

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, June 4, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Michelle Jenkins
Kim Fontenot
James Oubre, Jr.
Robert Taylor
Tyler Lewis
Peggy Joseph
Kali Jenkins

Absent:

Evin Stein
Elizabeth Joseph

Staff:

Jerry Jones
Denise Burrell
Amanda Martin

Guest:

Lawrence Lawes
Wayne Aucoin
Mala Taylor
Willma Harvey
Andetrie Vicks
Buddy Boe
Yasmaine Magee
Pamela Allen
Rena Jackson
Lois Frank
Kaneedra Fultz

Call to Order

Chairwoman Michelle Jenkins called meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Seven (7) Committee members were present. Two (2) Absent - Quorum was met.
Michelle Jenkins stated to let the record reflect the name change of Kali Jenkins to Kali J. Price.

Opening Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Tyler Lewis led prayer. Kali Jenkins led Pledge of Allegiance.

Michelle Jenkins introduced the newest Economic Development Committee member, Kim Fontenot. Ms. Fontenot was appointed by Councilwoman Julia Remondet District II. A motion was adopted on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 by the Parish Council.

Public Comments (3) Minutes – No Comments

Adoption of Minutes from April 2, 2018 and May 7, 2018 Meeting

Motion from Tyler Lewis and seconded by James Oubre Jr. to have the April and May minutes approved for July 9, 2018 meeting.

Director's Report – Jerry Jones

- Thanked everyone who came out to National Economic Development Week.
 - Career & Job Fair - one of the highlights of the week
 - Currently working on surveys to send out to all the participants of the week to find out their thoughts, likes, and dislikes about the event via Survey Monkey.
 - Surveys will be sent out after future events.
- St. John the Baptist Parish Unemployment Rate continues to hold at 5.0% from last month. State of Louisiana Unemployment rose to 4.5% from 4.4% last month. United States Unemployment dropped to 3.8% from 4.1%.
- Attended New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce Annual Luncheon.
- Attended the River Region Chamber of Commerce Breakfast – General Membership Meeting.
- Congratulated FastTrac Spring 2018 Graduates
- Discussions are underway on how to take FastTrac program to the next level.
- Addressed the Closure of Businesses in the Parish

- Robert Taylor inquired on the status of St. John Parish Business Outreach Program.

Old Business – No Old Business

New Business

- **Business Talk**
 - Dr. Fultz - River Region Training and Development –
 - Opening up a business solutions center (incubator) for small business allowing them to rent out space; sublets will be available to smaller business to help and push them out within their first year of business to have their own location; opening in between July and August of 2018.
 - TWIC – Osha certification on site;
 - Small marketing center for businesses to make copies, use the computer or meet with clients
 - Pamela Allen – Elite Affairs Event Rental.
 - Transitioned next door to her current location for more space.
 - Follow up: Partnered with the SJBP School system to offer mentorship (JumpStart Program) to share the aspects of her business. It is official: 2 students will start Monday.
- **Select representative for Stakeholder Group, re: Feasibility Study and Concept Plan for the LaPlace Multi-Modal Transit Station in LaPlace**
 - Michelle Jenkins nominated Kim Fontenot and James Oubre Jr. to be representatives for the Stakeholder Group, re: Feasibility Study and Concept Plan and seconded by Kali J. Price.

Community Partners' Update

- **Entergy Louisiana** – Ana Gale-Orellana - Absent
- **Louisiana Small Business Development Center** – Wayne Aucoin
 - Lunch and Learn
 - May 30th- Engage Your Business with the Film Industry – Speaker, Jo Banner – St. John Community Center – 18 people attended.
 - Lunch and Learn Series: Human Resources for Entrepreneurs
 - August 8, 15, 22, 2018; 12:00noon - 3:00pm
 - Session 1: Recruiting, Hiring, and Onboarding the Right People
 - Session 2: Influencing, Developing, and Retaining Your Employees
 - Session 3: Performance Management and Termination
 - SEBD Certification Workshops
 - Certification for the FastTrac Program – August 30, 2018
 - Speaker – Wayne Aucoin
 - Round Table Forum
 - Finance – July 11, 2018 and July 18, 2018
 - Facilitator – Richard Melancon
 - QuickBooks Class
 - July 18, 2018
 - FastTrac Program
 - Next class begins September 13 ,2018
- **Port of South Louisiana** - Linda Prudhomme - Absent
- **River Parish Tourist Commission (RPTC)** – Buddy Boe
 - Operations
 - 2018/2019 Budget; plan to host a budget workshop with the Board and stakeholders in the next couple of weeks to get the budget finalized and presented to the three parishes for commentary. The commentary is taken under advisement for the final budget to be submitted to the Board for their approval at the June meeting.

- Community Engagement
 - Taste of Tourism (National Economic Development & Tourism Week)
 - Career & Job Fair
 - Film Industry Roundtables – Presented by Jo Banner was very successful and planning one in St. James Parish in July
 - Chamber Panel – “Can I have a slice of pie?”
 - Expanding the economic, political, social and community for the next generation.
 - Social Media Training – final of four trainings
 - June 7th – 1:00 – 3:00pm QHotel Headquarters
 - Training with TripAdvisor to offer partnership to our stakeholders - June 12th
- Advertising & PR
 - Re-Brand Launch in progress
 - Visitors Guide
- St. John Center / Film Office
 - Regional Cooperation on Films
 - St. John Parish / RPTC CEA
 - Office space in St. John Parish – Proposed office is corner of St. Andrews and Belle Terre Blvd.
- Communications
 - Website Upgrade – In progress - July/August
- Staff/Business Development Position
 - Willma Harvey introduction - started May 14th
- Legislative
 - Special Session – June 4
- Schedule
 - Student groups in August
 - LA Tourist Summit in August hosted by Lt. Governor
- **River Region Chamber of Commerce** - Chassity McComack
 - Absent (Report handed out)
 - ORGANIZATIONAL:
 - Excited to announce we have identified a 3rd staff person for the Member Engagement Coordinator position.
 - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
 - More info will be coming on final reporting of high school surveys. We are close to the ground game now that another investor has signed on. Next Workforce mtg, June 19 at 9 am at the SCLTC campus in Reserve.
 - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
 - General membership meeting held May 31, 2018, 8:30 am at Ormond Plantation. Guest speaker and panel guests will talk about why the younger professionals need a piece of the pie today! Over 100 have rsvp'd.
 - Roundtable being planned for July – topic TBD – evolving around business taxes.
 - NETWORKING
 - Next Chamber Perks – June 6, 8 am – 9 am, Dunkin Donuts, LaPlace
 - Next Chamber Connections Lunch – June 20th held at St. James Hospital Community Room. RSVP by email at admin@riverregionchamber.org or 985-359-9777.
 - LEADERSHIP RIVER REGION
 - Application process for the next class session is now open. Online application is available on the chamber website, “Leadership River Region” page.
 - 2018 Inaugural Class will graduate 21. Graduation event will be June 6, 5:30 pm at Petra Restaurant in LaPlace.

- **River Parishes Community College (RPCC) Reserve Campus** – Penelope Shumaker - Absent (James Oubre Jr. shared)
 - Penelope Shumaker is still working on the merger with RPCC.
- **South Central Planning and Development Commission** – Cullen Curole – Absent
 - Jerry Jones shared a meeting took place a couple of weeks ago to discuss new funding opportunities that may deal with a very small grant; majority will be a loan for small businesses.
- **St. John Business Association** – Absent
- **St. John Community Center & Soundstage** – Shared by Buddy Boe
 - Center Inquiries (3)
 - Inquiry from Steven LeBlanc regarding upcoming production. Early Scouting
 - Inquiry to use atrium for baby shower in July 1
 - Inquiry from Pastor Ford regarding community event in February 2019
 - Events Held (1)
 - Foe Paw Production is using facility until July 2018.
 - Events Booked (7)
 - Foe Paw Production from 4/23/2018-7/6/2018
 - 90th Birthday Party on 6/29/2018 (Production will make room available)
 - Wedding Reception on 8/8/2018
 - Wedding Reception and Ceremony on 11/13/2018
 - Wedding Reception on 11/22/2018
 - Wedding Reception on 12/29/2018
 - Krewe du Monde submitted down payment for 2019 Mardi Gras Ball
 - Location Request/Scouting (4)
 - Preacher finished filming in St. John the Baptist Parish
 - Production filming in St. James Parish seeking barns, fields, and water, and library
 - Queen Sugar filming in St. John and St. James Parishes
 - Troupe Zero filming in St. James Parish and looking for locations in St. John Parish
 - Ad Placement (3)
 - Oz Entertainment Directory
 - L'Observateur Magazine – Ad for St. John Center
 - Tri-Parish Directory Book and online edition
 - Misc.
 - Participated in St. John Parish Economic Development Career Fair
 - Hosted Lunch N Learn – Engaging your Business in the film industry – 20 participants attended
 - We will develop our own film -based meet-up group in the River Parishes to share resources, network, etc.
- **St. John the Baptist Parish School Board** - Absent
- **Louisiana Workforce Development Board** – Lawrence Lawes
 - NOVAC Film Industries Training – preparation to participate in the film industry – slots for 14 more people available. Must apply in person - visit the LaPlace office to register.
 - Reentry employment programs available
 - Workforce Development Board Meeting - June 21st
 - Veterans representative Dee Vicks – introduction

Announcements

Michelle Jenkins shared Kali J. Price will be out on maturity leave for the next 3 months.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Tyler Lewis and seconded by Kali J. Price. Meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.