

**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 21, 2024**

**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 21, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Vice Chair Donna Collins Lewis who then 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, Vice Chair; Clarice Gordon; Trina Hall; Jason Hughes; and Rossie Washington, Jr. Commissioners Kenneth Pointer, Dwayne Rogers, Nathan Rust, and Collis Temple, Jr. were absent. Staff members present were Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent of System Planning; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Administrative Officer; Chad Brewer; Jim Fleshman; Angela Harms; RaHarold Lawson; Mike Raby; Ryan Reed; and Chris Marchiafava. Jim Raines, legal counsel, was also in attendance. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff and the public.

**Public Comment**

The Vice Chair 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.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of October 24, 2024 be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion by Mr. Washington

Second by Mr. Hughes

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 by Mr. Washington

Second by Ms. Gordon

Unanimously approved

The following item was approved as part of the Consent Calendar:

Acceptance of Recommendations from the Human Resources Advisory Committee

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Routine Personnel Transactions from October 9, 2024 to November 4, 2024, as presented.

**Presentations**

Vice Chair Lewis recognized the Superintendent for the Spot Awards. Superintendent Wilson asked to have them taken up during the Superintendent's Communications agenda item.

The Commission then viewed a brief video highlighting various upcoming events throughout the parish during the month of December.

## **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

The Vice Chair recognized Superintendent Wilson who noted that there was one administrative item for consideration. The Superintendent stated that last month the Commission had given their approval for the 2024 presidential election day to be a staff holiday. At that time, Mr. Rust recommended that BREC update the policy and establish presidential election day as a recurring staff holiday every four years. This item will make that change. The Superintendent then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve a revision to BREC Rules and Regulations, Chapter 9 - Hours of Work: Annual, Sick and Other Forms of Leave, Section 26 - Holidays to add the Presidential Election as a holiday every four years beginning in 2028.

Motion by Mr. Washington

Second by Ms. Gordon

Approved by unanimous consent

Under Communications, Superintendent Wilson reviewed the October 2024 activity report. He stated that BREC recognized staff members who are veterans on Veteran's Day. He told the Commission about speaking to Leadership Baton Rouge and CPEX (Center for Planning Excellence). The Superintendent stated that he also met with a group of legislators and pastors. He noted that BREC's community engagement efforts were featured in the Trust for Public Land magazine. Superintendent Wilson spoke to the Baker City Council and that BREC recently hosted a meeting for public input at the Chaneyville Community Center. He told the Commission about the session that he and Volunteer Manager Dodi Falcon presented at the Louisiana Recreation and Park Association conference. The Superintendent spoke about the successful tax elections and thanked the employees and Commissioners for their support. He then presented Spot Awards given for Exceptional Job Performance for Tax Renewal to Andrea Roberts (not in attendance), Stacy Simms, Jim Fleshman, Mike Raby, Don Johnson, RaHarold Lawson, Aneatra Boykin, Reed Richard and Brett Wallace. Additionally, the Superintendent presented Mr. Richard and Mr. Wallace each a Spot Award for Exceptional Job Performance for the 10-Year Master Plan. Superintendent Wilson then reviewed the projects completed under the IYP2 Strategic Plan.

Vice Chair Lewis recognized Ms. Gordon for the Communications and Information Systems Advisory Committee report. Ms. Gordon asked Assistant Director of Communications Chad Brewer to review the item for approval. Mr. Brewer gave a brief presentation to explain the process used to develop the marketing plan. Mr. Hughes asked if a new Director of Communication had been hired to fill that opening. The Superintendent stated that he was waiting until the ten-year master plan was completed to see if the role needed to be restructured. He then explained how the budget for the marketing plan is determined.

Mr. Brewer then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve the 2025 Marketing Plan, as presented; contingent on the overall budget adoption.

Motion by Mr. Washington

Second by Ms. Gordon

Unanimously approved

Vice Chair Lewis noted that Treasurer Rogers was not present and recognized Chief Financial Officer Don Johnson for the Finance Advisory Committee report. Mr. Johnson reviewed the new format for the monthly financial report being presented. He stated that next month the

Commission will see a recommendation for a budget adjustment under the grant revenue category. Mr. Johnson 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, 2024, as presented.

Motion by Ms. Gordon

Second by Mr. Washington

Approved without objection

Vice Chair Lewis stated that the routine transactions were on the consent agenda.

Vice Chair Lewis recognized Ms. Hall for the Selection of Professionals Committee report. Ms. Hall stated that there were two items on the agenda and recognized Mr. Brewer to present the first item. He explained that the item was to approve the contracts in the Marketing Plan that are over \$50,000. He then read the resolution:

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 2025 Marketing Plan, for individual contract totals of the following amounts for 2025, as presented; contingent on the overall budget adoption, allowing for additional spending from contingency funds as needed not to exceed the overall marketing budget.

