

**Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission
Minutes of Meeting
June 13, 2023**

Name	Representing	Present	Absent
Sheila Chapman, Chairman	Lake Arthur	X	
Buffina Crochet, Vice-Chairman	Hotel		X
John Marceaux, Treasurer/Secretary	Lake Arthur		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	
Kaylee Bryant		X	

Staff: Linda Leblanc

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

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree and seconded by Austin Bertrand; the motion passed, with Bengt Lindell's abstention noted. A discussion was held, and Randy Whetstine will contact Sheila Chapman one week before the meeting to set the agenda.

Approval of the minutes: A motion was made by Austin Bertrand and seconded by Ronnie Petree to approve the minutes from April 11, 2023, and June 3, 2023; the motion passed with Bengt Lindell's abstention noted.

Approval of financials: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree and seconded by Austin Bertrand to approve the financials for February, March, and April 2023. The motion passed with Bengt Lindell's abstention noted.

*A discussion was held, and for future meetings, the agenda, minutes, and financials will be sent to all board members for review the week before the next meeting.

New Business: A motion was made by Ronnie Petree and seconded by Austin Bertrand to approve Katelynn Little, Jennings Representative, to the Tourist Commission Board (May 25, 2023-September 30, 2026). The motion passed unanimously.

Greg Marcantel presented budget amendments for the fiscal year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. A motion was made by **Bengt Lindell** and seconded by **Austin Bertrand** to accept the amendments as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Greg Marcantel presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree** and seconded by **Austin Bertrand** to accept the budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by **Katelynn Little** and seconded by **Austin Bertrand** to hold a special meeting on June 27, 2023, at 8 am at the Tourist Commission office to adopt the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree** and seconded by **Bengt Lindell** to approve a Tourist Commission credit card for **Randy Whetstine**. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

CEO: Creed Romano reported that with Kyler Royer's resignation, his job duties were delegated to **Randy Whetstine** and **Kaylee Bryant**, alleviating the position. **Creed** also spoke on the success of the first Agriculture tour in Jeff Davis Parish that **Randy Whetstine** coordinated and hosted.

Randy Whetstine: Randy reported that she is currently enrolled in Louisiana Tourism Leadership Academy and recently attended the class in Baton Rouge, where she learned about legislative advocacy for the tourism industry. **Randy** completed and submitted the CMP Grant to the Louisiana Office of Tourism. **Randy** also confirmed an increase in Aviation Tourism with three confirmed fly-ins scheduled: Husky Shootout, Stearman, and STOHL. There is talk of a Cessna Straight-tail event coming.

Hotel/Motel taxes for April were \$14,670.01.

Hotel/Motel taxes for May were \$13,938.57.

With the Days Inn motel recently reopening, we expect an increase in Hotel/Motel taxes in the coming months.

Marketing: Numerous events are happening in the Parish. All events are listed on the website. Social media numbers: The Tourist Commission has seen increased Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter traffic.

Gator Chateau has also seen increased Facebook and Instagram traffic.

Current print ads include Student Youth Travel Association, LTA Group E-Newsletter, and LTA AAA June E-Newsletter.

Digital: Ad Source digital billboard

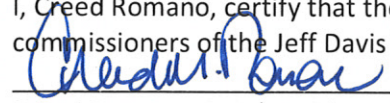
Kaylee Bryant: Kaylee reports the Gator Chateau visitor count for April 2023 was 5,325, and for May 2023 was 4,776. Sales for the Gator Chateau for April 2023 were \$22,974, and May was \$19,351.50.

Announcements:

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

Adjournment: A motion was made by **Bengt Lindell** 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 August 8, 2023, at 8am.


Creed Romano, CEO/President

