

**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 25, 2017

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 25, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Lloyd H. Benson II, Chairman. Mr. Benson recognized Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade, Executive Director of the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, who offered the invocation. Commissioner Davis Rhorer led the pledge of allegiance. Roll was taken and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Shelton C. Dixon, Vice Chairman; Larry Selders, Treasurer; Sandra Davis; Kenneth Pointer; Davis Rhorer; David Tatman; Mike Walker, and Rossie Washington, Jr. Staff members present were Carolyn McKnight, Superintendent; Dale Auzenne, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Programs and Facilities; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent Planning and Construction; Corey Wilson, Chief of Management and Business Services; Chad Brewer; Phil Frost; Michael Hutchison; Steven Knight; Mike Raby; Brandon Smith; Justin Smith; Stephanie Trim; and Chris Marchiafava. Murphy Foster, legal counsel, was also in attendance. The audience consisted of BREC staff, media, and the general public.

Public Comment

Mr. Benson opened the floor for public comment on the agenda items and asked if there was anyone who would like to speak on any agenda item. Mr. Benson recognized Ms. Mary Manhein and Ms. Becky Bond who each spoke in opposition to moving the Zoo and reimagining Greenwood Park. Mr. Benson asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak. Hearing none, Mr. Benson closed the floor.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of April 27, 2017 be dispensed with and that they be approved as written.

Motion by Mr. Tatman

Second by Mr. Washington

Approved by unanimous consent

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 Mr. Dixon

Second by Mr. Washington

Approved by unanimous consent

The following items were 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 for the month of May 2017.

Presentations

Mr. Benson recognized Ms. McKnight who presented a Spot Award to Lorenzo Neff, a park ranger, who was responsible for summoning aid that saved the life of a citizen who Mr. Neff discovered was unconscious in a vehicle parked at Lanier Park on a recent evening after the park was closed. Ms. McKnight also presented a Spot Award to Kathy Stites who recently received the Bike Friendly Professional Award from Bike Baton Rouge. Ms. Stites is a landscape architect in the Planning and Engineering Department and is in charge of trail planning and working to secure grants to help fund the trails.

Ms. McKnight introduced Dale Auzenne who recognized top participants in the Creating a Better Me - Adult Fitness Challenge program funded by a grant from the National Recreation and Park Association and Humana Foundation. The 116 participants could choose to participate in any or all of the three following activities to achieve their goals: BREC on the Geaux Adult Fitness, Walking Bingo, or Fitness Walking Challenge. Mr. Auzenne also recognized and thanked the staff responsible for the program.

The Commission viewed an informational video highlighting Bluebonnet Swamp's 20th birthday celebration, the F.A.E. (Fairies and Earth) Fest, and the upcoming events in June.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Mr. Benson recognized Ms. McKnight for the Superintendent's Report. Ms. McKnight asked Reed Richard to review the item regarding the Capital Area Pathways Project (CAPP). Mr. Richard provided information about the two trail segments that would be funded. Mr. Rhorer asked about the Spanish Town Road to Harding segment. Mr. Richard stated that he should have more information about that segment in the next couple of months. He then sought approval for the submission of applications for grant funds from the FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana (FRTPL) for two segments of the CAPP trail – Baton Rouge General to Essen and Perkins to Paulat; and approve the following resolution to be submitted with each of the applications:

Resolved, That the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge does hereby:

1. Approve the filing of an application with FRTPL; and
2. Certify that the said applicant has or will have available prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, sufficient funds to build (including 20% local match), operate and maintain the project; and
3. Appoint the Superintendent as agent of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to application, letter of commitment agreement, amendments, payment requests and completion report, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Motion to approve by Mr. Selders

Second by Mr. Tatman

Unanimously approved

Ms. McKnight told the Commission that the presentation they were about to see would inform them on the possibilities for the Greenwood Regional Park concept as well as update them on the Zoo feasibility study. Ms. McKnight recognized Phil Frost, Zoo Director, who started

his presentation by refuting some recent comments made by members of the public who are in opposition to moving the Zoo. He then reviewed the findings of the feasibility study and case studies of three other zoos that also had to make decisions regarding whether or not to move their zoos. Mr. Frost recognized Mr. Richard who reviewed the ideas for reimagining Greenwood Park. Ms. McKnight noted that the Commission had been given a fact sheet with information about the Zoo on one side and Greenwood Park on the other. Ms. McKnight told the Commission about a survey posted on the BREC website to gather information from the public about what they would like to see at Greenwood Park. Ms. McKnight stated that staff will bring their proposed recommendation regarding the Zoo and Greenwood to the Commission in the next few weeks.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Tatman who asked about the fund raising for the Greenwood Park changes. Ms. McKnight stated that the water park may be something that could be funded with a public/private partnership and possibly the zip line could also be funded that way. Mr. Tatman asked about the cost of the Greenwood reimagining and the Superintendent said it would cost about 38 to 40 million dollars. The project would probably be done in three or four phases. Mr. Benson asked if any of the suggested zoo sites are at the same elevation as the current zoo. The Superintendent stated that some of the sites were at the same elevation. Mr. Benson asked about the cost to use some of the amenities in the reimagined Greenwood. Ms. McKnight explained that the water park would have an associated charge and other amenities may be included in that admission. Mr. Rhorer asked if consideration could be given to possibly integrating residential housing into the plan.

Ms. McKnight told the Commission that BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo's response to the flood was highlighted in the current issue the Association of Zoos and Aquariums magazine.

