

BioDistrict New Orleans
Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda
February 28, 2024 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: NOLABA 1250 Poydras St. Suite 2150 New Orleans, LA 70113

I. Call to Order

The February BioDistrict Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Andy Kopplin at 2:15 pm.

II. Roll Call

a. Board members present

Commissioners Present: Emily Arata, Arnel Cosey, Sharon Courtney, Nicole Honoree, Andy Kopplin, Brad Lambert, Larissa Littleton-Steib, Charlotte Parent, Blake Stanfill

Commissioners Absent: Kaneisha Bailey- Akinpelumi, Lowry Curley, Judith Dangerfield, Michael Hecht, Roger Ogden

Quorum: Present

b. Adoption of Agenda for Board Meeting

Mr. Kopplin said he had been advised that adopting the agenda was not a necessary step.

c. Adoption of previous board meeting minutes from December 13, 2023

Mr. Kopplin noted that the minutes were not distributed to the board members before the meeting for review.

Mr. Kopplin requested that the Board of Commissioners take a few minutes to review the minutes to ensure accuracy and completeness.

The board members identified a number of amendments that were needed to the minutes. Those having been identified, a motion was made to approve the minutes with amendments, which received a second. The chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Introduction of Guest(s)

NOLABA Attendees: Sherelle K. Bowser (EA to Interim President & CEO), Louis David (Interim President & CEO), Victoria Miles (VP of Finance), Andreas Pashos (Senior Director Partnerships, Talent & Emerging Industries).

Others Present: Courtney Thomas Barnes (Greater New Orleans Foundation), Leo John Arnett (GNO Inc.), Sophie Danish (HR&A Advisors), Bob Geolas (HR&A Advisors), Christina DeGiulio (HR&A Advisors), Jazmin Harper (HR&A Advisors), Dasjon Jordan (Broad Community Connections), Rev. Julius Lee (S.M.C.L Foundation), Daniel Rome (S.M.C.L Foundation), Jeff Schwartz (CNO).

IV. Update on Strategic Planning from HR & A Advisors

Mr. Geolas delivered a comprehensive presentation on BioDistrict New Orleans Economic Development & Placemaking initiatives as part of a draft strategic master plan. The presentation encompassed key strategies, current projects, and future plans aimed at fostering economic growth and enhancing the overall livability and vibrancy of the district, including:

- ◆ Overview of ongoing economic development projects within the BioDistrict.
- ◆ Discussion on placemaking efforts to create attractive and functional public spaces.
- ◆ Analysis of the economic impact of these initiatives on the local community and stakeholders.
- ◆ Identification of opportunities for collaboration and partnership to further advance the district's development goals

Ms. Harper gave the introduction of board governance within the context of the BioDistrict's strategic plan. This session aimed to outline the foundational principles of governance that will guide the development and implementation of the strategic plan.

Key Points Covered:

- ◆ Definition and significance of board governance within the framework of the BioDistrict's strategic plan, emphasizing its role in providing oversight, accountability, and strategic direction.
- ◆ Overview of the governance structure, including the roles and responsibilities of the board of directors, committees, and key stakeholders in the strategic planning process.
- ◆ Discussion on the importance of transparency, integrity, and ethical conduct in governance practices, ensuring alignment with the BioDistrict's mission and values.
- ◆ Explanation of the strategic planning process, highlighting how governance principles will inform decision-making, resource allocation, and performance evaluation.

Ms. DeGuilio gave an extensive discussion took place regarding the role of partnerships in the development and execution of the BioDistrict's strategic plan.

Key Points Covered:

- ◆ Identification of potential partners from various sectors including government agencies, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and private enterprises.
- ◆ Exploration of collaborative opportunities to leverage resources, expertise, and networks for the advancement of strategic goals and objectives.
- ◆ Discussion on the importance of fostering strong, mutually beneficial partnerships to enhance the BioDistrict's capacity for innovation, sustainability, and community engagement.
- ◆ Consideration of strategies for establishing and nurturing partnerships, including formal agreements, joint initiatives, and ongoing communication channels.

V. Discussion of overall Strategic Planning Process

During the meeting, there was robust discussion regarding the overall strategic planning process for the BioDistrict.

Key Points Covered:

1. Review of the objectives and timeline for the strategic planning process, including key milestones and deliverables.

2. Examination of the scope and framework of the strategic plan, outlining areas of focus, goals, and performance indicators.
3. Discussion on stakeholder engagement strategies to ensure broad participation and input throughout the planning process.
4. Consideration of internal and external factors that may impact the development and implementation of the strategic plan, including resource constraints, regulatory considerations, and community priorities.
5. Exploration of best practices and methodologies for strategic planning, including SWOT analysis, scenario planning, and performance benchmarking.
6. Identification of roles and responsibilities of board members, committees, staff, and external consultants in facilitating the strategic planning process and driving its successful execution.

Commissioners will review the proposed strategic planning framework and provide feedback for refinement.

A timeline for stakeholder engagement activities will be developed and shared with board members for input and approval.

Commissioners discussed the importance of providing timely feedback to HR&A advisors to ensure that the strategic planning process remains on track and aligned with the objectives of the BioDistrict.

HR&A Advisors requested commissioners compile their questions and concerns and submit them to the HR&A advisors no later than March 6th, 2024.

Commissioners commended HR&A advisors for their professionalism, expertise, and dedication to supporting the BioDistrict in developing a robust strategic master plan.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Kopplin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Parent. The chair called for discussion and public comments, of which there were none, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm.