

**RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION  
FOR THE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE**  
**Special Meeting – 5:00 p.m.**  
**BREC Administration Building**  
**6201 Florida Boulevard**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**  
Commission Minutes  
November 6, 2025

**Call to Order**

A special meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) was held at BREC's Administrative Offices on November 6, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Donna Collins Lewis. Commissioner Dwayne Rogers offered the invocation and Commissioner Mike Polito led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken and a quorum of Commissioners was present, including Donna CollinsLewis, Chair; Clarice Gordon, Vice Chair; Kenneth Pointer, Treasurer; Mike Polito, Dwayne Rogers, Lon Vicknair, Wade Evans, David McDavid, Carl Stages and Dustin Yates. Staff members present were Janet Simmons, Interim Superintendent; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent of System Planning; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Administrative Officer; Maurice Velasquez, Interim Chief Operating Officer; Johanna Landreneau, Interim Chief Human Resource Officer; Corey Luttrell, Robyn Lott, Jim Fleshman, Angela Harms, Dr. RaHarold Lawson, Mike Raby, Steven Knight, Tia Edwards and Ebony Allen. Murphy Foster, legal counsel, was present. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff, sign language interpreters, media, and the public.

**Public Comment**

Chairwoman Lewis announced that public comment would be allowed prior to a vote being taken on any agenda action item and explained the process to be observed.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Regular Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of October 23, 2025, be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion by Mr. Rogers

Second by Mr. Polito

There being no discussion, Chairwoman Lewis called for the vote with the following results:

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

The motion was approved.

**Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

Chairwoman Lewis acknowledged Interim Janet Simmons for the Superintendent's Report.

Interim Superintendent Janet Simmons introduced the new Director of Equine Operations, Dr. Dina Duplantis.

Chairwoman Lewis continued to Administrative Matters under Superintendent's Report reading the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the cancellation of the December 11<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting.

Chief Administrative Officer Aneatra Boykin approached the podium to provide background on the request to cancel the December 11 special meeting. She explained that if the December 11 meeting is not cancelled, it would result in two Commission meetings occurring back-to-back. For this reason, BREC staff requested that the December 11 meeting be cancelled.

Motion by Mr. Polito

Second by Mr. McDavid

There being no discussion, Chairwoman Lewis called for the vote with the following results:

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

The motion was approved.

Chairwoman Lewis continued to Selection of Professionals under Standing Committee Reports reading the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the renewal of Contract No. 2023000319 with PlacerAI (Renewal 3 of 3) for a 12-month term beginning October 26, 2025, reflecting a 55 increase, from \$49,875.00 to a total amount not to exceed \$52,369.00.

Motion by Mr. Polito

Second by Mr. Vicknair

There being no discussion, Chairwoman Lewis called for the vote with the following results:

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

The motion was approved.

#### **Unfinished Business and General Orders**

Chairwoman Lewis read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the selected vendors, Walls Tree Service, Bayou Tree Service, Bofinger's Tree Service, and Brothers Tree Service, for RFP No. 235 to provide on-call tree removal services on an as-needed basis, parish-wide across BREC facilities and properties, for an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.

Chairwoman Lewis acknowledged Dr. RaHarold Lawson to provide insight.

Dr. Lawson stated that the amount requested was intended to ensure coverage through the end of the year.

Commissioner Evans asked whether each company would be awarded \$250,000, to which Dr. Lawson responded no.

Commissioner Evans stated that he would support the approval, noting that the Commission intends to begin revising the full BREC policy manual in the near future.

Commissioner Kenneth Pointer joined the meeting.

Commissioner Evans asked Ms. Boykin whether, with his assistance, an updated procurement policy could be developed and ready for presentation by the end of the first quarter of next year. Ms. Boykin responded that it could.

Motion by Mr. Evans

Second by Ms. Gordon

Commissioner Rogers asked whether the expense would be paid with funds already included in the budget. Dr. Lawson responded that the item had already been budgeted.

There being no further discussion, Chairwoman Lewis called for the vote with the following results:

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairwoman Lewis read the next item under Unfinished Business:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the selected vendor, Element Electric and Lighting, LLC., for RFP No. 236 to provide on-call electrical services on an as-needed basis, parish-wide across BREC facilities and properties, for an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.

Dr. Lawson explained that, similar to the tree maintenance services, the amount requested was intended to ensure coverage for electrical services through the end of the year.

Commissioner Evans asked whether this was the only vendor to respond to the RFP. Dr. Lawson confirmed that they were the sole respondent.

Motion by Mr. McDavid

Second by Mr. Pointer

There being no further discussion, Chairwoman Lewis called for the vote with the following results:

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairwoman Lewis continued under Unfinished Business, reading the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the selected vendors, New Roads AC and Heat, LLC., Watson Mechanical Contractors, Corporate Mechanical Contractors, Inc., for RFP No. 234 to provide on-call HVAC services on an as-needed basis, parish-wide across BREC facilities and properties, for an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.

Commissioner Evans asked Dr. Lawson whether BREC currently has staff who perform routine checks on the HVAC equipment. Dr. Lawson confirmed that they do and stated that the HVAC vendors would handle all work beyond the scope of the BREC maintenance staff.

