

**JEFF DAVIS PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
DATE: June 11, 2019**

The meeting was opened, and the following attendance was noted:

Time	Representing	Present	Absent
	Ryan Kitchen, Chairman	Jennings	x
	Lorraine Bertrand, Vice-Chairman	Elton	x
	John Marceaux, Secretary/Treasurer	Lake Arthur	x
	Bobby Palermo	Lake Arthur	x
	Ronnie Petree	Welsh	X
	Kathleen LeBlanc	Lake Arthur	X
	Becky Hudson	Welsh	X
	Marion "Butch" Fox, Executive Director	Director	X
	Dione Sabelhaus, Marketing Director	Marketing Director	X

Guest Present: Alison Cryer, Jennings Daily News; Greg Marcantel, CPA

Call to Order: Ryan kitchen called the meeting to order at 8:01 am, **Ronnie Petree** led the prayer and pledge.

Approval of Agenda ~ A motion was made by **Becky Hudson** and seconded by **Ronnie Petree**, passed unanimously to approve the June agenda.

Approval of Minutes ~ a motion was made by **John Marceaux**, seconded by **Kathleen LeBlanc**, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of **April 9, 2019**.

New Business:

- Greg Marcantel, CPA introduced the proposed 2018-2019 budget amendments and reviewed the 2019-2020 budget, engagement agreement. Our budget exceeds \$500,000.00, so we are required to publish in the newspaper to have a public hearing. The meeting will be on June 25, 2019 at the Tourist Commission Office at 8:00am.
- A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree**, seconded by **John Marceaux** to appoint **Roberta Palermo** to replace **Bobby Palermo** to the Tourist Commission Board, passed unanimously.
- A motion made by **Ronnie Petree** and seconded by **Becky Hudson** to surplus the Portable building

Approval of Financials ~ a motion was made by **Kathleen LeBlanc** to approve **March and April 2019** financial report seconded by **Becky Hudson**, passed unanimously.

Public Comments: n/a

CEO/President report, Marion Fox

- The HP 339 Bill for Hotel/Motel taxes has been withdrawn for this session
- A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree** to pay Habtez the final payment of \$32,348.66 for the Gator Chateau Building and seconded by **Kathleen LeBlanc**, passed unanimously. (Total cost of building \$646,000)

Marketing Director Report: Dione Sabelhaus

- We had a great year for crawfish farm tours, 1,963 people attended the tour. We had 3 new groups from TravelSouth that came on the tour; Go West Tours, Airstream RV'ing and Allons tours out of Lafayette.
- With the bigger facilities we needed to hire 4 employees and they are Anna Richard, Maycie Fuselier, Sarah Jates and Balie Treme.

- Since we opened our door on May 16, 2019 we have been doing great on visitors. Our visitor count for the first 2 weeks of being in the new building: 3,103! That's local, statewide, and international visitors! Many whom we send into our Parish to eat, shop, buy gas and visit other attractions.
- Our merchandise sells are going awesome! Since we opened our sells to date is \$11,235.00, our top selling product is Dippin Dots, shirts and stuffed gators.
- Events coming up in the next couple of months are the 4th of July celebrations in Jennings and Welsh and Coushatta Pow Pow.

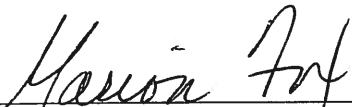
Old Business:

- Bob Thibodeaux with Bob's Tree Service will donate 2 trees for the front of the new building. The city of Jennings will help plant the trees. This budget year we will redo the front entrance to the park with the help of City of Jennings. We will remove the Crape Myrtles trees and azalea bushes and relocate them somewhere in the park. City of Jennings will update the playground area with new equipment for the children.
- We are in the process of getting bids to repair and remodel the administration office building.

Announcements: Special meeting will be on June 25, 2019 @ 8:00am

Adjournment: A motion was made by *John Marceaux*, seconded by *Kathleen LeBlanc* and passed unanimously to adjourn.

I, Marion Fox, certify that the above and foregoing constitute the minutes of the first meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Tourist Commission held on June 11, 2019.


MARION FOX, PRESIDENT/CEO