Vendor	Grand Total	Media Type
Feigley Communications	\$156,425.00	Digital
WAFB	\$99,890.00	Digital, Social Media, TV
Lamar	\$84,825.00	Visual Display
Cox	\$84,750.00	Digital, Social Media, TV
225 Magazine	\$82,220.50	Digital, Print, Social Media
The Advocate	\$71,500.00	Digital, Print, Social Media
Guaranty	\$63,850.00	Radio
Blue Cassette	\$53,000.00	Video Production
WBRZ	\$49,000.00	Digital, TV

Motion by Mr. Washington

Second by Ms. Hall

Unanimously approved

Ms. Hall recognized Chief Administrative Officer Aneatra Boykin who stated that this items was a request to increase the contract with Hope Ministries by \$20,000. Ms. Gordon asked questions regarding the term of the contract and why the additional funds were needed. Ms. Boykin stated that the contract would end on December 31, 2024 and explained that services had been expanded making it necessary to increase the amount of the contract. Ms. Boykin then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve Amendment No. 1 for \$20,000 to the 2024 contract with Hope Ministries of Baton Rouge to complete the services provided for in the agreement. The original contract amount was \$70,000; the new contract amount is \$90,000 with the term ending on December 31, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Hughes

Second by Mr. Washington

Unanimously approved

### **Reports of Special Committees**

None.

**Special Orders**

None.

**Unfinished Business and General Orders**

None.

**New Business**

Vice Chair Donna Collins Lewis announced that the next item of business on the agenda was the adoption of the Resolution canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the election held by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge ("BREC"), in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, on November 5, 2024 for the purpose of authorizing the renewal of the levy and collection of a 4.10 mills ad valorem tax and a 2.10 mills ad valorem tax.

The Board of Commissioners, as governing authority of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, has received the official results of the November 5, 2024 election for the proposition to authorize the renewal of the levy and collection of a 4.10 mills ad valorem tax and a 2.10 mills ad valorem tax, which are as follows:

There was a total of 109,133 votes cast FOR the proposition and a total of 71,042 votes cast AGAINST the proposition, and that there was a majority of 38,091 votes cast FOR the Proposition and the Proposition was DULY PASSED.

The Resolution provides as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION HELD BY THE RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION FOR THE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE ("BREC"), ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING (i) THE RENEWAL OF THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF THE 4.10 MILLS AD VALOREM TAX, FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS, COMMENCING WITH THE TAX COLLECTION FOR THE YEAR 2025, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2034, ONE-HALF OF THE PROCEEDS OF SAID TAX TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR ACQUIRING AND DEVELOPING LAND, BUILDINGS, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES OF BREC, AND ONE-HALF OF THE PROCEEDS OF SAID TAX TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR MAINTAINING AND OPERATING SUCH PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES OF BREC AND OTHER EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES OF BREC AND MAKING AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF BREC; AND (ii) THE RENEWAL OF THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF THE 2.10 MILLS AD VALOREM TAX, FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS, COMMENCING WITH THE TAX COLLECTION FOR THE YEAR 2025, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2034, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR MAINTAINING AND OPERATING THE PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES OF BREC AND MAKING AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF BREC;

MAKING APPLICATION TO THE LOUISIANA STATE BOND COMMISSION;  
AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge ("BREC"):

SECTION 1. That the Board of Commissioners of BREC does now proceed in open and public session to open the envelope containing the official tabulations of votes cast at the election held by BREC in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, to authorize (i) the renewal of the 4.10 mills ad valorem tax, for a period of ten (10) years, commencing with the tax collection for the year 2025, and annually thereafter to and including the year 2034, one-half of the proceeds of said tax to provide funds for acquiring and developing land, buildings, machinery and equipment for the public parks and recreational properties and facilities of BREC, and one-half of the proceeds of said tax to provide funds for maintaining and operating such public parks and recreational properties and facilities of BREC and other existing public parks and recreational properties and facilities of BREC and making available funds for the operating budget of BREC; and (ii) the renewal of the 2.10 mills ad valorem tax, for a period of ten (10) years, commencing with the tax collection for the year 2025, and annually thereafter to and including the year 2034, to provide funds for maintaining and operating the public parks and recreational properties and facilities of BREC and making available funds for the operating budget of BREC, said tabulations having been prepared and certified by the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court, and the Board of Commissioners of BREC does now further proceed to examine, count and tabulate such votes and to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the election.

SECTION 2. That a Proces Verbal of the canvass of the returns of said election shall be made and that a certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who shall record the same in her office; that another certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Recorder of Mortgages in and for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, who shall record the same in the Mortgage Records of the Parish of East Baton Rouge; and that another copy thereof shall be retained in the archives of the Board of Commissioners of BREC.

SECTION 3. That the results of said election shall be promulgated by publication in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 4. Pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 18:1293, a copy of the Notice of Election and proof of publication of the Notice of Election shall be included in the Proces Verbal.

Thereupon the Resolution was signed and approved by the Vice Chair, attested by the Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary and declared to be adopted and effective on this the 21st day of November, 2024.