Motion by Mr. Evans

Second by Mr. Pointer

There being no further discussion, Chairwoman Lewis called for the vote with the following results:

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairwoman Lewis read the last item under Unfinished Business:

Resolved that the Commission authorize the establishment of a special committee to advise and guide the master planning effort for the Lakes and adjacent parks Master Plan (THE LAKES SYSTEM, WAMPOLD PARK, CITY BROOKS COMMUNITY PARK, AND THE KNOCK KNOCK CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AREA). Be it further resolved, that the membership of the Special Committee shall include and be limited to:

- The Chair of BREC's Selection of Professionals Committee;
- One appointee of the Chair of the Commission, selected from among the Commissioners;
- One designee each from the following partner organizations:
  - LSU Foundation
  - BREC Foundation
  - Knock Knock Children's Museum
  - Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF)
  - Baton Rouge Gallery
  - The Head of Golf for BREC
  - Mayor President appointee

Committee shall advise and guide the ongoing master planning effort for the University Lakes System, Wampold Park, Brooks Community Park, and the Knock Knock Museum area, ensuring coordination among stakeholders, maintaining schedule discipline, and providing input consistent with BREC's mission and public priorities. Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity and shall report periodically to the Commission on progress, milestones, and recommendations pertaining to the master planning process.

Chairwoman Lewis opened the floor for public comment and recognized Mr. Linton Naquin for a two-minute comment. Mr. Naquin expressed the need to include Friends of City Park as a member of the special committee.

Chairwoman Lewis recognized Mr. Coleman Brown for a two-minute comment. Mr. Brown expressed opposition to including the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF) as a committee member.

Chairwoman Lewis recognized Peter Davis for a two-minute comment. Mr. Davis echoed the comments of Mr. Brown and Mr. Naquin, recommending the removal of BRAAF from the committee and the inclusion of Friends of City Park.

Chairwoman Lewis read online comments from Bill Huey, who opposed including BRAAF as a committee member and recommended Friends of City Park be included; John E. Johnson, who requested that BRAAF be excluded from the special committee; and Phillip Lillard, who also requested that BRAAF be excluded.

Motion by Mr. Polito  
Second by Mr. Evans

Chairwoman Lewis opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Evans responded to the public comments.

Commissioner Rogers asked if Friends of City Park could provide additional information. Stan Springs and Peter Davis approached the podium. Commissioner Rogers asked when Friends of City Park was incorporated. Mr. Springs confirmed it was incorporated in 2013. Commissioner Rogers asked the purpose of founding Friends of City Park. Mr. Springs stated it was to preserve the integrity of the golf course. Commissioner Rogers asked how individuals could join. Mr. Springs responded that membership is voluntary, there are no dues, and members must have an interest in preserving the golf course. Commissioner Rogers asked what Friends of City Park has done to advance City Park. Mr. Springs noted ongoing communication with BREC and fundraising through golf tournaments. Mr. Davis added that a junior golf program has been started. Mr. Davis concluded that the organization is committed to both the golf course and the park.

Commissioner Rogers made a substitute motion to add Friends of City Park to the special committee. Mr. Pointer seconded the motion.

Chairwoman Lewis opened the floor for discussion.

After discussion, Chairwoman Lewis called for a roll call vote with the following results:

Yeas: 5            Ms. Gordon, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rogers, Mr. McDavid, Mr. Stages

Nays: 5           Ms. Lewis, Mr. Polito, Mr. Vicknair, Mr. Evans, Mr. Yates

Absent: 0

The motion failed due to a split vote.

Murphy Foster, legal counsel, offered a point of clarity, stating that the substitute motion to the original motion had failed and that a second substitute motion could be made if it is germane to the original motion.

Chairwoman Lewis made a substitute motion to change the number of Commission appointees to the committee from one to two. She stated that her first appointee would be Ms. Clarice Gordon and her second appointee would be Mr. Carl Stages. She also proposed adding the BREC superintendent to the committee. Mr. Polito seconded the motion.

Chairwoman Lewis opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Rogers expressed confusion as to why Friends of City Park is being excluded from the special committee.

Commissioner Evans responded to Mr. Rogers expressing that the committee needs to be cohesive.

Chairwoman read the resolution again before taking a vote:

Resolved that the Commission authorize the establishment of a special committee to advise and guide the master planning effort for the Lakes and adjacent parks Master Plan (THE LAKES SYSTEM, WAMPOLD PARK, CITY BROOKS COMMUNITY PARK, AND THE KNOCK KNOCK CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AREA). Be it further resolved, that the membership of the Special Committee shall include and be limited to:

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  - Baton Rouge Gallery
  - The Head of Golf for BREC
  - Mayor President appointee
  - The BREC Superintendent

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recommendations pertaining to the master planning process.

Chairwoman Lewis called for a roll call vote with the following results:

Yeas: 10      Ms. Lewis, Ms. Gordon, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Polito, Mr. Vicknair,  
                 Mr. Evans, Mr. McDavid, Mr. Stages, Mr. Yates

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stages asked how the term “guide” is being defined as a special committee member.

Commissioner Polito provided clarification.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Gordon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pointer. Chairwoman Lewis adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:48 p.m. without objection.

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Janet C. Simmons, Interim Superintendent  
and Ex-Officio Secretary

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Donna Collins Lewis, Chairwoman

**DRAFT**