

**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
December 17, 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 December 17, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Mike Polito. Commissioner Collis Temple III offered the invocation and Commissioner David McDavid led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken and a quorum of Commissioners was present, including Mike Polito, Chair; Carl Stages, Treasurer; Collis Temple III, Lon Vicknair, David McDavid, Dr. Murelle Harrison, and Marshall Ortego. Commissioners Wade Evans and Dustin Yates were absent. 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, and Brendan Nestor. 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.

Public Comment

Chairman Polito 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.

Chairman Polito took the opportunity to speak to the Commission to clarify that when he asks for a motion, he would appreciate that it is made clear what the motion is.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Regular Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of November 19, 2025, be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion by Mr. Temple, III

Second by Dr. Harrison

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

Yea: 7

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Calendar

Under the Consent Calendar, Chairman Polito read the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the Routine Personnel Transactions from November 5, 2025 through December 3, 2025.

Motion by Mr. Stages

Second by Mr. Temple, III

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

Yea: 7

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Presentations

Interim Superintendent Janet Simmons took the opportunity to recognize former Commissioners Donna Collins Lewis, Clarice "Cricket" Gordon, and Dwayne Rogers, who were unable to attend, for their years of service. She also recognized former Commissioner Kenneth Pointer who was present to receive his award. Interim Superintendent Simmons spoke to his unwavering service and guidance highlighting his decade long tenure on the BREC Commission.

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

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

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

Interim Superintendent Simmons introduced Dr. Evante Topp as the newly appointed Executive Director of the BREC Foundation.

Interim Superintendent Simmons presented the November 2025 attendance report and provided updates on ongoing IYP3 projects. She concluded her report by referencing the progress of the Rapid Response initiative, showcasing the 2025 LRPA accolades, and highlighting BREC volunteer hours.

Commissioner Vicknair stated that the Mayfair Park community had requested an air-conditioned gym for many years and expressed appreciation to the BREC team for recently making this improvement possible.

Chairman Polito praised the Rapid Response system, noting that he submitted a request as a test and was pleased to confirm that a rapid response was received.

Chairman Polito also acknowledged former Commissioner Kenneth Pointer, stating that he enjoyed working with him and hopes to collaborate with him in other capacities in the future.

Chairman Polito continued reading the following resolution under Administrative Matters:
Resolved, That the Commission approve the 2026 Commission Meeting dates, as presented.

Motion by Mr. Vicknair

Second by Mr. Temple, III

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito asked for a motion to approve the following:

Approve Hancock Whitney Bank resolution and authorize signatures of officers.

Motion by Mr. Temple, III

Second by Mr. McDavid

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance

Chairman Polito deferred to Commissioner Stages, Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee, who recognized Director of Finance Rhonda Williams who 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 November 20, 2025.

Ms. Williams noted that the 2025 audit will be completed in January as promised.

Motion to approve by Mr. Vicknair

Second by Mr. Stages

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Selection of Professionals

Chairman Polito read the following resolution under Selection of Professionals with modifications recommended by the committee:

Resolved, That the Commission approve Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. Contract 2022000214 with The Broussard Group, Inc. dba TBG Partners, the prime design professional for the Airline Community Park Design and Construction project, for \$138,762.00 to include additional services associated with project stop and restart and additional master plan refinement as requested by BREC. The current Contract is \$1,061,592.00, and the new total with Amendment No. 2 is \$1,200,354.00. Authorize Superintendent to execute appropriate documents upon final legal review.

Chairman Polito recognized Angela Harms, Director of Project Development, who corrected the amounts in the resolution. The amendment amount would be \$100,537.00 and the new total would be \$1,162,129.00.

Chairman Polito read the following corrected resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. Contract 2022000214 with The Broussard Group, Inc. dba TBG Partners, the prime design professional for the Airline Community Park Design and Construction project, for \$100,537.00 to include additional services associated with project stop and restart and additional master plan refinement as requested by BREC. The current Contract is \$1,061,592.00, and the new total with Amendment No. 2 is \$1,162,129.00. Authorize Superintendent to execute appropriate documents upon final legal review.

Motion by Mr. Temple, III to approve as read.

Second by Mr. Vicknair

Chairman Polito offered an explanation as to why the resolution was modified by the committee.

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item b under Selection of Professionals:

Resolved, That the Commission approve an ordinance which authorizes the sale of 8.86± acres of land described as Tract 4-B-1-A-2 of Kleinpeter, A., J. Tract fronting Industriplex Blvd in Baton Rouge, not needed for public recreation purposes, for the minimum appraised value of approximately \$1,300,000.

