

**JEFF DAVIS PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
DATE: February 9, 2021**

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

Name	Representing	Present	Absent
Lorraine Bertrand, Vice-Chairman	Elton	X	
John Marceaux, Secretary/Treasurer	Lake Arthur	X	
Roberta Palermo	Lake Arthur	X	
Ronnie Petree	Welsh	By phone	
	Lake Arthur		
Becky Hudson	Welsh	X	
Buffie Crochet	Jennings	X	
Dione Sabelhaus, Marketing Director	Marketing Director	X	
Greg Marcantel, Interim Director		X	

Guest Present: Jonathan Smith, Jennings Daily News and Matthew Peterson, STOL Flyin

Call to Order: Lorraine Bertrand called the meeting to order at 8:04 am John Marceaux led us in prayer and pledge.

Approval of Agenda ~ A motion was made by John Marceaux and seconded by Buffie Crochet, passed unanimously to approve the February 9, 2021 agenda.

Approval of Minutes ~ a motion was made by John Marceaux, seconded by Roberta Palermo, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of December 2020, passed unanimously.

Approval of Financials ~ a motion was made by Ronnie Petree, seconded by John Marceaux, to approve the financials for November and December 2020, passed unanimously.

Swamp STOL National ~ Matthew Peterson, Airport Director for LA 3 in Jackson Louisiana is here on behalf of STOL (short takeoff and landing) competition, we have events around the nation at different airports and we would like to bring one to Jennings Airport. The event would bring about 40 pilots, arriving on a Thursday, June 10 and departing on Sunday, June 13, 2021. The average cost for this event is \$7,000 - \$8,000 so we would like the primary sponsor to be Jeff Davis Parish EDC / TC and have corporate sponsors. I met with the Airport Commission and they approved us using the airport and grounds.

- A motion made by John Marceaux, seconded by Buffie Crochet, to proceed with researching the possibility on the STOL Nationals, passed unanimously.

Public Comments ~ N/A

Old Business:

- I, Dione Sabelhaus spoke with Derek Bisig, City of Jennings Attorney about sending a letter to Habetz Construction and Sherrie Lewis, Architect to finish up on the problems we are having in the Gator Chateau, metal side door mechanism, southside wooden doors lock broken, window handle, condensation in visitor center and fix ceiling tiles. I also spoke with Mayor Guinn and he said it would be a great idea to hire an Engineer to come take a look at our condensation problem.
- A motion made by Becky Hudson, seconded by Roberta Palermo, to approve the Tourist Development & Marketing Final Grant for Last Resort, passed unanimously.
- The estimate cost of a new A/C unit replacement is \$9,395.00. We have to wait on FEMA to get back with the City of Jennings to move forward with the project.

New Business:

- A motion was made by **Ronnie Petree**, seconded by **Becky Hudson** to approve hiring Kyler Royer fulltime, **passed unanimously**.
- A motion was made by **John Marceaux**, seconded by **Ronnie Petree** to approve Dione Sabelhaus to sign contracts for Louisiana Office of Tourism grant applications, **passed unanimously**.
- Tourist Commission Board member Kathleen LeBlanc mailed in her resignation letter. JDP TC is needing a representative from Lake Arthur to replace Mrs. LeBlanc. Several board members recommended Sheila D. Chapman. I will contact Mrs. Chapman and if she agrees I will move forward with the JDP Police Jury approval.
- A motion made by **Ronnie Petree**, seconded by **Becky Hudson**, to approve the Tourist Development & Marketing Grant to Jennings 4th annual CRA Rodeo, passed unanimously.

Interim CEO/President ~ Greg Marcantel; We came up with a job description for Marion's position. We will get this up on LinkedIn, LTA, IDEA and our website by the end of this week. The hiring committee has decided to compile resumes until the end of March then set up virtual interviews after that narrow it down to a few for personal interviews.

Marketing Director, Dione Sabelhaus report:

- Craig and Edna Guilbeau with Regatta Restaurant will retire in June.
- Louisiana Office of Tourism has offered two different grants Sunshine grants phase 1 and phase 2. Phase 1 we awarded \$5,000 and Phase2 we were awarded \$35,000. This grant has to be used for advertising only.

Announcement – Next TC board meeting will be on **April 13, 2021**

Adjournment: A motion was made by **Roberta Palermo**, seconded by **Becky Hudson** and passed unanimously to adjourn

I, Greg Marcantel, certify that the above and foregoing constitute the minutes of the first meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Tourist Commission held on February 9, 2021.



Greg Marcantel, interim Director