Ms. McKnight recognized Mr. Richard who gave the construction update.

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Selders for the Finance Advisory Committee report. Mr. Selders asked Michael Hutchison, Finance Director, to review the items. Mr. Hutchison read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the unaudited financial statements for the three months ending April 30, 2017 (fiscal year-to-date period January 1 – April 30, 2017), as presented.

Motion to approve by Mr. Selders

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Unanimously approved

Mr. Hutchison stated that there was one contract that required approval and then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve Change Order Eight in the construction contract with M.D. Descant LLC (Contractor) for Knock Knock Children's Museum in the amount of \$54,387. Knock Knock's cost share for this change order is \$10,562.50. Change Orders One through Seven totaled \$97,040.36 (1.52% increase of the original contract amount). The current contract cost is \$6,516,040.36 and the new contract cost with Change Order Eight will be \$6,570,427.36 (0.83% increase).

Motion to approve by Mr. Dixon

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Unanimously approved

Mr. Benson recognized Ms. Davis for the Human Resources Advisory Committee report.

Ms. Davis asked Stephanie Trim, Human Resources Director, to review the items for approval.
Ms. Trim read the following resolution and briefly explained the policy.

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Parental Leave Policy.
Motion to approve by Mr. Walker
Second by Mr. Pointer
Unanimously approved

Ms. Trim read the following resolution and briefly explained the policy.
Resolved, That the Commission approve the Equipment Vehicle Responsibility Policy.
Motion by Mr. Pointer
Second by Mr. Selders
Unanimously approved

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Pointer for the Selection of Professionals Committee report.
Mr. Pointer recognized Mr. Richard to review the recommendations. Mr. Richard explained the reason for the fee change for the Knock Knock construction project and read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve amending existing contract with Cambridge Seven Associates, Inc. and Remson Haley Herpin Architects, APAC Team, Architectural Associates in the Knock Knock Children's Museum project to change the fee from lump sum of \$391,000 to approximately \$478,000 and basing the fee on the BREC fee curve and construction costs including change orders. Additional services performed by the architect include but are not limited to adding monument sign, exhibit lighting fixtures, sidewalks, aesthetic exterior changes, and exhibit floor and wall base finishes as requested. Construction has extended past the original completion date requiring continued attendance at weekly meetings, additional time to draw, investigate, process and finalize change requests, and process more pay applications from the contractor. Based on the curve, the fee would be approximately 7.3% of the current \$6,516,040.36 construction cost.

Motion by Mr. Washington
Second by Ms. Davis
Unanimously approved

Mr. Richard explained that the original project was not ready to proceed and that the Hart House project needed to move forward. He then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve changing GD Architecture LLC consultant project work task from Farr Park Rec Center Renovations to Magnolia Mound Hart House Renovations. Fee will be determined by the BREC Fee Curve.

Motion to approve by Mr. Dixon
Second by Mr. Rhorer
Unanimously approved

New Business

The Chairman stated that the next item was to introduce the proposed ordinance levying the ad valorem tax millages for the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge ("Commission") for the 2017 parish-wide assessment roll and set the public hearing and adoption for June 22, 2017, during the regular meeting of the Commission, in the Board Room of the Commission (Room 1800) at BREC Administration Offices in Womack Park, 6201 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mr. Pointer made a motion to introduce the ordinance and set the public hearing and adoption for June 22, 2017, during the regular meeting of the Commission, in the Board Room of the Commission (Room 1800) at BREC Administration Offices in Womack Park, 6201 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhorer and unanimously approved.

The proposed ordinance provides as follows:

ORDINANCE
Ad Valorem Tax Levy

BE IT ORDAINED by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (the "Commission"), in legal session convened, as follows:

There are hereby levied in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, the following described ad valorem tax millages on the 2017 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge:

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted October 28, 1947, under the authority of Article 14, Section 3(b) of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution; ratified by Article 6, Section 31; for operations and maintenance; and **0.63** mills

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted June 22, 1954, under the authority of Article 14, Section 3(b) of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution; ratified by Article 6, Section 31; for operations and maintenance; and **0.42** mills

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted November 2, 2004, under the authority of Section 4570.4 B of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; to purchase, acquire, construct, develop, improve, operate and maintain public parks, playgrounds and recreational properties and facilities; and **3.253** mills

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, for operations and maintenance and capital improvements; and **4.10** Mills

a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, to provide funds for maintaining and operating its public parks, recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and **2.10** mills

a tax authorized by the electorate in an election conducted November 8, 2016, to provide funds for maintaining and operating the public parks, recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and **3.96** mills

the foregoing making a total tax of fourteen and four hundred sixty three one-thousandths **(14.463)** mills on the dollar of assessed valuation to meet the established liabilities and expenses

of the Commission used in acquiring, developing, maintaining and operating the public parks and recreational properties and facilities of the Commission and in making available funds for the operating budget, all as provided for in the respective propositions approved by the voters in the special tax elections above referred to.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2017, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The above and foregoing ordinance was submitted to a roll call vote for adoption, and the ordinance was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

The foregoing ordinance was signed and approved by the Chairman, attested by the Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary and declared to be adopted on this the 22nd day of June, 2017.

Attest:

Lloyd H. Benson II, Chairman

Carolyn McKnight
Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary

Adjournment

Mr. Washington made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Davis seconded, and Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:45 p.m.

Carolyn McKnight, Superintendent
and Ex-Officio Secretary

Lloyd H. Benson II, Chairman