

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, September 10, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Michelle Jenkins
Kim Fontenot
Evin Stein
Robert Taylor
Tyler Lewis
Elizabeth Joseph

Staff:

Jerry Jones
Denise Burrell
Terri Abadie

Guest:

Amanda Baker
Erika Altazan
Carla Bonaventure
Stacey Scott
Yasmaine Magee
Wayne Aucoin
Jo Banner

Trenice Cooper
Tim Keller
Lois Frank
Mala Taylor
Lawrence Lawes
Buddy Boe

Absent:

Peggy Joseph
James Oubre, Jr.
Kali J. Price

Call to Order

Chairwoman Michelle Jenkins called meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Seven (6) Committee members were present. Three (3) Absent - Quorum was met.

Opening Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Michelle Jenkins led prayer. Evin Stein led Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments (3) Minutes – No Public Comments

Adoption of Minutes from July 9, 2018 Meeting

Motion from Robert Taylor and seconded by Tyler Lewis to adopt the July 9th meeting minutes. The motion passed with 6 yeas and 3 absent (Peggy Joseph, James Oubre Jr., & Kali J. Price)

Director's Report – Jerry Jones (see report)

Old Business – No Old Business

New Business

- **Business Talk** – No Business Talk
- **Economic Development Budget** - Jerry Jones discussed the Economic Development Budget and opened the floor for questions from the Economic Development Committee.
- **Louisiana geauxBiz Presentation** – Louisiana Secretary of State Office presented information on geauxBiz as they navigated through the geauxBiz.com website.

Community Partners' Update

- **Energry Louisiana** – Ana Gale-Orellana - Absent
- **Louisiana Small Business Development Center** – Wayne Aucoin
 - Lunch and Learn
 - Developing a Brand Strategy
 - Speakers: Erik Waters and Wayne Vicknair
 - September 26, 2018; 11:30am – 1:00pm
 - Delivering Outstanding Customer Service
 - Speaker: Ron Markham

- October 24, 2018; 11:30am – 1:00pm
 - Meet the Lender Panel – Accessing Money to Grow Your Business
 - Speakers: Loan Officers and Bankers
 - November 28, 2018; 11:30am – 1:00pm
 - SEBD Certification Workshops
 - Certification for the FastTrac Program – August 30, 2018
 - Speaker – Wayne Aucoin – 7 attendees
 - QuickBooks Class
 - Working on a class for October
 - FastTrac Program
 - Next class begins September 13, 2018
 - **Port of South Louisiana** - Linda Prudhomme - Absent
 - **River Parishes Community College (RPCC)** – Penelope Shumaker - Absent
 - **River Parish Tourist Commission (RPTC)** – Buddy Boe
 - Operations
 - Office Move - approved
 - Community Engagement
 - Developing New Itineraries w/ local businesses
 - Slavery Ancestral Burial Grounds Preservation Commission
 - Workshop – August 29th
 - Advertising & PR
 - Re-Brand Launch – October 30th
 - Visitor Guide/Website – 75% complete
 - River Parishes Film Commission
 - Regional Cooperation on Films Resolution
 - Sales/Business Development
 - Andouille Experience Itinerary
 - Bayou Classic
 - Schedule
 - TMS – Sept 11-15, Niagara Falls
 - LSAE – Sept 3-25, Lake Charles
 - **River Parishes Workforce Development**– Lawrence Lawes
 - Business Service Consultant services focused on mid-size and small businesses for:
 - Recruiting
 - Retention through consultation and employee training
 - Fidelity Bonding especially for hired re-entry felons
 - Business Service Rep planned workshops for businesses:
 - Maximizing use of HiRE as a recruiting tool;
 - Candidate interviewing techniques and issues;
 - Retention methods and issues;
 - WOTC Workforce Opportunity Tax Credits.
 - Reported on our Ex-Offender Re-entry Program
 - Stated the need for reduction in re-offending;
 - Stated the availability of WOTC for hiring ex-offenders;
 - Stated the availability of Fidelity Bonding for companies that hire ex-offenders;
 - Shared the process of our Business and Career Solutions Centers support of job seeking ex-offenders.
 - **River Region Chamber of Commerce** - Chassity McComack
 - Organizational
 - Chamber 101 (Orientation to learn how to maximize your chamber membership) takes place every other month, 1st Friday at 11:30. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about the local chamber to contact Stacey Scott, Member Engagement coordinator.

- Member Engagement Coordinator visits St. John Parish members and future members every Thursday.
 - Workforce Development
 - Special Thanks to St. John Parish Economic Development for partnership with a contribution to La. Calling. Ground game publicity has begun. Would like to have La. Calling come to a meeting in the Fall to give update. Launch will be November 2018.
 - Business Development
 - Working in partnership with LSBDC and Jerry Jones to build a schedule of offerings for small business in 2019.
 - Networking
 - Next General membership meeting scheduled Sept. 13 at Belle Terre Country Club, 8:30 am. Panel format will follow as the last one. This topic will focus around Women in Leadership.
 - Annual Golf Tourney taking place Oct. 19 at Belle Terre Country club.
 - Next Chamber Connections lunch will be Nov. 13 at Plantation View in St. Charles parish.
 - Leadership River Region
 - The 2019 Class has been selected. This year we are proud to have 24 new leaders in the room. Congratulations to our very own Denise Burrell for being accepted in to the class.
- **South Central Planning and Development Commission** – Cullen Curole – Absent
- **St. John Business Association** – Absent
- **St. John Community Center & Soundstage** – Jo Banner
 - Center Inquiries (7)
 - Krewe of MAC inquiry to use Room A for Mardi Gras Ball
 - Foe Paw Production inquired to use facility for reshoots mid-October
 - Paramount production inquired to use facility for production early 2019
 - Paramount production inquired to use facility beginning in March 2019 for TV series
 - Shadows TV Series inquired to use facility for one day early November
 - NOVAC and Louisiana Workforce Development inquired to use facility for training early November
 - Met with producer in Los Angeles regarding a production - use center and locations
 - Events Held (4)
 - Food Network Baking Championship - 8/15/2018 - 9/16/2018
 - Wedding Reception 9/18/2018
 - Wedding Reception held on 9/22/2018
 - Andouille Festival October 19th – 21st
 - Events Booked (13)
 - Foe Paw Production from 4/23/2018 - 7/6/2018
 - 90th Birthday Party on 6/29/2018 (Production will make room available)
 - Baby Shower – 7/1/2018
 - Graduation Party – 7/14/2018
 - SJB Press Conference – 8/13/2018
 - Food Network Baking Championship - 8/15/2018 - 9/16/2018
 - Wedding Reception on 8/18/2018
 - Wedding Reception and Ceremony on 11/13/2018
 - Wedding Reception on 11/22/2018
 - Shell Norco Christmas Toy Giveaway – 12/8/2018
 - Wedding Reception on 12/29/2018
 - Krewe du Monde submitted down payment for 2019 Mardi Gras Ball
 - Krewe of MAC inquiry to use Room A for Mardi Gras Ball

- Location Request/Scouting (3)
 - Avalanche Production – Shot on location throughout St. John and St. James
 - Walk Away Joe – Shot on location throughout St. John Parish – Historic Riverlands
 - Shadows TV show planning to shoot at Keating's on Airline Highway in LaPlace
- Ad Placement (3)
 - Oz Entertainment Directory
 - L'Observateur Magazine – Ad for St. John Center
 - Tri-Parish Directory Book and online edition
- Misc.
 - Cineposium September 20th – 23rd
 - American Film Market Exhibition with LED, New Orleans Film Commission, and Baton Rouge Film Commission – November 3rd – 5th
 - One-on-one meetings scheduled with Paramount, Legendary, Lionsgate, possibly Hulu and Netflix
 - Submitting application for Best Places to live for Film makers due Nov. 1
- **St. John the Baptist Parish School Board** - Absent

Announcements

- 2018 Andouille Festival October 13th at St. John Theatre, Reserve
- 2018 Andouille Festival October 19th - 21st at Thomas F. Daley Memorial Park, LaPlace

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Taylor and seconded by Tyler Lewis. Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.