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 May 26, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Chairman Kenneth Pointer. Commissioner Donna Collins Lewis offered the invocation. Commissioner Connie Bernard led the pledge of allegiance. Roll was taken and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Kenneth Pointer, Chair; Donna Collins Lewis, Treasurer; Connie Bernard; Trina Hall; Jason Hughes; William Scheffy; Collis Temple, Jr.; and Rossie Washington, Jr. Commissioner Sandra Davis was absent. Staff members present were Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent of System Planning; Brandon Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Administrative Officer; Andrea Roberts, Chief Operating Officer; Tracy Fountain, Chief Financial Officer; Katrina Coots-Ward; Jim Fleschman; Angela Harms; Steven Knight; RaHarold Lawson; Cheryl Michelet; Mike Raby; Darlene Winfield; and Olivia Collins. Kelsey Luckett, legal counsel, and Carl Stages, Executive Director of BREC Foundation were also in attendance. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff and the public.

Public Comment
Chairman Pointer 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, he closed the floor.

Adoption of Minutes
Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission regular meeting of April 28, 2022 and the special meeting of May 18, 2022 be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion to approve by Ms. Bernard
Second by Ms. Lewis
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 Mr. Temple
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 from April 14, 2022 to May 11, 2022, as presented.
Presentations

The Chairman recognized Reed Richard to provide the construction update. Mr. Richard reviewed the Greenwood/Zoo project. Mr. Scheffy requested more detailed financial information on the contracts for the construction projects referencing what is provided to the Finance Advisory Committee. Mr. Temple noted the information he wanted for the projects. There was an extensive discussion of the project. Mr. Richard stated he would start providing the additional information with the construction update. Mr. Temple asked when the next tax election would take place. The Superintendent stated that the tax election would be in 2024.

Continuing the construction update, Mr. Richard reviewed the project at the Oak Villa Sports Complex which includes the installation of new field lights and infield synthetic turf. Mr. Temple asked about the cost of the project. Mr. Richard noted that this is being done under an infrastructure as a service model, where the vendor is responsible to install and maintain the lights, artificial turf, etc. and BREC pays a monthly user fee to the vendor. Mr. Scheffy expressed concern about changing a capital expense to an operating expense which will over time with reduce the funds available for operations. Mr. Scheffy asked for an analysis of providing infrastructure using this model versus BREC paying for the infrastructure. Mr. Temple asked if there was the possibility of entering a cooperative endeavor agreement with a baseball entity to manage the fields and pay for the renovations. Mr. Richard stated staff would provide the requested analysis. Brandon Smith stated that no organization has come forward to fund this project. He stated that currently BREC staff manages and schedules the fields.

Mr. Richard completed the construction update. There was a discussion about the use of Airline Highway Park to host the state fair.

The Commission viewed a brief video highlighting the BREC Pets and Paddle event at Wampold Park and various events throughout the parish in the month of June.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Mr. Pointer recognized Mr. Wilson for the Superintendent’s Report. Mr. Wilson stated that there were no Administrative Matters. Under Communications, Superintendent Wilson introduced the new Chief Financial Officer, Tracy Fountain. The Superintendent announced that BREC is a finalist for the Gold Medal Award. He noted that at the April meeting BREC had approved a cooperative endeavor agreement (CEA) with Our Lady of the Lake and Baton Rouge Soccer to provide over $1,000,000 for enhancements at the soccer fields in exchange for an extension of naming rights and an extension of the CEA with Baton Rouge Soccer to continue to manage the soccer programs for BREC. The Commission also approved a cooperative endeavor agreement with Raising Cane’s for $300,000 for an extension of naming rights for the dog parks. Answering a question from Mr. Scheffy, the Superintendent stated that the region three championship would be held at the Burbank Soccer Complex and offered some information about the possible economic impact. Mr. Wilson noted that Golf Director Mike Raby had recently returned from the PGA Tour (Championship) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. (He served on the rules committee for the event.)

The Superintendent reviewed the monthly activity. Mr. Scheffy asked about gathering participation numbers from organizations with which BREC has cooperative endeavor agreements. The Superintendent stated that staff has communicated with those organizations and the intention is to capture that information in the future.

The Chairman asked the Superintendent to review the Finance Committee items. Mr. Wilson reviewed the financial statements and then read the following resolution:
Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited financial statements for the four months ending April 30, 2022 (fiscal year-to-date period January 1 – April 30, 2022), as presented.

Motion by Ms. Bernard
Second by Mr. Washington
Unanimously approved

Mr. Wilson stated that there was one item under Contracts and Bids. He then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the award of Sealed Bid #1816 – BREC Annual Contract for Ground Maintenance for Group 4 to the next lowest bidder, The Grounds Guys of Baton Rouge, for the period of June 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 with an option to renew for two additional 12-month terms at the same prices, terms and conditions for an amount not to exceed $35,640. This is an increase in the amount of $3,227.40 over the previous award. The total amount of the award will change from not to exceed $294,780.60 to $298,008.00. This action is necessary as Rotolo Consultants, LLC DBA RCI was formerly awarded Group 4 for $32,588.00 for the period of May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 and they declined the award.

Motion to approve by Mr. Temple
Second by Mr. Hughes
Unanimously approved

Mr. Pointer recognized Ms. Hall for the Selection of Professionals Committee report. Ms. Hall asked the Superintendent to review the first item. He then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve extending contract #20220000192 with Robert Half International, Inc. from an expiration date of June 3, 2022 to July 1, 2022 for Finance staff augmentation for an additional amount not to exceed $40,000 for a new contract total of $178,960.

Motion by Mr. Washington
Second by Ms. Hall
Approved by unanimous consent

Ms. Hall noted the next item was the compensation study. Human Resources Director Darlene Winfield reviewed the item and read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve awarding RFP No. 212 - BREC Compensation and Benefits Plan Study 2022 to Gallagher Consulting Firm, and entering into a cooperative endeavor agreement, including all related service addenda, to complete a compensation study of the salary and wages of all employees of BREC as outlined in their submitted proposal at a cost to be negotiated for a price not to exceed $200,000.

Motion by Mr. Washington
Second by Mr. Hughes
Approved by unanimous consent

Special Orders
Mr. Pointer then took up the appointments to standing advisory committees as follows:

David Barrow, Mayor of Central
Mike Longmire / Communications & I.T.
Robert "Buddy" Wicker / Golf
Leah Veck / Human Resources
Suzonne Cowart / Planning & Park Resources
Norman Shiflett / Recreation & Special Facilities
John Butler / Zoo
Motion to approve by Mr. Washington
Second by Ms. Bernard
Unanimously approved

Unfinished Business and General Orders
Chairman Pointer stated that the next item was to hold a public hearing and adopt a
resolution to levy the ad valorem tax millages for the 2022 parish-wide assessment roll for
Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge for general operations and
capital improvements. He recognized the Superintendent who read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
Ad Valorem Tax Levy

BE IT RESOLVED by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton
Rouge (the “Commission”), in legal session convened, as follows:

There are hereby levied in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, the following described ad valorem
tax millages on the 2022 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Recreation and Park
Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge:

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted October 28, 1947, for operations and maintenance; and

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted June 22, 1954, for operations and maintenance; and

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted November 2, 2004, to purchase, acquire, construct, develop, improve, operate and
maintain public parks, playgrounds and recreational properties and facilities; and

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, for operations and maintenance and capital improvements; and

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, to provide funds for maintaining and operating its public parks,
recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and

a tax authorized by the electorate in an election conducted November 8, 2016, to provide funds for maintaining and operating the public parks,
recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and

the foregoing making a total tax of fourteen and four hundred sixty three one-thousandths
(14.463) mills on the dollar of assessed valuation to meet the established liabilities and expenses
of the Commission used in acquiring, developing, maintaining and operating the public parks and
recreational properties and facilities of the Commission and in making available funds for the
operating budget, all as provided for in the respective propositions approved by the voters in the
special tax elections above referred to.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of East
Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed
to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2022, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

Mr. Pointer declared the public hearing open and asked if anyone would like to speak on the item. Hearing none, Mr. Pointer closed the public hearing. Mr. Pointer asked if any Commissioners would to speak, there were no comments from Commissioners.

The above and foregoing resolution was moved by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Scheffy offered a substitute motion amending the resolution to incorporate all the items in the original resolution except for the two permanent millage rates from 1947 and 1954. Those rates would be amended and changed to the following:

- a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted October 28, 1947, for operations and maintenance; and
- a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted June 22, 1954, for operations and maintenance; and

Mr. Scheffy explained that those were the rates originally approved by the voters. The higher millage rates were a result of a decline in property values in the mid-1980s which caused the millage rates to be adjusted up by the assessor to 0.63 and 0.42. BREC continued to levy those adjusted rates. Mr. Scheffy stated that when we roll forward our rates, as allowed after a reassessment, it is stated that the Commission is rolling the millage rates back to what the voters approved. He further noted that all the other millages were not permanent and when they were renewed, they went back to the original amount. Since those two millage rates were permanent, they never went back to the voters. He stated to be consistent BREC should adjust them to the rates originally approved by the voters. Ms. Hall asked Aneatra Boykin to clarify that the millage rates noted by Mr. Scheffy were accurate. Ms. Boykin confirmed they were accurate. Ms. Bernard commented about the higher sales prices for houses and the new inventory coming onto the tax rolls and asked if anyone had done revenue projections. Ms. Fountain stated that she would be looking at those factors when planning for next year's budget.

Ms. Bernard then seconded the substitute motion.

Ms. Lewis asked if there were any legal ramifications to rolling it back. Ms. Boykin stated that there are no legal ramifications. The Superintendent answered a question from Ms. Lewis stating that he did not know why the Commission in 1985 chose not to roll back to the original millage rates. He then stated that every month we talk about the financial challenges BREC faces. Ms. Boykin noted that setting the rate is at the pleasure of the Commission. Ms. Lewis indicated that due to rising prices for construction materials and giving raises to employees she was favor of the original resolution.

Chairman Pointer sought clarification on how the vote should be conducted. The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: 2 Ms. Bernard, Mr. Scheffy
NAYS: 6  Ms. Hall, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Temple, Mr. Washington
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: 1  Ms. Davis

The substitute motion failed.

The Chairman then called for a vote on the motion to approve the original resolution. The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: 6  Ms. Hall, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Temple, Mr. Washington
NAYS: 2  Ms. Bernard, Mr. Scheffy
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: 1  Ms. Davis

The foregoing resolution was signed and approved by the Chairman, attested by the Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary and declared to be adopted on this the 26th day of May, 2022.

Attest:  
Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent  
and Ex-Officio Secretary  
Kenneth Pointer, Chairman

Adjournment  
Chairman Pointer moved to adjourn, Mr. Washington seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. without objection.

Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent  
and Ex-Officio Secretary  
Kenneth Pointer, Chairman