Attest:

/s/ Donna Collins Lewis  
Donna Collins Lewis  
Vice Chair

/s/ Corey K. Wilson  
Corey K. Wilson  
Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary

At the conclusion of discussion and deliberation, Mr. Washington moved that the Resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hall and was passed unanimously, with the roll call vote results as follows:

Yeas: 5            Ms. Gordon, Ms. Hall, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Washington  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 4        Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Rust, Mr. Temple

Vice Chair Donna Collins Lewis announced that the next item of business on the agenda was the adoption of the Resolution canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the election held by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge ("BREC"), in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, on November 5, 2024 for the purpose of authorizing the levy and collection of a 3.253 mills ad valorem tax.

The Board of Commissioners, as governing authority of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, has received the official results of the November 5, 2024 election for the proposition to authorize the levy and collection of a 3.253 Mills Ad Valorem Tax, which are as follows:

There was a total of 95,598 votes cast FOR the proposition and a total of 84,123 votes cast AGAINST the proposition, and that there was a majority of 11,475 votes cast FOR the Proposition and the Proposition was DULY PASSED.

The Resolution provides as follows:

### **RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION HELD BY THE RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION FOR THE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE ("BREC"), ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF A 3.253 MILLS AD VALOREM TAX, FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY (20) YEARS, COMMENCING WITH THE TAX COLLECTION FOR THE YEAR 2025, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2044, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC PARKS, RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES, AND FACILITIES OF BREC AND ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY FURNISHINGS, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT THEREFORE, TITLE TO WHICH SHALL BE IN THE PUBLIC, WITH THE PROCEEDS OF THE TAX TO BE SPECIFICALLY USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BREC ON AUGUST 22, 2024; MAKING APPLICATION TO THE LOUISIANA STATE BOND COMMISSION; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge ("BREC"):

SECTION 1. That the Board of Commissioners of BREC does now proceed in open and public session to open the envelope containing the official tabulations of votes cast at the election

held by BREC in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, to authorize the levy and collection of a 3.253 mills as valorem tax, for a period of twenty (20) years, commencing with the tax collection for the year 2025, and annually thereafter to and including the year 2044, for the purpose of providing funds to purchase, acquire, construct, develop, improve, operate and maintain public parks, playgrounds and recreational properties and facilities of BREC within the Parish, and acquire the necessary furnishings, machinery and equipment therefor, title to which shall be in the public, with the proceeds of said tax to be specifically used for the purpose of funding the Strategic Master Plan approved and adopted by the Board of Commissioners of BREC on August 22, 2024 and making available funds for the operating budget of BREC, said tabulations having been prepared and certified by the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court, and the Board of Commissioners of BREC does now further proceed to examine, count and tabulate such votes and to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the election.

SECTION 2. That a Proces Verbal of the canvass of the returns of said election shall be made and that a certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who shall record the same in her office; that another certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Recorder of Mortgages in and for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, who shall record the same in the Mortgage Records of the Parish of East Baton Rouge; and that another copy thereof shall be retained in the archives of the Board of Commissioners of BREC.

SECTION 3. That the results of said election shall be promulgated by publication in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 4. Pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 18:1293, a copy of the Notice of Election and proof of publication of the Notice of Election shall be included in the Proces Verbal.

Thereupon the Resolution was signed and approved by the Vice Chair, attested by the Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary and declared to be adopted and effective on this the 21st day of November, 2024.

Attest:

/s/ Donna Collins Lewis  
Donna Collins Lewis  
Vice Chair

/s/ Corey K. Wilson  
Corey K. Wilson  
Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary

At the conclusion of discussion and deliberation, Mr. Washington moved that the Resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hall and was passed unanimously, with the roll call vote results as follows:

Yeas: 5      Ms. Gordon, Ms. Hall, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Washington  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 4      Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Rust, Mr. Temple

Vice Chair Lewis asked for a motion to introduce the 2025 Budget for Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge; set the date for a public hearing and final

adoption of said 2025 Budget at the regular meeting of the BREC Commission at 5:00 p.m. on December 18, 2024 at the BREC Administration Building, 6201 Florida Boulevard, Room 1800, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mr. Washington made a motion to approve the introduction.

Mr. Hughes seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Lewis called for a motion to go into executive session pursuant to LSA-R.S. 42:17(A)(1), for the purpose of discussion of the performance and professional competence of the Superintendent.

Ms. Gordon made a motion to go into executive session.

Mr. Washington seconded.

Approved by unanimous consent

The Commission retired to executive session at 5:57 p.m.

The Commission returned from executive session and Mr. Washington made a motion to reconvene, Mr. Hughes seconded, and Vice Chair Lewis called the meeting back to order in open session at 6:21 p.m. without objection.

The Vice Chair stated that no decisions were made and no votes were taken in executive session.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Washington made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Hughes seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m. without objection.

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Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent  
and Ex-Officio Secretary

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Donna Collins Lewis, Vice Chair