

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, April 2, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Michelle Jenkins
Elizabeth R. Joseph
James S. Oubre, Jr.
Peggy Joseph
Robert Taylor
Evin Stein

Absent:

Tomy Acosta
Kali Jenkins
Tyler Lewis

Staff:

Jerry Jones
Denise Burrell
Terri Abadie
Rene' Pastorek
Evelyn Campo

Guest:

Lester Mitchell
Pamela B. Allen
Yishmene Edwards
Wayne Aucoin
Rhonda Colar-Myles
Penelope Shumaker
Sheriff Mike Tregre
Lawrence Lawes
Yasmaine Magee
Janai Bernard
Jayci Bernard
Joy Banner
Mala Taylor
Lois Frank
Ali Vicknair
Peter Forest
Dayna James

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Michelle Jenkins called meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Six (6) Committee members were present; three (3) absent. Quorum was met.

III. Opening Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Elizabeth Joseph led prayer. Robert Taylor led Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public Comments (3) Minutes

- Rita Perrilloux, Historic Riverlands
- Joy Banner, Whitney Plantation

V. Adoption of Minutes from March 5, 2018 Meeting

Motion from Elizabeth R. Joseph and seconded by Peggy Joseph to approve the March 5, 2018 meeting minutes with amendment of "Mr. & Mrs." to Resolution R18-01-R18-05.

VI. Director's Report - Jerry Jones

- **Delta Regional Authority's Delta Leadership Network Advisory Council**
 - "Effectively last week, I decided not to stay on the advisory council. I enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the council, however, at this time I have more pressing matters that desire my time and attention. I will continue to build relationships with DRA and attempt to bring notice of opportunities from the Authority to the Parish."
- **Livability Magazine**
- **Louisiana Calling**
 - Louisiana Calling has conducted the high school student's surveys (report of results will be available in the two weeks).
- **Easter in the Parks (East Bank & West Bank)**
- **Ribbon Cuttings –**
 - Metro Centers for Community Advocacy:
 - Buttons & Bows Indoor Playground
- **GNO Louisiana Small Business Development Center**
- **GNO, Inc. 2018 Annual Luncheon: Strategies for Success**
- **Strategic Goals & Objectives Subcommittee Meeting**

- The Subcommittee met and chose three initiatives to address. Those initiatives are: 1.) Marketing the Parish, 2.) Beautification 3.) Improving Customer Service in local eateries. The committee will continue to bring issues to the Economic Development Staff in an effort to grow the economy of the Parish.
- **CMT Concert - Empowering Education**
 - Country Music Television (CMT) in collaboration with River Region, LCTCS Reserve Campus awarded Country Music Television (CMT) “Empowering Education” Concert tour featuring country music star Courtney Cole.
- **Competitive Community Initiative**
 - The Louisiana Economic Development Competitive Communities Initiative application was submitted on March 29, 2018.
- **Meetings Pending this Year**
 - Small Business Lunch Roundtable
- **St. John Economic Development Week**
 - This week will be held May 7-12.
- **4th of July Fireworks**
 - The 4th of July Celebration is July 3, 2018.

VII. Old Business – No Old Business

VIII. New Business

- Business Talk
 - Peter Forest, Forest Photography
- Planning and Zoning Text Study – Parking Regulations
 - Rene Pastorek, Planning & Zoning Manager, distributed copies of the Text Study.

IX. Community Partners’ Update

- **Entergy Louisiana** – Rhonda Colar
- **Louisiana Small Business Development Center** – Wayne Aucoin
 - **Lunch and Learn**
 - April 3rd “Everyone in your company is in sales” Speaker Ron Markham
 - April 24th – “Show me the Money! Accessing money to grow your business”
 - a. Panel discussion with bankers and consultants
 - May 8th- The Entertainment Industry - TBA
 - **Round Table Forum**
 - March 13th and 20th · Managing Employees Business owners and employee
 - May 9th and 16th – “Build your Brand”
 - a. Facilitator Erik Waters – plus a consultant panel
 - **FastTrac Program**
 - March 8th through May 17th 2018
 - **Contractors**
 - April 18th – Contractor Bid Preparation 1pm-4pm
 - May 23rd - QB for Contractors 1pm- 4pm
 - a. Cooperation with Urban League of Louisiana / Woman’s Business Resource Center
- **Port of South Louisiana** - Linda Prudhomme - Absent
- **River Parish Tourist Commission (RPTC)** – Buddy Boe – Absent
- **River Region Chamber of Commerce - Chassity McComack – Absent (presented by Ali Vicknair)**
 - Organizational:
 - Still accepting resumes for Member Engagement Coordinator. Visit www.riverregionchamber.org > Jobs, for a summary of position listing.

- Workforce Development
 - RRCC in process of visiting business / potential business partners to help with marketing the La. Calling campaign and opportunities at the LCTCS Technical college. Anyone interested in learning more, please let me know. High school Student surveys are close to completion. Over 1500 responses have been rec'd (868 from St John parish high schools) More info will come once the reporting is finalized.
- Business Development
 - Last roundtable session, Building your Business Culture had 10 businesses in attendance. The next session will be Building your Brand on May 8 and 15. This is a partnership effort with LSBDC and St. John Parish Economic Development.
- Networking
 - Chamber Connections Lunch – March 29th held at Belle Terre Country club had 38 in attendance. The next one to be scheduled June 2018.
 - **Next Chamber perks – April 5, Raising Cane's LaPlace, 8 am – 9 am**
 - Crawfish boil scheduled for April 19, 5:30 pm, Lutcher park pavilion, tickets - \$40/pp. Sponsorships are also still available. Great way for businesses to treat employees for their hard work. Many use this as an incentive.
- Public Policy
 - Legislative Breakfast scheduled for April 11, 2018, 8 am at the State Capitol, House Members Lounge.
- **South Central Louisiana Technical College (SCLTC)** – Penelope Shumaker
 - Career Link 2018 – Wednesday, April 18th partnering with St. John Library; Supported by a grant from Shell
- **South Central Planning and Development Commission** - Absent
- **St. John Business Association** – Absent
- **St. John Community Center & Soundstage** – Jo Banner – Absent
- **St. John the Baptist Parish School Board** - Absent

X. Announcements

20th Annual Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day - Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 9:00am – 1:00pm

Catholic Charities – Financial Education Workshop – Saturday, April 21st from 10:00am to 2:00pm

6th Annual Fishing Camp – Saturday, May 19, 2018 – 8:00am – 2:00pm

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Taylor and seconded by Robert Oubre Jr. Meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm.