

**St. John the Baptist Parish  
Economic Development Committee**  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 8, 2017

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Tomy Acosta  
Leroy Mitchell

**Staff:**

Jerry Jones  
Denise Burrell  
Terri Abadie  
Jean Stewart  
Myra Valentine  
Rhonda Lemons

**Guest:**

Jo Banner  
Lucien Gauff III  
Eliza Eugene  
Phyllis Madere  
Lois Frank  
Mala Taylor  
Aspen Murphy  
Sylvia Taylor  
Wayne Aucoin  
Cullen Curole  
Kimmie Carlos

**I. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Peggy Joseph called meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Prayer and Pledge**

Elizabeth Joseph led prayer. Evin Stein led pledge of Allegiance.

- Meeting open for public comments (3) Minutes (No Comments)

**IV. Adoption of Minutes from March 6, 2017 Meeting**

Motion from Evin Stein and seconded by Elizabeth Joseph to table the minutes of the March 6, 2017 meeting to make corrections on misspelled wording.

**Old Business**

**I. New Business**

Introduction of New Website-Slogan "Power of Opportunity"

**II. Monthly EDC Update-Director Report- Introduction of new board member Kali Jenkins appointed by Councilman District V, Michael Wright.**

EDC Director Jerry Jones reviewed monthly economic development department update. Today serves as the inaugural day for our Annual National Economic Development Week May 8-13. This will be the first year St. John's Department of Economic Development has participated in this celebration of Economic Development. We are excited and feel confident about the programming aspect throughout the duration of this week. Mr. Jones met with the following:

- Urban League of Louisiana through the recommendation of Laverne Toombs, CAO of St. John.
- We invited Penny Freeman and Kevin George into a conversation about the dual enrollment program under the management of the Urban League of Louisiana. Both the SCLTC and the St. John Public School System have committed to go back and review the information presented and proceed with considering options to build a partnership with the Urban League.
- Attended the Rotary Club of LaPlace weekly meeting.

- Final round of Small Business Grants and Loans application process concluded on March 31, 2017.
- Today is the launching our new website. This site will continue to evolve. The site is accessible in two ways that we will highlight in the presentation during New Business.
- Attended a luncheon on the Pin Oak Terminals site. The project is well underway. A job fair was recently held March 23-24th, at the SCLTC-Reserve campus. Nearly 300 applicants participated in the event
- Attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the SCLTC-Reserve Campus addition of the new Center for Advancement of Technical Education.
- Met with Aspen Murphy, Marathon Petroleum LP, about the process as to how Chick-fil-A selects locations for expansion.
- Attended Town Hall meetings hosted by the Parish that discussed the need to support our levee tax which passed with overwhelming support.
- Economic Development Department Staff attended the Louisiana Economic Development Summit, which was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on April 10-11.
- Attended the Greater New Orleans Regional Economic Development Partners
- Meeting at the GNO Inc. Headquarters. This meeting informs us of the legislation pending in Baton Rouge.
- Met with Livability Magazine who is doing the St. John Livability Economic Development Magazine. This is an Economic Development data driven magazine that will highlight editorial pieces on positive stories about the parish. Education, Small Business Development, Developments on the Levee, Port and how it is a major contributor to not only St. John but the country as well.
- Started our 2017 Andouille Festival Meetings. We are beginning to schedule committee meetings and taking the necessary steps to ensure the festival is a success.
- Met with Penny Freeman as it relates to a possible expansion at the Technical College for our Small Business Center.
- Attended a meeting to discuss the new program called Louisiana Calling. Louisiana Calling is where all Louisianans have the opportunity to achieve career and financial success.
- Will be hosting the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) on July 6-7, 2017 at the St. John Community Center.

### **III. Community Partners Update**

- River Region Chamber of Commerce - Absent (Report given by Denise Burrell)  
Shared upcoming Small Business series for constant contact to take you step-by-step through email marketing for your business is scheduled for May 12, 19, & 26 at Chamber Center from Resource Center in LaPlace 9am-10am.
- South Central Louisiana Technical College - Absent
- Louisiana Small Business Development Center – Wayne Aucoin  
FastTrac Graduation-May 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Class of 20  
6 FastTrac graduates present and recognized  
Lunch & Learn Project coming out in June (TBA)  
Next FastTrac classes start after Labor Day
- St. John Community Center - Jo Banner  
Spoke with Senators regarding incentives for film production  
Continue to book the center for private events  
Queen Sugar filming in the River Parishes  
Reviewing policies and procedures for the center  
Tourist Appreciation breakfast scheduled for May 13  
Tourism Week is May 7-13
- River Parish Tourism and Commission – Kimmie Carlos  
Attended Tourism Day at the Capital on April 24, 2017
- South Central Planning and Development Commission - Absent
- Port of South Louisiana - Absent

- Entergy of Louisiana - Absent
- St. John the Baptist Parish Public School Board - Absent
- St. John Business Association - Phyllis Madere  
May 10, 2016 at 6 pm Petra's Restaurant guest speaker DA Bridget Dinvaut
- Workforce Investment Board - Absent
- EME Consulting Group - Eliza Eugene  
263 total businesses visits as of 4/31/2017  
Number of visits for May is a total of 29 businesses  
6 AMB  
2 Micro  
21 BRE

**IV. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Michelle Jenkins and seconded by Elizabeth Joseph. Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.