

**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  
June 10, 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 June 10, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Chairwoman Donna Collins Lewis who also offered the invocation. Commissioner Rossie Washington, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken and a quorum of Commissioners was present, including Donna Collins Lewis, Chair; Clarice Gordon, Vice Chair; Rossie Washington, Jr.; Mike Polito; Nathan Rust; and Collis Temple, III. Commissioner Kenneth Pointer arrived at 5:20 p.m. Commissioners Dwayne Rogers and Lon Vicknair were absent. Staff members present were Janet Simmons, Interim Superintendent; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Administrative Officer; Andrea Roberts, Chief Operating Officer; Don Johnson, Chief Financial Officer; Jim Fleshman, Darlene Jarvis, RaHarold Lawson, and Ebony Allen. Carl Stages, Executive Director of BREC Foundation, was also in attendance. 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.

**Unfinished Business and General Orders**

Chairwoman Lewis began the items under Unfinished Business and General Orders. She read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between BREC and the Baton Rouge Police Department (BRPD), whereby BRPD will provide security and community engagement support for the Late Night HYPE event to be held at Howell Community Park on the following dates: June 13, 2025; June 20, 2025; July 11, 2025; and July 18, 2025.

Motion to approve by Mr. Washington.

Second by Mr. Temple.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Lewis continued under Unfinished Business and General Orders reading the following resolution under Item B:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the proposed make-up of the Superintendent Search Committee as submitted by Chairwoman Lewis.

The Chairwoman read the list and then recognized Mr. Rust. In Mr. Vicknair's absence, Mr. Rust noted that he spoke to Mr. Vicknair at the last meeting and that Mr. Vicknair had indicated to him that he would not have the time to commit to be on the committee. Mr. Rust added that he had hoped that the Commissioners would have been asked for suggestions on the list. He further stated that he wasn't personally prepared to approve the list.

With no other discussion, Chairwoman Lewis called for a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Yeas: 4            Ms. Lewis, Ms. Gordon, Mr. Washington, Mr. Temple  
Nays: 2            Mr. Rust, Mr. Polito  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: 3          Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Vicknair

After some discussion with Chief Administrative Officer Aneatra Boykin, Chairwoman Lewis stated that no motion had been made on the previous item so there would need to be a motion. The Chairwoman then recognized Mr. Rust. Mr. Rust made a motion to defer the item to a date to be determined. The motion was seconded by Mr. Polito. Chairwoman Lewis asked if there were any objections and then stated that she objected. She then called for a roll call vote on the motion to defer. The results are as follows:

Yeas: 3            Ms. Gordon, Mr. Rust, Mr. Polito  
Nays: 3            Ms. Lewis, Mr. Washington, Mr. Temple  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: 3          Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Vicknair  
The motion to defer failed.

There was discussion to clarify how many votes were required to approve an item. Mr. Polito asked Ms. Boykin if it would take five votes to pass an item. After some further discussion, Ms. Boykin confirmed the requirement for five votes to approve an item.

Chairwoman Lewis then made a motion to approve the item (as shown) on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Washington. The motion was opposed by Mr. Polito and Mr. Rust, which caused the motion for approval of the Superintendent Search Committee to fail due to the inability to gain five votes in favor.

Chairwoman Lewis then continued under Unfinished Business and General Orders reading the following resolution under Item C:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the creation of a selection committee to review submitted proposals in response to RFQ #232 to assist in recruiting and evaluating candidates for the Superintendent position.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rust.

Second by Ms. Gordon.

Chairwoman Lewis recognized Mr. Polito for questions regarding the makeup of the committee and the selection process. After some discussion, Mr. Polito requested a roll call vote. The results follow:

Yeas: 5            Ms. Lewis, Ms. Gordon, Mr. Washington, Mr. Rust, Mr. Temple  
Nays: 1            Mr. Polito  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: 3          Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Vicknair

### **New Business**

Under New Business, Chairwoman Lewis read Item A:

Resolved, That effective June 10, 2025 the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, authorizes and empowers Janet Simmons, Interim Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary for the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, to execute all agreements and documents for and on behalf of the said Commission.

Motion to approve by Mr. Rust.

Second by Mr. Polito.  
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Chairwoman Lewis noted that Commissioner Pointer had joined the meeting.

Chairwoman Lewis continued under New Business reading the following resolution under Item B:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the rescission of the termination letter related to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the BREC Foundation and BREC. Furthermore, the contract with the BREC Zoo Foundation shall be extended for an additional two months, extending the current expiration date to August 31, 2025.

Chairwoman Lewis recognized Mr. Rust for a question for staff. Mr. Rust wanted to know what the implication of the rescission was and if the previous agreement with BREC Foundation would stay in place. Ms. Boykin stated that if the Foundation rescinds and the Commission agrees then the old agreement would be back in place, which means that BREC would provide the Foundation with a certain amount monthly to help support the organization.

Motion to approve the resolution by Mr. Polito.  
Second by Mr. Washington.  
Motion approved unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Chairwoman Lewis requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rust made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Temple seconded, and Chairwoman Lewis adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m. without objection.

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Janet Simmons, Interim Superintendent  
and Ex-Officio Secretary

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Donna Collins Lewis, Chairwoman