Motion by Mr. Ortego

Second by Mr. Stages

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item c under Selection of Professionals:

Resolved, that the Commission hereby approves Change Order No. 1 to Purchase Order No. 20250629, increasing the total amount from \$190,000 to an amount not to exceed \$270,000, for legal consulting services to cover services through February 28, 2026.

Motion by Mr. Temple, III

Second by Dr. Harrison

Chairman Polito asked Aneatra Boykin to provide clarity on this change order. Ms. Boykin explained.

Commissioner Stages asked if in the proposed budget for 2026, there were enough funds allocated for legal services. To which Ms. Boykin confirmed that there was.

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports of Special Committees

None

Special Orders

None

Unfinished Business and General Orders

Before reading Items A, B, and C under Unfinished Business and General Orders, Chairman Polito announced that a workshop was held to discuss the extension of the contracts for the three executive staff serving in interim roles. He explained that the recommended nine-month extension was based on the following concept: three months to conduct a search for a new Superintendent, three months for a “hard transition” with the new Superintendent, and three months to allow operations to become fully stabilized.

Chairman Polito read the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission hereby approves the extension of the Interim Superintendent's contract, with Junbi, LLC., represented by Janet Simmons, for a period not to exceed September 30, 2026. Whereas, BREC has benefitted from the leadership, continuity, and stability provided by the Interim Superintendent; and Whereas, the Commission intends to select

a new Superintendent by June 30, 2026; and Whereas, the Commission desires to provide, should the new Superintendent so choose, a transition period to ensure continuity of operations and continued enhancements to BREC's organizational structure; and Whereas, the Commission finds it necessary to extend the Interim Superintendent's contract in order to facilitate this transition and maintain organizational stability.

Motion by Mr. Temple, III

Second by Mr. McDavid

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

Yea: 7

Nays: 0

The motion to approve was approved.

Chairman Polito then read Item B:

Resolved, that the Commission hereby approves the extension of the Interim Chief Operating Officer's contract with Real World, LLC, represented by Maurice Valesquez, for a period not to exceed September 30, 2026. Whereas, BREC has benefitted from the leadership, continuity, and stability provided by the Interim COO; and Whereas, the Commission intends to select a new Superintendent by June 30, 2026; and Whereas, the Commission desires to provide, should the new Superintendent so choose, a transition period to ensure continuity of operations and continued enhancements to BREC's organizational structure; and Whereas, the Commission finds it necessary to extend the Interim COO's contract in order to facilitate this transition and maintain organizational stability.

Motion by Mr. Ortego

Second by Mr. Vicknair

Chairman Polito recognized Commissioner Stages who asked Mr. Valesquez to address how the incoming Superintendent would be able to continue the operations and initiatives he has implemented.

Mr. Valesquez approached the podium and explained that he would continue focusing his efforts on developing executive-level leadership to integrate "lean principles" within BREC's organizational structure. He added that sustaining those principles requires first-tier leadership to be supported in committing to and adopting the necessary habits, ensuring continuity after his departure.

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

Yea: 7

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito continued to Item C:

Resolved, that the Commission hereby approves the extension of the Interim Chief Human Resources Officer's contract with Landreneau and Associates, represented by Johanna Landreneau. Whereas, the Commission intends to select a new Superintendent by June 30, 2026; and Whereas, BREC has benefitted from the leadership, continuity, and stability provided by the Interim CHRO; and Whereas, the Commission intends to select a new Superintendent by June 30, 2026; and Whereas, the Commission desires to provide, should the new Superintendent so choose, a transition period to ensure continuity of operations and continued enhancements to BREC's organizational structure; and Whereas, the Commission finds it necessary to extend the

Interim CHRO's contract in order to facilitate this transition and maintain organizational stability.

Motion by Mr. Vicknair
Second by Mr. McDavid

Chairman Polito recognized Commissioner Stages who asked Ms. Landreneau to explain how the work currently underway would continue after her departure from BREC.

Ms. Landreneau explained that upon her arrival, it was evident that BREC was in need of a "culture shift." She stated that the organization needed to move toward stronger compliance practices and expressed her commitment to working with the incoming Superintendent on restructuring BREC and ensuring continuity. She also acknowledged the Human Resources team and recognized Mr. Corey Luttrell for his leadership.

