
- 2.) Vision Insurance administered by (Starmount – Always Care Benefits, Inc.)
- 3.) Supplemental Insurance administered by Colonial Life Supplemental Insurance

### **Presentations**

Mr. Benson recognized Reed Richard who gave the construction update. Mr. Benson asked Mr. Richard about the water fountains in parks and recreation centers. RaHarold Lawson, Park Operations Director, stated that the water fountains for patrons in parks have not been turned back on to stay in compliance with CDC guidelines. Mr. Benson also asked if hand sanitizer stations had been added in restrooms. Mr. Lawson stated that hand sanitizer stations were added along with signage encouraging patrons to wash their hands. Mr. Benson asked if touchless paper towel dispensers were in the plans for the new construction. Mr. Richard stated that BREC has been installing air dryers in new facilities instead of paper towels which eliminates an opportunity for vandalism. Mr. Benson asked if older facilities will be updated with touchless fixtures and Mr. Scheffy asked if we were installing touchless faucets in new restrooms. Mr. Richard stated that the current facilities will be prioritized for replacement of fixtures and new facilities will all have touchless fixtures.

The Commission viewed a brief video highlighting BREC Art's virtual art classes, extreme sports clinics, Veteran's Day at the Zoo, and other upcoming activities throughout the parish in the month of November.

The Chairman commended the staff on the preparation of Memorial Stadium for the football season.

### **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Wilson for the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Wilson stated that there was one administrative matter. He stated that while reviewing an accreditation report from Miami-Dade County he noted the they provided time off for employees to vote. He also stated that the state also provides presidential election day holiday for state employees. The Superintendent told the Commission that the Forest Park recreation center was being used as an early voting site. Mr. Wilson then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve observing November 3, 2020, General Election Day, as a staff holiday for 2020.

Motion to approve by Mr. Washington

Second by Mr. Jones

Unanimously approved

The Superintendent updated the Commission on the impact of COVID-19 on the agency. Mr. Wilson stated that BREC had started hosting football at its stadiums. The use of stadiums includes following established guidelines and procedures to ensure public safety. Mr. Wilson noted that BREC recently held Art Unleashed at Forest Park, Haunted Hikes at Bluebonnet Swamp, and the first weekend of Boo at the Zoo. All events were well attended. Mr. Wilson stated that the NRPA conference would take place during the next week with a large number of staff attending virtually. He stated that the Gold Medal winner would be announced on Tuesday evening during the conference. The Superintendent mentioned that the staff is working on the preparation of the budget and getting ready for the implementation of the new software in January.

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Scheffy for the Finance Committee report. Mr. Scheffy spoke briefly about the Golf presentation that Golf Director Mike Raby gave at the Finance Committee meeting. He stated that staff is working on the budget and having to make assumptions based on what impact COVID-19 restrictions may have in 2021. Mr. Scheffy recognized Finance Director Michael Smith who gave an overview of the financial statements. Mr. Scheffy then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited financial statements for the nine (9) months ending September 30, 2020 (fiscal year-to-date period January 1 – September 30, 2020), as presented.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rhorer

Second by Mr. Jones

Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Scheffy stated that there was one item under Contracts and Bids and he asked Mr. Richard to explain the recommendations for approval. Mr. Scheffy then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission award SB 1796 – Liberty Lagoon Phase III Renovation to the lowest responsive bidder, The Luster Group, LLC, for the Base Bid, Alternate 1, Alternate 2, and Alternate 3 in the amount of \$563,801 to begin upon issuance of the notice to proceed.

Motion to approve by Mr. Jones

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Scheffy stated that the next item was under Claims and Settlements and read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve payment of \$4,080.23 as full and final settlement of the general liability claim by Willie Brown.

Motion to approve by Mr. Pointer

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Unanimously approved.

Mr. Benson recognized Shanda Crosby, Benefits Administrator, who introduced Jeremy Powers and Ellis Ducote with Gallagher Benefits Associates. Mr. Powers gave a presentation on the insurance financials for the previous plan year and their recommendations for 2021. Mr. Powers then introduced Shelly Beall with SB Wellness who gave a presentation and answered questions about BREC's wellness program.

