

**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
May 27, 2021

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 27, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m. by Chair Kenneth Pointer. Vice Chair Sandra Davis offered the invocation. Commissioner Trina Hall led the pledge of allegiance. Roll was taken, and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Kenneth Pointer, Chair; Sandra Davis, Vice Chair; Connie Bernard; Trina Hall; Jason Hughes; Donna Collins Lewis; and Collis Temple, Jr., Commissioners William Scheffy and Rossie Washington, Jr. were 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; Phil Frost; Angela Harms; RaHarold Lawson; Cheryl Michelet; Mike Raby; Lester Rainey; Stephanie Trim; and Chris Marchiafava. Murphy Foster, legal counsel, was also in attendance. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff and the public.

Public Comment

Mr. 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, Mr. Pointer closed the floor.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of April 29, 2021 be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion to approve by Ms. Bernard

Second by Mr. Temple

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 Ms. Davis

Second by Ms. Bernard

Unanimously approved

The following item was 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 15, 2021 to May 12, 2021.

Acceptance of Recommendations for the Finance Advisory Committee

Resolved, That the Commission approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$2,270 on Contract No. 2021000113 with TDC Environmental Services, LLC for environmental abatement,

cleaning, and sanitizing at Cohn Arboretum House for additional required removal and disposal of sheetrock ceilings in a negative pressure enclosure. The original contract amount is \$7,200 plus the change order in the amount of \$2,270 for the new contract amount of \$9,470.

Presentations

The Commission viewed a brief video spotlighting BREC employees encouraging viewers to consider coming to work at BREC and highlighting BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo Twilight Tours, Dreamnight at the Zoo, and Guest Appreciation Days and other upcoming events in June.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Mr. Pointer recognized Mr. Wilson for the Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Wilson stated that there were no administrative matters. Under communications, Mr. Wilson gave an update on the status of Louisiana Senate Bill 205. He stated that a compromise had been reached and that Senator White had voluntarily deferred the bill. The Superintendent stated that Commissioner Temple was instrumental in coordinating the discussion. BREC agreed to develop advisory councils throughout the parish to get input and feedback from the community. Mr. Wilson stated that BREC had tremendous support throughout the parish in response to Senate Bill 205 which shows the appreciation for the work done by BREC employees. Mr. Wilson announced that he had been invited to appear on the Jim Engster Show the following morning (Friday, May 28).

The Superintendent reported that BREC had no additional COVID-19 cases for the second month in a row. He stated that BREC had adopted the recommendations from the Mayor Broome, the governor's office, and the Centers for Disease Control to no longer require masks for vaccinated employees. He stated that employees who have not been vaccinated are encouraged to continue to wear masks and take other precautions as necessary to stay safe. These guidelines also apply to visitors.

Superintendent Wilson announced that BREC was not selected as a Gold Medal finalist for 2021 ending a six-year streak. He also noted that he had been selected to be a member of the board for City Parks Alliance.

Mr. Wilson stated that last year BREC had received a grant of \$3,000,000, which set a record as the largest grant in its history, to build a trail from north Baton Rouge to Memorial Stadium and then to Spanish Town Park. He said that the record was broken by the recent award to BREC of a \$4,690,000 grant as part of the watershed initiative for the project at Greenwood Park. The project includes widening the lake and naturalizing some of the bayous. The Superintendent recognized Reed Richard and his team for leading the effort and working with a consultant to complete the grant application. He noted that City-Parish was awarded two grants that will also be beneficial to BREC. City-Parish will purchase land that BREC will be able to use for park and recreation purposes.

Mr. Temple commended the recreation and parks family for the support that was extended to BREC at the legislature. He also commended Superintendent Wilson for the time spent engaging with officials across the parish. Mr. Temple stated that we should have an appreciation for (Senator) Bodi White's passion for doing things in the community that he represents especially related to kids, baseball, and softball. He noted that this can be used as an opportunity to move forward and work together to make BREC even better for the families of East Baton Rouge.

Chairman Pointer recognized Lester Rainey, Finance Director, to give the Finance Advisory Committee report. Mr. Rainey provided an overview of the financial statements. Mr. Rainey then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited financial statements for the four months ending April 30, 2021 (fiscal year-to-date period January 1 – April 30, 2021), as presented.

Motion to approve by Mr. Temple

Second by Ms. Lewis

Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Pointer recognized Reed Richard to give the Planning and Park Resources Advisory Committee report. Mr. Richard provided background information for the first item regarding the cooperative endeavor agreement with AMG Mansions Development LLC and then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with AMG Mansions Development LLC (“Mansions”) providing for (i) the sale of 0.254± acre of Perkins Road Park property for \$100,000 to Mansions subject to the reservation of a recreational servitude and right of use in favor of BREC for public recreational purposes, and (ii) a recreational servitude along Dawson Creek granted to BREC within the existing Dawson Creek drainage servitude for the construction of a multi-use pathway for public use contingent upon final legal review. Authorize superintendent to execute necessary documents.

Motion to approve by Ms. Bernard

Second by Mr. Hughes

Unanimously approved

Mr. Richard then reviewed the information for the next item regarding the donation of about 5.5 acres of property for the trail along Dawson Creek which can also provide a conservation area with other recreational opportunities such as birding and hiking. He then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the donation of approximately 5.5 acres of land located in Sections 52 & 53, T-7-S, R-1-E, Greensburg Land District, East Baton Rouge Parish, described as Tract "B-P" of Cedar Lake - First Filing containing 1.1± acres, Tract "Existing Borrow Pit" of Cedar Lake - Second Filing containing 2.5± acres, and Tract "B-P" of Cedar Lake - Third Filing containing 1.9± acres. Authorize superintendent to execute necessary documents.

Motion to approve by Mr. Temple

Second by Mr. Hughes

Unanimously approved

Mr. Richard gave the planning, design, and construction update. He discussed recently completed projects, gave an update of the Greenwood Park and Baton Rouge Zoo project, and provided information and answered questions about DBE (disadvantaged business enterprise) participation. There was discussion about increased costs for the second phase of construction for Greenwood and the Zoo. The significant increase in construction materials in recent months will impact the project. Staff, consultants, and the contractor are working together to deliver the main amenities that were promised. There was additional discussion regarding how the project may be impacted by the increased cost. Mr. Richard completed the presentation providing information about the ongoing and upcoming construction projects throughout the system. He discussed the trails projects and the work of the natural resource management staff which included conducting biodiversity assessments and installing plantings at Howell, Forest Park, and Bluebonnet Swamp.

Mr. Richard recognized RaHarold Lawson, Park Operations Director, to provide the Park Operations update and answer related questions. Mr. Lawson highlighted work on the Greenwell Springs Rodeo Arena completed by the trades team. He provided information about projects at numerous parks by the forestry team, the horticulture team, the sports turf team, and additional

projects by the trades team. Mr. Lawson also provided information about the impact of the recent flooding on the parks. He noted that despite the recent heavy rain the sports turf team completed the preparation of the fields at Memorial and Olympia Stadiums.

Special Orders

Chairman Pointer then took up the appointments to standing committees as follows:

Sandra Davis

Cody Jackson / Finance

Trina Hall

Karen Carey / Communications & I.T.

John Hough / Finance

Rip Wilkinson / Golf

Bettsie Miller / Human Resources

Fred Sibley / Planning & Park Resources

Eugene Daniel / Recreation & Special Facilities

Chad Bradford/ Zoo

Kenneth Pointer

Bruce Walker / Finance

Audrey Nabors-Jackson / Human Resources

Kenrick Nixon / Planning & Park Resources

Anthony Lewis / Recreation & Special Facilities

Frederick Boutte / Zoo

Collis Temple Jr.

Cliff Lewis / Communications & I.T.

Mark Greggs / Finance

Grady Hickman / Golf

Ronald Sutton / Human Resources

Eric Brady / Planning & Park Resources

Wendell Braxton / Recreation & Special Facilities

Arthur Dubriel / Zoo

Motion to approve by Ms. Davis

Second by Ms. Hall

Unanimously approved

Chairman Pointer then announced his Appointments of Board Members and Liaisons as follows:

Friends of Magnolia Mound Plantation Board of Directors– Donna Collins Lewis (Liaison)

BREC's Baton Rouge Gallery, Inc. – Kenneth Pointer (Board Member)

BREC Foundation – Rossie Washington, Jr. (Liaison)

Knock Knock Children's Museum – Sandra Davis (Board Member)

Baton Rouge Basketball and Volleyball Association – Jason Hughes (Board Member)

Baton Rouge Garden Center, Inc. Board – Brandon Smith (Board Member)

Adjournment

Ms. Bernard made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Davis seconded, and Mr. Pointer adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:13 p.m.

Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent
and Ex-Officio Secretary

Kenneth Pointer, Chairman