

**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
November 19, 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 November 19, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Commissioner Carl Stages. Commissioner Wade Evans offered the invocation and Commissioner Marshall Ortego led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken and a quorum of Commissioners was present, including; Mike Polito, Chair; Wade Evans, Vice Chair; Carl Stages, Treasurer; Lon Vicknair, David McDavid, Dustin Yates, Dr. Murelle Harrison, and Marshall Ortego. Commissioner Collis Temple III arrived at 5:06 p.m. Staff members present were Janet Simmons, Interim Superintendent; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Administrative Officer; Maurice Velasquez, Interim Chief Operating Officer; Johanna Landreneau, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer; Corey Luttrell, Rhonda Williams, Tia Edwards, Jim Fleshman, Angela Harms, Steven Knight, Brian Watkins, Robyn Lott, Brendan Nestor, and Ebony Allen. Murphy Foster, legal counsel, was also in attendance. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff, sign language interpreters, media, and the public.

Introduction of Newly Appointed Commissioners

Commissioner Stages welcomed the newly appointed commissioners, Dr. Murelle Harrison and Marshall Ortego. He also extended the welcome to the reappointed commissioners, Mike Polito and Collis Temple, III.

Public Comment

Commissioner Stages 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.

Special Orders

Commissioner Stages announced that due to the new Commission appointments of November 12, 2025, Special Orders would be conducted at the beginning of the meeting to elect officers with a term ending upon the election of new officers in January 2026.

Commissioner Stages opened the floor for the nominations of the Chair.

Commissioner Evans nominated Commissioner Polito as the Chair of the Commission, seconded by Commissioner Yates.

Without any other nominations and no opposition, Commissioner Polito was elected as Chair.

Commissioner Stages congratulated Commissioner Polito as he took over the election of the remaining officer positions.

Chairman Polito nominated Commissioner Evans as Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Vicknair. Without any other nominations and opposition, Commissioner Evans was

elected as Vice Chair.

Chairman Polito opened the floor for nominations of Treasurer.

Commissioner Evans nominated Commissioner Stages for Treasurer, seconded by Commissioner Yates.

Without any other nominations and no opposition, Commissioner Stages was elected as Treasurer.

Chairman Polito closed elections for officers stating, "Let's get to work!"

Adoption of Minutes

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Special Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of November 6, 2025, be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion by Mr. Evans

Second by Mr. Stages

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

Yea: 8

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Calendar

Under the Consent Calendar, Chairman Polito called for an approval of the following items:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the Routine Personnel Transactions from October 9, 2025 through November 4, 2025.

Resolved, that the Commission approve the Employee Paid Voluntary Life insurance administered by Lincoln Financial Group, as presented.

Resolved, that the Commission approve the Employee-paid Voluntary Long-Term Disability administered by Lincoln Financial Group, as presented.

Resolved, that the Commission approve the Voluntary Employee Paid Supplemental Benefits (Short-Term Disability, Accident, Critical Illness, Dental with an optional Vision rider, Term and/or Whole Life) for Part-Time employees administered by Colonial Life Insurance as presented.

Motion by Mr. Yates

Second by Mr. McDavid

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 8

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Temple joined the meeting.

Presentations

The BREC video showcasing activities for the month of December was played.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Chairman Polito recognized Interim Superintendent Janet Simmons to present the Superintendent's Report.

Interim Superintendent Simmons presented the October 2025 Attendance Report and formally introduced Dr. Dina Duplantis as the new Director of Equine Operations. She recognized Katrina Coots-Ward, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facilities, for her upcoming induction as President of the Louisiana Recreation and Park Association (LRPA). She also announced that Volunteer Manager, Dodi Falcon, will serve as the LRPA District 3 Chair. Interim Superintendent Simmons concluded with a high-level overview of the BREC Game Plan, highlighting the organization's progress and future direction.

Interim Superintendent Simmons provided updates on ongoing IYP3 projects, noting that there are currently more than 50 projects in the queue across various stages of design and construction, over 30 recreational center transitions planned, and 30 obsolete land sites identified. She also highlighted the ongoing restructuring of the organizational chart. She concluded her report by referencing her continued stakeholder and community engagement meetings.

Commissioner Temple stated that he does have questions but will follow up with the Interim Superintendent at a later date for discussion.

Chairman Polito requested that Commission consider adding the following agenda item:

Add a workshop in early December prior to the next regular meeting to discuss the contracts of the Interim Superintendent, Interim Chief Operating Officer and Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, the search for permanent superintendent, the 2026 budget, and the focus of Interim Superintendent's team for the period of any extension.

Motion by Mr. Evans

Second by Mr. Temple

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for a roll call vote with the following results:

Yea: 9 Mr. Stages, Mr. Temple, Mr. Polito, Mr. Vicknair, Mr. Evans, Mr. McDavid, Mr. Yates, Dr. Harrison, Mr. Ortego

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

The motion to add the agenda item under New Business was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito continued by reading the following resolution under Administrative Matters:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the creation of a new Standing Advisory Committee, to be known as the Equine Committee.

Motion by Mr. Temple

Second by Mr. Vicknair

After discussion, it was determined that the Equine Committee did not need to become a Standing Committee, but a committee that would be overseen by the Superintendent.

Commissioner Vicknair withdrew his second. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Commissioner Polito then read the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission hereby approves the renewal of the agreement with Junbi,

LLC, represented by Janet Simmons, whereby Ms. Simmons shall serve as the Interim Superintendent for a 12-month period with termination effective December 15, 2026.

Commissioner Vicknair made a substitute motion to defer Items b, c and d under Administrative Matters until after the Commission Workshop. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion.

Chairman Polito acknowledged Sharon King, BREC employee, who commented that employees would like to see the superintendent job description.

Chairman Polito acknowledged Crystal Ellis for public comment, to which she expressed there should be public input on the extension of the interim contracts.

Chairman Polito read an emailed public comment from Anna Jackson, to which, they expressed opposition to the extension of interim contracts.

Before closing public comments, Commissioner Evans and Chairman Polito gave responses to the public comments heard.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9

Nay: 0

The substitute motion to defer Items b, c and d under Administrative Matters was approved unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Communications and Information Systems

Chairman Polito acknowledged Robyn Lott, Director of Communications, who presented the 2026 Marketing Plan.

After questions from the Commission, Chairman Polito read the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the 2026 Marketing Plan, as presented, contingent on the overall budget adoption.

Motion by Mr. Stages

Second by Mr. Temple

Chairman Polito opened the floor to public comment.

Chairman Polito acknowledged Crystal Ellis who spoke in support of the Marketing Plan.

Chairman Polito acknowledged Linton Naquin who spoke in opposition of the Marketing Plan.

Chairman Polito read an emailed public comment for Dwayne Rogers who spoke in opposition of the Marketing Plan.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9

Nays: 0

The motion to approve the 2026 Marketing Plan was approved unanimously.

Finance

Chairman Polito recognized Rhonda Williams, Director of Finance, who gave an update on the 2026 budget, and the finalization of the 2024 audit, and the preparation for the start of the 2025 audit.

Chairman Polito announced that although the Finance Advisory Committee did not meet, the items would be taken up by the Commission due to their importance. He then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited monthly Budget Status Report for the month ending and fiscal year-to-date period ending October 31, 2025.

Motion by Mr. Stages

Second by Mr. Temple

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito continued under Finance to Contracts and Bids reading the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission approve awarding SB 1855 Beaver Creek Golf Course Drainage Culvert Project to the lowest responsive bidder, Command Construction, LLC., for the base bid of \$159,600.00. Authorize the Interim Superintendent to execute appropriate documents.

Motion by Mr. Evans

Second by Mr. McDavid

After discussion, Commissioner Vicknair made a substitute motion to defer the item until the next meeting. Commissioner Temple seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9

Nays: 0

The substitute motion to defer was approved unanimously.

Human Resources

Chairman Polito acknowledged Corey Luttrell, Director of Human Resources.

Mr. Luttrell introduced Amy Underwood, representative of Blue Cross Blue Shield, to present the 2026 Stop Loss Agreement Schedule.

Chairman Polito deferred to Ms. Allen to confirm if he could take up items i, ii, and iii at one time. To which she confirmed that he could.

Chairman Polito read the three following resolutions:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the 2026 Stop Loss Agreement schedule presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield, administered by ExcessRe, with a 12.27% increase in premium, as presented.

Resolved, that the Commission approve employer-paid Basic Life and AD&D insurance policy administered by Lincoln Financial Group, with a 12.85% increase in premiums at no cost to the employee, as presented.

Resolved, that the Commission approve the position of Public Information Officer at pay grade 0009 with a Minimum Pay \$49,369.22, Midpoint of \$64,179.86, and Maximum Pay of \$78,990.70 as presented.

After reading the resolutions, Chairman Polito called for a motion to approve.

Motion by Mr. McDavid
Second by Mr. Vicknair

There being no further discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9
Nays: 0

The motion for the three items was approved unanimously.

Planning and Park Resources

Chairman Polito continued to Planning and Park Resources reading the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission hereby declares approximately six (6) acres of Industriplex Park to be obsolete and no longer needed for public purposes, and authorizes the Superintendent to initiate the process for the sale of this property at its appraised value of approximately \$1,300,000 or more, subject to all required legal review. The Interim Superintendent is further authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this transaction.

Motion by Mr. Stages
Second by Mr. Vicknair

After discussion from the board, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9
Nays: 0
The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports of Special Committees

None

Special Orders

None

Unfinished Business and General Orders

Chairman Polito continued reading the first item under Unfinished Business and General Orders:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the purchase of 139 Cellular Lifelink Central AED packages from Stryker Sales LLC, utilizing Louisiana State Contract 4400030998 for a total of \$458,236.97. This purchase is pending written confirmation from State Procurement and legal review.

Motion by Mr. Evans
Second by Mr. McDavid

Chairman Polito opened the floor to public comment, acknowledging Linton Naquin who asked who would be responsible for training staff on how to use the equipment.

Aneatra Boykin, Chief Administrative Officer, confirmed that staff will be trained in-house.

Commissioner McDavid momentarily stepped away from the meeting.

Commissioner Yates abstained from the vote to avoid a potential conflict.

After discussion from the board, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1

The motion was approved.

Commissioner McDavid rejoined the meeting.

Chairman Polito continued by reading Item B:

Resolved, that the Commission approve entering into a contract with Sasaki Associates, Inc. to develop a unified concept and implementation plan for a Master Plan and study for City-Brooks Park, the design of Wampold Park, and the structuring and development of a long-term governance model focused on the University Lakes system for long-term sustainability at an amount not-to-exceed \$600,000, including reimbursable expenses. Authorize Superintendent to execute appropriate documents upon final legal review.

Motion by Mr. Stages

Second by Mr. Vicknair

Chairman Polito opened the floor for public comment.

Linton Naquin was called to the podium for public comment.

Peter Davis was called to the podium for public comment who spoke in opposition.

Crystal Ellis was called to the podium for public comment who spoke in opposition.

Coleman Brown was called to the podium for public comment who spoke in opposition.

Chairman Polito addressed the public comments before closing the floor for public comments.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito continued to Item C:

Resolved, that the Commission approve selected vendor, NANO, LLC, for RFQ 231, to provide programming and schematic design services for City-Brooks Historic Clubhouse Renovations for an amount not to exceed \$156,000. Authorize Interim Superintendent to execute

appropriate documents upon final legal review.

Motion by Mr. Stages

Second by Mr. McDavid

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito continued to Item D:

Resolved, that the Commission approve selected vendor NANO, LLC, for RFQ 237, to provide the design and construction documents, and CMAR, for a new Contemporary Arts Center at City-Brooks Community Park for an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000, including reimbursable expenses. Authorize Interim Superintendent to execute appropriate documents upon final legal review.

Motion by Mr. Temple

Second by Mr. Stages

Chairman Polito made a substitute motion to add language to the resolution adding that NANO, LLC. will work with Sasaki to ensure they are coordinated in this effort.

Second by Mr. Evans

Chairman Polito explained his substitute motion by stating that currently there is already a location established for the new building, but in the event the masterplan finds a better way, he doesn't want to limit things.

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9

Nay: 0

The substitute motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Chairman Polito continued to New Business reading Item A:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the following Individual Service Agreements with the listed vendors to provide the listed scope of work, as part of the 2026 Marketing Plan, for individual contract totals of the following amounts for 2026, as presented, contingent on the overall budget adoption, allowing for additional spending from contingency funds as needed not to exceed the overall marketing plan budget.

Vendor	Grand Total	Media Type
Feigley Communications	\$430,875.00	Digital
Clear Channel	\$102,531.00	Visual Display
Blue Cassette	\$99,000.00	Video Production
The Advocate	\$94,010.00	Digital + Print + Social Media
225 Magazine	\$90,260.75	Digital + Print + Social Media
WAFB	\$81,730.00	Digital + TV
Lamar	\$77,850.00	Visual Display
Guaranty Media	\$76,900.00	Radio
Nexstar	\$69,325.00	Digital + TV
Cox	\$55,500.00	Digital + TV
Baton Rouge Parents Magazine	\$49,935.00	Digital + Print + Social Media
Gatorworks	\$48,400.00	Digital + SEO

Motion by Mr. Stages
Second by Mr. Evans

Chairman Polito read an emailed public comment from Dwayne Rogers who spoke in opposition to the item.

After discussion from the board, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9
Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item B:

Resolved, that the Commission approve an increase to Contract No. 2024000189 with Cody Edwards for BREC-wide supply and delivery of soil, limestone, river silt, and sand of various types, increasing the total amount from \$48,000 to \$80,000, to provide coverage through December 31, 2025.

Motion by Mr. Evans

Second by Mr. Vicknair

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9
Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read item C:

Resolved, that the Commission approve an increase to Purchase Order No. 20250379 with Waste Pro of LA, Inc. for trash and debris hauling and dumping services from parks and surrounding areas, raising the total amount from \$49,000 to \$80,000. The contract term will remain in effect through December 31, 2025.

Motion by Mr. Vicknair
Second by Mr. Temple

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9
Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item D:

Resolved, that the Commission approve an amendment #2 to Contract No. 2025000113 with Choctaw Construction Services, LLC to increase the contract amount from \$39,000 to an amount not-to-exceed \$78,000 for additional train track repair coverage, including but not limited to railroad tire replacement, rail alignments, gauging, ballast installment, etc.; the contract term remains through December 31, 2025.

Motion by Mr. McDavid
Second by Mr. Stages

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9
Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item E:

Resolved, that the Commission approves awarding the contract for RFP 239 –

“Maintenance, Operation, and Staffing of BREC’s Liberty Lagoon Waterpark and Community Pools” to SELA Aquatics for a 12-month contract period for an amount not to exceed \$1,259,000 with option to renew for two additional 12-month periods.

Motion by Mr. Evans
Second by Mr. Yates

After discussion from the board, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9
Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item F:

Resolved, that the Commission approve Amendment No. 3 to Contract No. 2025000019 with Lofton Security Services, Inc. for additional overnight security guard coverage while awaiting completion of RFP No. 240 – Security Guard Services at BREC’s Baton Rouge Zoo. The additional coverage will need to raise the contract from \$45,000 to an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

Motion by Mr. McDavid
Second by Mr. Temple

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9
Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item G:

Resolved, that the Commission approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 2025000062, with Greyson’s Event and Entertainment, LLC, to provide coverage for two scheduled Christmas events, increasing the contract amount from \$9,000 to an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Motion by Mr. Stages
Second by Dr. Harrison

After discussion from the board, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9
Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item H:

Resolved, that the Commission hereby adopts a policy that BREC’s monetary threshold for Commission approval of consulting service agreements shall automatically align with, and match, the threshold established in La. R.S. 39:1621, as amended or renumbered, and shall update automatically in accordance with any future changes to that statute.

Be it further resolved that BREC staff is authorized and directed to update all procurement manuals, policies, and internal procedures to reflect this alignment and to ensure ongoing compliance with State law.

Motion by Mr. Evans
Second by Mr. Temple

Ms. Boykin explained that this update is an attempt by BREC staff to align with state statute.

Chairman Polito acknowledged Crystal Ellis for public comment.

After discussion from the board, Chairman Polito called for a roll call vote with the following results:

Yea: 8 Mr. Temple, Mr. Polito, Mr. Vicknair, Mr. Evans, Mr. McDavid, Mr. Yates, Dr. Harrison, Mr. Ortego

Nay: 1 Mr. Stages

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

The motion passed.

Chairman Polito read Item I:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the revision to Chapter 10, Disciplinary Actions and Appeals, Section 8, to provide for the review of demotions and/or terminations by the Superintendent as a final decision. Whereas Section 8 previously provided for an appeals process that included review by the employee's peers and volunteers to the Human Resources Complaint Resolution Committee.

Motion by Mr. Evans

Second by Mr. Temple

Chairman Polito opened the floor for public comment.

Crystal Ellis approached the podium to speak in opposition.

Sharon King approached the podium to speak in opposition.

Ms. Boykin provided clarity that the revision to the policy was BREC staff's attempt to align with state law.

Commissioner Evans spoke in support of this effort.

Commissioner Stages asked how many of these appeals processes has BREC undergone in the last 15 years.

Mr. Luttrell approached the podium stating that in the last 10 years there has been 21 appeals.

Commissioner Stages followed up asking how many of those went to the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Luttrell answered that six of the 21 made it. Commissioner Stages asked how many of those were reversed. To which, Mr. Luttrell answered that four had been reversed.

Commissioner McDavid asked if any of the appeals were related to failed drug tests.

Mr. Luttrell answered that none were related to failed drug tests.

After discussion from the board, Chairman Polito called for a roll call vote with the following results:

Yea: 6 Mr. Polito, Mr. Vicknair, Mr. Evans, Mr. McDavid, Mr. Yates, Mr. Ortego

Nay: 3 Mr. Stages, Mr. Temple, Dr. Harrison

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

The motion to passed.

Ad Valorem Property Tax Election Announcement

Chairman Polito made the following announcement of the ad valorem property tax election:

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., at its regular meeting place, the Board Room located at 6201 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806, the Board of Commissioners of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge ("BREC") plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of its 3.96 mills ad valorem tax (the "Tax") for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2027 and ending with the year 2036, to provide funds for maintaining and operating the public parks and recreation properties and facilities of BREC and making available funds for the operating budget of BREC. On October 23, 2025, the Board of Commissioners gave notice of its intention to call an election to renew the Tax on May 30, 2026. Pursuant to Act No. 1 of the 2025 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the May 30, 2026, election date has been moved to June 27, 2026. Accordingly, it is necessary that the Board of Commissioners give notice of its intention to call an election to renew the Tax on the June 27, 2026, election date, in accordance with La. R.S. 42:19.1.

Introduction of 2026 Budget

Chairman Polito then introduced the 2026 Budget for the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge; set the date for public hearing and final adoption of said 2026 Budget at the regular meeting of the BREC Commission at 5:00 p.m. on December 17, 2025, at the BREC Administration Building, 6201 Florida Boulevard, Room 1800, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Motion by Mr. Vicknair

Second by Mr. Yates

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito continued to the added agenda item as follows:

Add a workshop in early December prior to the next regular meeting to discuss the contracts of the Interim Superintendent, Interim Chief Operating Officer and Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, the search for permanent superintendent, the 2026 budget, and the focus of Interim Superintendent's team for the period of any extension.

Motion by Mr. Yates

Second by Mr. Temple

The Commission checked their calendars and settled on Thursday, December 4th at 3:15 p.m.

A substitute motion was offered by Mr. Temple, a second by Mr. Evans as follows:

Add a workshop in early December prior to the next regular meeting at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2025 to discuss the contracts of the Interim Superintendent, Interim Chief Operating Officer and Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, the search for permanent superintendent, the 2026 budget, and the focus of Interim Superintendent's team for the period

of any extension.

There being no discussion, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following results:

Yea: 9

Nays: 0

The substitute motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Chairman Polito called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Evans made a motion, Commissioner Vicknair seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. without objection.

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

Mike Polito, Chairman

DRAFT