

**Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission
Minutes of Meeting
August 10, 2021**

NAME	Representing	Present	Absent
Buffina Crochet	Jennings	X	
Lorraine Bertrand, Vice-Chairman	Elton		X
John Marceaux, Secretary/Treasurer	Lake Arthur		X
Roberta Palermo	Lake Arthur	X	
Ronnie Petree	Welsh	X	
Sheila Chapman	Lake Arthur	X	
Becky Hudson	Welsh	X	
Greg Marcantel, CPA		X	
Creed Romano, CEO/Director		X	
Dione Sabelhaus, Marketing Director		X	
Kyler Royer, Tourist Specialist		X	

Guest: Bengt Lindell

Call to Order: **Sheila Chapman** called the meeting to order at 8:06 am. **Ronnie Petree** led us in prayer and **Kyler Royer** led us in the pledge.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree** and seconded by **Buffie Crochet**, passed unanimously to approve the August 10, 2021, agenda.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by **Becky Hudson** and seconded by **Roberta Palermo**, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of June 8 and June 22, 2021.

Approval of Financials: Moved by **Ronnie Petree** and seconded by **Becky Hudson**, passed unanimously to approve the financials of May and June 2021.

Public Comments: **Becky Hudson** welcomed our guest **Bengt Lindell** to our TC meeting.

Old Business:

- Greg Marcantel asked the board to postpone the engagement agreements with Greg Marcantel, CPA, APAC and J. Arron Cooper, CPA LLC until October's TC board meeting. A motion was made by **Roberta Palermo** and seconded by **Becky Hudson**, passed unanimously.
- A motion made by **Ronnie Petree**, seconded by **Roberta Palermo**, to approve the Tourist Development & Marketing Final Grant to Welsh Hometown Festival, passed unanimously.

New Business:

- A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree** and seconded by **Buffie Crochet**, to approve **Roberta Palermo**, **Becky Hudson** and **John Marceaux** to be reappointed to the JDPC Board, passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by **Roberta Palermo** and seconded by **Buffie Crochet** to approve **Becky Hudson** and **Lorraine Bertrand** resignation from the JDPTC board, passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by **Roberta Palermo** and seconded by **Ronnie Petree** for **Buffie Crochet** to be the Vice- Chairman of the JDPTC board.
- A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree**, seconded by **Roberta Palermo** to approve **Bengt Lindell** to replace **Becky Hudson** and **Austin Bertrand** to replace **Lorraine Bertrand**, passed unanimously.

- A motion made by **Roberta Palermo**, seconded by **Becky Hudson**, to approve the Tourist Development & Marketing Grant to Welsh Hometown Festival, passed unanimously.
- A motion made by **Ronnie Petree**, seconded by **Roberta Palermo**, to approve the Tourist Development & Municipalities Marketing Grant to City of Jennings, Town of Lake Arthur and Town of Welsh, passed unanimously.
- A motion made by **Buffie Crochet**, seconded by **Roberta Palermo**, to approve the Tourist Development & Marketing Grant to Last Resort and CRA Rodeo, passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by **Buffie Crochet**, seconded by **Roberta Palermo** to authorize JDPTC for a credit card, passed unanimously.

CEO/President Creed Romano:

We are working on 2 projects with LED, working on getting 2 certified site and actively pursuing public works projects in Lacassine. We still having issues with our H-VAC system in the TC building, the 5-ton unit that was installed is not capable of keeping up with the amount of traffic and heat we have been enduring. B&B electric suggested we install another 5-ton unit with a estimate cost of \$11,000.00 (price will expire on August 20, 2021). The TC board made a recommendation to call Trey Alexander, an engineer, to give his expert advise on how to address this issue.

A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree** and seconded by **Roberta Palermo** to appoint Creed Romano and Dione Sabelhaus to hire a reliable company to fix the H-VAC problem, passed unanimously.

I received a letter from John M. Schroder, Louisiana State Treasurer about Act 119 of 2021 Regular Legislative Session Hotel/Motel sales tax dedication. This year will be handled differently, Greg Marcantel will contact Mr. James Kelley with State Treasurer Schroder's office to find out how to move forward with execution of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and update us at our October 2021 board meeting.

Marketing Director report: Creed, Jamie, Kyler and I will attend the Lt. Governors Travel Summit in New Orleans August 24-26, 2021Travel and Adventure Show in Dallas September 10-12, 2021, to promote Jeff Davis Parish. This year I applied for the CMP grant with LOT and was awarded \$20,000 for our marketing advertisements. Swamp STOL Fly-In was scheduled for June 11 12, 202, had a great 1st year turn out with 15 pilots, they plan on coming back in the spring of 2022. Stearman Fly-In plans on in the works. Dates of September 29 – October 2, host hotel is Hampton Inn. Natural Gardens finished landscaping around the TC/ Gator Chateau building. We will have the blessing of the prayer garden when cooler weather arrives.

Kyler Royer, TIS: Kyler Royer reported the following:

Visitor Count: June 2021 ~ 5,200 guest

July 2021 ~ 5,752 guest

Gift Shop Sales: June & July 2021 ~ \$38,701.00

June & July 2020 ~ \$14,489.00

Announcements: The next Tourist Commission meeting will be **October 12, 2021.**

Adjournment: A motion was made by **Roberta Palermo** and seconded by **Buffie Crochet**, passed unanimously to adjourn.

I, Creed Romano, certify that the above and foregoing constitute the minutes of the meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Tourist Commission held on August 10, 2021.

Creed M. Romano, CEO/President