

Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission
Minutes of Meeting
March 6, 2024

Name	Representing	Present	Absent
Sheila Chapman, Chairman	Lake Arthur	X	
Buffina Crochet, Vice-Chairman	Hotel	X	
Kori Myers	Police Jury	X	
Ronnie Petree		X	
Bengt Lindell	Welsh	X	
Austin Bertrand	Elton		X
Katelyn Little	Jennings	X	
Greg Marcantel, CPA		X	
Creed Romano, CEO		X	
Randy Whetstine		X	

Staff: Linda Leblanc
Macey Guidry

Call to Order: Sheila Chapman called the meeting to order. Greg Marcantel led the prayer and the pledge.

Ronnie Petree made a motion, seconded by Bengt Lindell, to accept Kori Myers's Police Jury nomination to the board, which passed unanimously.

Bengt Lindell made a motion, seconded by Buffina Crochet, to ratify/accept Austin Bertrand and Ronnie Petree's reappointment to the board, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda: Ronnie Petree added discuss Port Wonder to the agenda. Katelyn Little made a motion, seconded by Bengt Lindell, and passed unanimously to approve the March 6, 2024 agenda.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Katelyn Little, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023.

Approval of Financials:

- Greg Marcantel reviewed the presented financials.
- A motion was made by Bengt Lindell, seconded by Katelyn Little, and passed to approve the financials of December 2023 and January 2024.

Public Comments: None

Old Business: A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree**, seconded by **Buffina Crochet**, and **passed unanimously** to approve the final payment of the marketing grant for the Battle of the Bows competition.

New Business:

- **Buffina Crochet** made a motion, seconded by **Bengt Lindell**, to approve the marketing grant for R&B Rodeo, which **passed unanimously**.
- Port Wonder Children's Museum and Nature Center and its potential impact on The Gator Chateau were discussed.
- **Macey Guidry** was introduced as the Marketing Director.

CEO/President report:

- ED update
- STOL will be held on March 23

Randy Whetstine:

- Graduated from LTLA
- Hosted the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin for Crawfish Tour
- Crawfish Tours are off to a slow start.
- Hosted 12 Travel guides.
- Police Jury Convention booth and brought a baby gator to the spousal event.
- Gift shop sales for December 2023 – February 2024: \$22,411.00, December 2022- February 2023: \$24,387.50
- 2023 Gift Shop Sales: \$160,557.07
- Visitor Count for January – 1,867, February -2,529
- In discussions with a Coushatta Tribal member to have a Tribal board nominee for the TC Board.

A motion was made by **Ronnie Petry** and seconded by **Katelyn Little** to move into executive session, which **passed unanimously**.

Buffina Crochet made a motion, seconded by **Ronnie Petry**, to move back into regular session, which was **passed unanimously**.

A motion was made by **Katelynn Little** and seconded by **Buffina Crochet** to increase the Director of Tourism's salary to \$40,000 per year, effective immediately, and **passed unanimously**.

Announcements:

The Next Tourist Commission meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at the Tourist Commission Administration Office.



Adjournment: A motion was made by **Buffina Crochet** and seconded by **Bengt Lindell**, which was **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 December 12, 2023.

Creed Romano, CEO/President