Ms. Crosby then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the following for BREC's 2021 Employee and Retiree Health Insurance Benefit Package, Self-funded by BREC and administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana:

No increase in premiums with no change in medical benefit schedules; BREC Commission to pay 85% of the employee HMO plan premium and 60% of the dependent premium. This amount will be applied to the PPO Plan and Blue Saver (High Deductible Plan) if the employee wishes to upgrade. Non-participants of the Employee Wellness Program will be subject to a premium increase of \$20 per pay period or \$520 annually.

Motion by Mr. Jones

Second by Mr. Washington

Unanimously approved

Ms. Crosby then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the 2021 ASO Administrative Services Agreement Claims Administration Fee and Stop Loss with no increase in administrative fees for medical and pharmacy, as presented.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rhorer

Second by Mr. Jones

Approved by unanimous consent

Ms. Crosby then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the 2021 Employer Paid Group Term Life Insurance administered by Equitable with no increase in premium; and approve the 2021 Voluntary Life.

Motion to approve by Mr. Washington

Second by Mr. Pointer

Unanimously approved

Ms. Crosby then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the 2021 Employer Paid Wellness Program administered by SB Wellness, as presented.

Motion by Mr. Jones

Second by Mr. Scheffy

Unanimously approved

Ms. Crosby then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the employer-paid Employee Assistance Program administered by Hidalgo Health Associates for 2021 with no increase in premium and no change in benefits.

Motion to approve by Mr. Jones

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Approved by unanimous consent

Ms. Crosby then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve BREC's 2021 Retiree Supplemental Pay, as presented.

Motion to approve by Mr. Jones

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Approved by unanimous consent

Under Information Items, Ms. Crosby explained that 2021 City Parish Employees' Retirement System employer contributions increase to 38.36 % for BREC. Employee contribution remains at 9.5%. She also gave an overview of BREC'S Virtual Open Enrollment and Benefit Health Fair for 2021.

### **Unfinished Business**

Mr. Benson read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve an ordinance authorizing the sale of Cortana Park in Baton Rouge described as Tract P-1-A on plat of Survey by Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc., dated February 20, 2002, located in Section 69, T7S, R1E, containing 14.839 acres, not needed for public recreation purposes, for the minimum price of \$135,000 appraised value. Any opposition received during the fifteen-day notice period of September 30 through October 15, 2020 will be heard during the regular meeting of the Commission on October 22, 2020 at BREC Administrative Office in Womack Park, 6201 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA. This ordinance shall

become effective on November 1, 2020, ten days after its adoption. Authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.

Mr. Benson asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition of the ordinance. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Scheffy asked for additional information about the property. Mr. Richard answered Mr. Scheffy's questions. Mr. Scheffy then made a motion to approve, Mr. Rhorer seconded and a roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Yeas: 7 / Mr. Benson, Ms. Bernard, Mr. Jones, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rhorer, Mr. Scheffy, Mr. Washington  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 2 / Ms. Davis, Mr. Temple

### **New Business**

Chairman Benson recognized Mr. Richard who introduced Mark Godson with CSRS, Patrick Martin with LSU, and John Spain with Baton Rouge Area Foundation. Mr. Goodson gave a presentation on the Lakes Project and answered questions from the Commissioners. Mr. Martin, Assistant Vice President for Real Estate and Public Partnerships at LSU, came to the podium and spoke briefly stating that all planning meetings for the project will be open to the public. He then answered some additional questions from the Commissioners. Mr. Martin addressed questions regarding the use of disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) entities.

Mr. Benson then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and among the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, and University Lakes, LLC for the Baton Rouge Lakes Project Phase I – Due Diligence, Design, and Phase I Construction, as presented, pending final legal review; authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.

Motion to approve by Mr. Scheffy

Second by Mr. Jones

Unanimously approved

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Washington made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Scheffy seconded, and Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:39 p.m.

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Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent  
and Ex-Officio Secretary

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Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman