

**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
February 27, 2025

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 February 27, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chairman Kenneth Pointer. Commissioner Dwayne Rogers offered the invocation. Commissioner Rossie Washington, Jr. led the pledge of allegiance. Roll was taken and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Kenneth Pointer, Chair; Donna Collins Lewis, Vice Chair; Dwayne Rogers, Treasurer; Clarice Gordon; Mike Polito; Nathan Rust; Lon Vicknair; and Rossie Washington, Jr. were present. Commissioner Collis Temple III arrived at 5:10 pm. Staff members present were Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent of System Planning; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Administrative Officer; Andrea Roberts, Chief Operating Officer; Don Johnson, Chief Financial Officer; Chad Brewer, Katrina Coots-Ward, Jim Fleshman, Angela Harms, Darlene Jarvis, Steven Knight, RaHarold Lawson, Mike Raby, Ryan Reed, and Chris Marchiafava. Murphy Foster, legal counsel; Rhonda Ruffino, Executive Director of Friends of the Baton Rouge Zoo; and Carl Stages, Executive Director of BREC Foundation, were also in attendance. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff, sign language interpreters, and the public.

Public Comment

The Chair 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

Chair Pointer read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission Meetings of January 28, 2025, be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion to approve by Ms. Lewis

Second by Mr. Rogers

Unanimously approved

Consent Calendar

Resolved, That the Commission approve the routine Personnel Transactions from January 9, 2025, to February 17, 2025.

Motion by Ms. Gordon

Second by Mr. Washington

Unanimously approved

Presentations

The Commission viewed a brief video highlighting various upcoming events throughout the parish during the month of March.

Chairman Pointer recognized First Tee of East Baton Rouge Parish to give a presentation. Golf Director Mike Raby introduced First Tee program director, Morgan Miley, to give the

presentation. Mr. Raby noted that Henry Pointer (program executive director) was unable to attend. Mr. Miley spoke about the benefits the First Tee program has provided the area youth. He provided information outlining the growth of the program in the area. Some of the former First Tee participants have earned golf scholarships to attend college.

Superintendent Wilson presented an award to Baton Rouge Area Fore Kids Golf Foundation thanking them for their partnership and invaluable support and commitment to BREC. Mr. Miley received the award on behalf of the Foundation.

The Superintendent presented a Spot Award to Kurt Bailey, clubhouse manager at City Park Golf Course, for his exceptional efforts in delivering outstanding customer service. Superintendent Wilson talked briefly about Mr. Bailey's commitment to BREC and the pride he takes in his work. Mr. Raby also spoke very highly of Mr. Bailey and his work ethic and thanked him for his years of dedication to BREC. Mr. Raby noted that members of the Friends of City Park were in attendance to show their appreciation for Mr. Bailey's efforts.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Under Communications, Superintendent Wilson reviewed the January 2025 activity report noting a 10% increase in attendance. He gave an update on the volunteer hours for the 2024 year, stating over 25,000 volunteer hours were worked saving BREC over \$845,000 for the year. He spoke on the Geaux Green Recycle Initiative stating that BREC was leading by example in the efforts of conservation. Superintendent Wilson stated that BREC received the Certificate of Excellence from the Center for Community Engagement, Learning and Leadership. He also noted that National Recreation and Park Association Executive Director Kristine Stratton visited BREC while in the state. BREC joined the airport and Visit Baton Rouge in welcoming the 2025 U.S. Bowling Congress Open Championship and enhanced the Zoo's display at the airport by adding an oversized bowling pin. Media day focused on the Frenchtown Conservation Area and it was announced that the ribbon cutting will be held on Friday April 25, 2025. The Superintendent stated that 225 Fest would be held at the BRCC campus on March 2 and BREC would provide a Kids Zone for the event.

The Superintendent noted that he will be attending the NRPA Directors school as an instructor. RaHarold Lawson and Katrina Coots-Ward will be attending their second year gaining top-tier training. Summer camp registration begins March 8, 2025, for in-parish residents. In the fall, BREC is considering using a lottery system for registration for most popular camps that fill up within minutes of opening. This would give everyone a fair chance at getting a spot.

Superintendent Wilson stated that there were two items under Administrative Matters. He explained that the first item was originally approved in December but since there has been a change in the administration at City-Parish and some changes to the agreement, it was necessary to bring it back for approval. He then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a memorandum of understanding with the City of Baton Rouge – Parish of East Baton Rouge for the construction of a District 6 Community Center in Tams Drive Park, as presented.

Ms. Lewis thanked Councilman Dunn for his efforts to secure a community center for District 6. She stated that as the previous council member for District 6 she was happy that BREC was able to be a partner on this project. The Superintendent introduced Councilman Dunn who spoke about collaborating and pooling resources to develop a cooperative endeavor agreement for the project.

Motion to approve the resolution by Ms. Lewis
Second by Mr. Washington
Unanimously approved

Superintendent Wilson then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the execution of the "Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire" by the Chairman, Treasurer and Superintendent and to authorize it to be delivered to EisnerAmper LLC as required by Louisiana Legislative Auditor for Audit engagements of government entities.

Ms. Gordon asked for an explanation for the answer provided for item number 27 on the questionnaire. The Superintendent recognized Chief Financial Officer Don Johnson who explained this question was related to some final payouts to employees that were improper and were referenced in an internal audit. The funds were recovered and controls were put in place to prevent a recurrence.

Motion to approve the resolution by Mr. Washington
Second by Mr. Rogers
Unanimously approved

Standing Committee Reports

The Chair stated that Communication and Information Systems Advisory Committee was information only.

The Chair noted that the Human Resources Advisory Committee action item for the routine transactions was on the Consent Calendar.

Chairman Pointer recognized Mr. Washington for the Selection of Professionals report. Mr. Washington stated that there were three Items that require action from the Commission and asked Don Johnson to present the first two items. Mr. Johnson reviewed the first item and read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve amending contract #202000079 with Postlethwaite and Netterville, APAC (EisnerAmplper) increasing it in the amount of \$159,000 for audit services and other required non-attestation services for the completion of the 2023 audit, from \$71,000 to the new contract total of \$230,000. (This is the final year of a five-year contract.)

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

Mr. Johnson reviewed the next item and read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve utilization of State Contract #4400030691 with EisnerAmplper, LLP for accounting services and other required non-attestation services for the completion of the 2024 audit for an amount not to exceed \$230,000.

Motion by Ms. Lewis
Second by Mr. Temple
Unanimously approved

Mr. Washington asked Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent of System Planning, to present the third item. Mr. Richard reviewed the item and read the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission approve a contract with Duplantis design Group for Phase 1 design of the Scotlandville Master Plan including surveying, design, construction, permitting,

bidding, and construction administration for a NTE amount of \$260,0000 including reimbursable expenses, utilizing FHWA Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Funds. The TAP grant award to BREC is \$1,200,000 for construction.

Motion by Mr. Washington

Second by Ms. Gordon

Unanimously approved

Reports of Special Committees

None

Special Orders

The Chair stated the next order of business is the election of officers. Mr. Pointer recognized Mr. Rogers to conduct the election of the Chair.

Mr. Rogers opened nominations for the Chair. Ms. Gordon nominated Donna Collins Lewis for Chair. Mr. Washington seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Mr. Rogers stated that Ms. Lewis was elected as Chair by acclamation.

Chairwoman Lewis opened nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Washington nominated Clarice Gordon for Vice Chair. Mr. Rust seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Chairwoman Lewis stated that Ms. Gordon was elected as the Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

Chairwoman Lewis opened nominations for Treasurer. The Chair nominated Kenneth Pointer for Treasurer. Mr. Rogers seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Chairwoman Lewis stated that Mr. Pointer was elected as Treasurer.

Unfinished Business and General Orders

None

New Business

Chairwoman Lewis read the following resolution under New Business:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a cooperative endeavor agreement with Friends of the Baton Rouge Zoo (Also known as the Baton Rouge Zoo Foundation), as presented. Authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents, pending final legal review.

Mr. Polito stated that he would like to make a substitute motion. The Chair recognized him for that purpose. Mr. Polito made a motion to reissue and execute the exact same cooperative endeavor agreement with the (Baton Rouge) Zoo Foundation that BREC was operating under prior to December 2024 and make the 2025 agreement's term run through June 30, 2025; and make payments to the Zoo Foundation on any back payments missed due to the agreement not being in place.

Second by Mr. Rogers

Unanimously approved

On the advice of Murphy Foster, legal counsel, the Commission took a second vote on the substitute motion with a motion to approve by Mr. Washington, a second by Mr. Rogers, and the motion was approved without objection.

Chairwoman Lewis then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a cooperative endeavor agreement with Baton Rouge Area Kids Fore Golf Foundation, as presented. Authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents, pending final legal review.

Motion by Mr. Rust
Second by Ms. Gordon
Unanimously approved

The Chair stated the following:
The Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge ("BREC") is calling an Executive Session pursuant to:
LSA-R.S. 42:17(A)(1), for the purpose of discussion of the Superintendent's performance.
Mr. Washington made a motion to go into executive session.
Mr. Pointer seconded.

A roll call vote was taken at the direction of the Chair with the following results:
Yeas: 9 Ms. Gordon, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Polito, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Rust,
 Mr. Temple, Mr. Vicknair, Mr. Washington
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

The Commission retired to executive session at 6:02 p.m.

The Commission returned from executive session and Mr. Washington made a motion to reconvene, Ms. Gordon seconded, and Chairwoman Lewis called the meeting back to order in open session at 7:27 p.m. without objection.

The Chair stated that no decisions were made and no votes were taken in executive session.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m. without objection.

Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent
and Ex-Officio Secretary

Donna Collins Lewis, Chairwoman