

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Peggy Joseph
Robert Taylor
Evin Stein
Kim Fontenot
James Oubre, Jr.
Elizabeth Joseph
Tyler Lewis

Staff:

LaVerne Toombs
Terri Abadie
D'Neil Figuero

Guests:

Buddy Boe	Phyllis Madere
Wayne Aucoin	Lois Frank
Chassity McComack	Pam Allen
Adam Lefort	Larry Sorapuru
Mala Taylor	Monica Morrison
Yasmine Magee	Lester Mitchell
Sylvia Clayton	Andrea Lowe
Ronald Hill	Ali Vicknair

Absent:

Kali Jenkins Price
Michelle Jenkins

Call to Order

Tyler Lewis called meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

Roll Call

Seven (7) Committee members were present. Two (2) Absent - Quorum was met.

Opening Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Elizabeth Joseph led prayer. James Oubre, Jr. led Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments (3) Minutes – No Public Comments

Adoption of Minutes from July 1, 2019 Meeting

Motion from Peggy Joseph and seconded by Robert Taylor to adopt the September 9th meeting minutes. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 absent (Kali Price and Michelle Jenkins).

Director's Report – Laverne Toombs (see report)

Old Business – No old business

New Business – No new business

Community Partners' Update

- **Entergy Louisiana** – absent
- **Louisiana Small Business Development Center** – Wayne Aucoin
 - Lunch and Learn
 - October 16 – 11:30am - 1pm @ RPCC
 - Social Media & Digital Marketing
 - November 19 – 11:30am - 1pm
 - Bankers: Meet the Lenders
 - Workshops
 - October 30 – 2pm - 4pm @ Chamber
 - Human Resources
 - November 6 – 1pm - 5pm @ RPCC
 - QuickBooks
 - TBA - Building Your Website – working on it future

- **Port of South Louisiana** – absent
- **River Parishes Community College (RPCC)** – Monica Morrison
 - Fall Break – Oct. 14 & 15
 - Structural Changes to campus buildings Feb 2020 – July 2020
 - Opening at St. Charles Campus - August 2020
 - Chancellors Luncheon – November to assist with scholarships for students
 - Soft Skills Seminars for technical students in November
 - New Vice Chancellor – Michael Beck from Gonzales
 - Open Registration begins Nov. 1st
 - Orientation will be Nov. 18
- **River Parish Tourist Commission (RPTC)** – Buddy Boe
 - Andouille Sponsorship for Festival & Pageant (new this year)
 - Tourism Investment Grant Program – Oct. 8th – 3pm @ Chamber.
 - Grant Program 2020 - Application due October 15th
 - River Region Tourism Day was September 17, 2019 @ St. John Community Center
 - Hiring a Digital Content Manager
 - Strategic Planning Committee meeting Oct. 10th
 - Willma Harvey, staff member selected for Chamber Leadership class of 2020
 - Next Meeting – October 16th @ Council Chambers
 - Contract Management for Community Center
 - St. John Community Center - signed contract for filming movie November 1 – February 6, also booked for 3 carnival balls in February for 3 weekends in a row.
- **River Parishes Workforce Development** – absent
- **River Region Chamber of Commerce** – Chassity McComack
 - Three Parish President forums were hosted – available on Chamber website (www.riverregionchamber.org)
 - Industry Mixer held Sept. 26 – Co-hosted with Grow LA Coalition promoted voting
 - Reorganizing Board of Directors – election in Nov.
 - Leadership River Region Class of 2020 – 25 members
 - Public Policies meeting Oct. 8th
 - Kudos to Parish Administration with Bayou Steele closure priority
 - Chamber Connections Luncheon – Nov 6th @ 11:30 – 1pm – San Francisco Plantation
 - Golf Tournament – October 18th – Belle Terre Country Club
- **South Central Planning & Development Commission** – Adam Lafort
 - Update on Delta Regional Authority Grant – working on resiliency plan
 - Business Loan Committee – contact Cullen Curole for info
 - Kick-off Meeting for Water Initiative – Wed. Oct. 9th
 - CAO offers information on Place Based Loan Project update as Parish is working in partnership with SCPDC
- **St. John Business Association** – Phyllis Madere
 - Hosted Parish President forum & Sheriff's forum in partnership with Chamber.
 - October Meeting – Social on Oct. 9th at 6:30pm – Frenier Landing
 - November Meeting – Rep. Greg Miller, Speaker – Petra's Restaurant
 - December Meeting – Christmas Party & election of officers
- **St. John the Baptist Parish School Board** – absent

Announcements

- Peggy Joseph – need for School Board representation to keep board abreast on status to help promote school system to new family members. School system having some difficulties right now under the new superintendent and wants to help grow & develop the school system in any way. CAO will reach out.
- Kim Fontenot – lack of sample ballot on website for election. CAO encourages her to contact ROV – Russell Jack.
- Tyler Lewis – reminder to vote on Saturday!
- Elizabeth Joseph – question to RPCC – will there be any training for Bayou Steel employees. Concerned that citizens will find work elsewhere in the event it may be purchased and re-opened. Questioned the functioning and safety. Ms. Morrison is open to any suggestions to assist. James Oubre has students who lost jobs and internships.

- LaVerne Toombs stressed the job fair opportunity. Governor's office has been in contact with administration, and parish officials have been in contact with state & agencies to aid in employment. Families who lost insurance for their children can access the state LA Chip program.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Joseph and seconded by James Oubre, Jr. Meeting was adjourned at 12:54pm.

After adjournment CAO made an announcement regarding the importance of the state required Sexual Harassment training. Training will be held on Wednesday Oct. 9th if not yet completed by board members.