

**Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 11, 2023**

Name	Representing	Present	Absent
Sheila Chapman, Chairman	Lake Arthur	X	
Buffine Crochet, Vice- Chairman	Hotel	X	
John Marceaux, Treasurer/Secretary	Lake Arthur	X	
Ronnie Petree		X	
Bengt Lindell	Welsh		X
Austin Bertrand	Elton	X	
Carter Prejean	Jennings		X
Greg Marcantel, CPA		X	
Creed Romano, CEO		X	
Kyler Royer, TOD			X
Kaylee Bryant, TIM		X	

**Staff:** Linda Leblanc

**Call to Order:** Sheila Chapman called meeting to order. Ronnie Petree led the prayer and Austin Bertrand led the pledge.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by John Marceaux, and passed unanimously to approve the April 10, 2023, Agenda with the addition of discussing credit limits of credit cards.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by John Marceaux, seconded by Austin Bertrand, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of February 14, 2023.

**Approval of Financials:**

- A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Austin Bertrand, and passed unanimously to approve the financials of January 2023.
- Greg Marcantel reviewed the presented financials and reported the reimbursement had been filed for the Act 199 -Hotel/Motel Sales Tax Dedication Jefferson Davis Parish Visitor Enterprise Fund.

**Public Comments:** None

**Old Business:** None

#### **New Business:**

- A motion was made by John Marceaux, seconded by Buffine Crotchet, and passed to approve the Marketing Grant Tourist Development & Marketing Grant for the Last Resort Car, Truck & Bike Show October 20-22, 2023, in Jennings. Sheila Chapman abstained from voting.
- A motion was made by John Marceaux, seconded by Buffy Crochet, and passed unanimously to increase the credit card limits to \$40,000 total for 3 cards, to contact the local provider about any issues, and if satisfactory results are received, reach out to local banks for new credit card accounts.

#### **CEO/President report:**

- **Creed Romano** reported the following:
- Springtime extremely busy with trips to the Capitol during the Legislation Session
- Has been asked to serve on a board through the Lt Governor's Office to review grants
- Working on 5 new projects to bring new commerce into the parish to increase economic growth
- STOL event was successful and working with Matthew Peterson for new aviation events

Greg Marcantel reported Matthew Peterson is interested in other aviation events in Jennings such as a Husky and a Straight Tail event. City of Jennings has plans for a road extension and parking improvements to enhance aviation events.

#### **Marketing/Communications Director's report:**

Highlights from Jamie Lee's marketing report from the detailed report in the agenda packet:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Swamp STOL was held March 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. The event continues to grow on a national level and more pilots are expected next year.
- The City of Jennings has started the annual "Turn it up Tuesday".
- We are in the middle of Crawfish farm tours and those should end in May. We have already had multiple schools register, our largest has over 100 students and 100 parents.
- Events are cross promoted with the Chamber advertising channels such as Facebook and the Chamber's digital billboard.
- The SWLA Acoustic Cajun Music Jam continues every other Saturday at the Visitor Center at the I-10 Park.
- Social Media Number: Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission – Facebook: 9,497 Instagram: 1,082 Twitter: 779. Gator Chateau – Facebook: 4,359 Instagram: 873.

#### **Kaylee Bryant, TIM:**

- Gator Chateau Visitor Count: February 2023 ~ 2,731; March 2023 ~ 5,915
- Gift Shop Sales: February 2023 ~ \$7,944.00 and March 2023 ~ \$29,549.50

#### **Sales Tax Report**

The collections for the month of March 2023 paid in April were \$13,302.22. The Tourist Commission now pays the Jeff Davis Parish School Board Tax Collector a collection fee for the collection services.

#### **Executive Session:**

A motion was made by John Marceaux, seconded by Ronnie Petree, and passed unanimously to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

A motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by Austin Bertrand, and passed unanimously to reconvene into Regular Session.

A motion was made by John Marceaux, seconded by Buffine Crochet, and passed unanimously to give Creed Romano authority to accept the resignation of employee Kyler Royer.

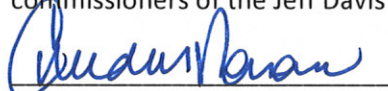
**Announcements:**

Next Tourist Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at the Tourist Commission administration office.

Board members were reminded to complete the LA Ethics Disclosure Report Tier 2.1 due by May 15, 2023.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree** and seconded by **Austin Bertrand**, 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 April 11, 2023.



Creed Romano, CEO/President



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