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

Yea: 7
Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito continued to Item D:

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. McDavid
Second by Mr. Temple, III

Commissioner Vicknair asked for an explanation of the findings and recommendations related to the Beaver Creek Course project.

Ms. Harms approached the podium and deferred to representatives from Sustainable Design Solutions to present the technical aspects of the project.

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

Yea: 7

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito continued to Item E:

Public Hearing to adopt the 2026 Budget. Resolved, That the Commission adopt the 2026 Budget for the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Motion by Mr. Stages
Second by Mr. Temple, III

Chairman Polito opened the public hearing floor for public comments.

Chairman Polito recognized Ms. Williams to offer additional comments on the 2026 budget.

Ms. Williams stated that the budget was reduced due to the millage decrease from 14.63 to 13.74, noting that this reduction equates to approximately \$4.6 million. She added that total

projected revenue is \$110 million.

Chairman Polito asked what expenditures are projected for this year. Ms. Williams responded that BREC is projected to spend approximately \$112 million.

Chairman Polito closed the public comments.

Commissioner Stages stated that the budget should be viewed as a living document and noted that changes would be made throughout the year. He explained that in prior years, the budget was adopted without subsequent revisions; however, this year, the budget will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to allow for improvements with input from BREC staff.

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Chairman Polito continued to New Business reading item A.:

Resolved, That the Commission reduce the excess budget authority of the appropriation made under the Capital Improvement Fund for Grant Revenue by \$7.8 Million. This action is necessary as the collections for this specific revenue stream are projected to be insufficient, and the reduction complies with the requirements of the Louisiana Government Budget Act.

Motion by Mr. Stages

Second by Dr. Harrison

Chairman Polito asked about the shortfall with DOTD.

Ms. Williams explained as required by the Local Government Budget Act if there is a 5% or more difference in revenues (or expenditures) the budget must be reduced by that amount and approved by the Commission. The difference in revenue is related to a trail grant from the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD). Ms. Williams has contacted DOTD multiple times and was informed that BREC has not received reimbursement since June 2025 due to the federal shutdown. She added that she is awaiting an update from DOTD and will inform the Commission once additional information is received.

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item B.:

Resolved, that the Commission select MGT Impact Solutions, LLC., as the consulting firm to conduct the executive search and assist with the recruitment and evaluation of candidates for the Superintendent position. Authorize the Interim Superintendent to execute contract.

Motion by Mr. Temple, III

Second by Mr. Ortego

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

Yea: 7

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item C.:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the proposed Obsolete Land List presented by BREC staff.

Motion by Mr. McDavid

Second by Mr. Ortego

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

Yea: 7

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item D.:

Notice is hereby given that the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge intends to consider and adopt amendments proposed by BREC staff to its bylaws at its regularly scheduled commission meeting on January 22, 2026.

Motion by Mr. Temple, III

Second by Dr. Harrison

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

Yea: 7

Nays: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item E:

Hold a public hearing to order and call a special election to be held by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge ("BREC"), to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Ms. Boykin read the Authorization to Call Special Election:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge ("BREC"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 32 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Parish on **SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit.

Chairman Polito opened the Public Hearing for public comment.

There being no comment from the public, Chairman Polito closed the Public Hearing.

After no discussion from the board, Chairman Polito called for the vote with the following

results:

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion to proceed with the election was approved unanimously.

Chairman Polito read Item F.:

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (“BREC”) anticipates calling an Executive Session pursuant to: LSA-R.S. 42:17(A)(2), for the purpose of discussing strategy regarding litigation.

Chairman Polito asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Motion by Mr. Vicknair

Second by Mr. McDavid

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion to go into executive session was approved.

The Commission retired to executive session at approximately 6:05 p.m.

The Commission returned from executive session and Mr. Temple made a motion to close executive session, seconded by Mr. Vicknair, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Temple made a motion to reopen the public meeting, seconded by Mr. Vicknair, and unanimously approved. The public meeting was reconvened at approximately 6:09 p.m.

After the Commission returned from executive session, Chairman Polito read Item G.:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a settlement of litigation in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 on the recommendation of legal counsel.

Motion by Dr. Harrison

Second by Mr. Ortego

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

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

Before adjournment, Chairman Polito wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked the BREC staff for all that they are doing.

Adjournment

Chairman Polito called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Vicknair made a motion, Commissioner Temple, III seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:11 p.m. without objection.

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

Mike Polito, Chairman