

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Michelle Jenkins
Peggy Joseph
James Oubre, Jr.
Robert Taylor
Tomy Acosta
Kali Jenkins

Absent:

Evin Stein
Leroy Mitchell
Elizabeth Joseph

Staff:

Jerry Jones
Rene Pastorek
Alexandra Carter

Guest:

Jo Banner
Larry Sorapuru
Eliza Eugene
Mala Taylor
Wayne Aucoin
Chassity McComack
Annette Wray
Pamela Allen
Larry Snyder
Kimmie Carlos

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Peggy Joseph called meeting to order at 12:07p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Prayer and Pledge

Larry Snyder led prayer. Larry Sorapuru led pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public comment(s)

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

V. Adoption of Minutes from March 6, 2017 and May 8, 2017 Meetings

Motion from Tomy Acosta and seconded by James Oubre Jr. to adopt the minutes of the March 6, 2017 meeting. Motion by Tomy Acosta and seconded by Robert Taylor to approve the May 8, 2017 meeting minutes.

VI. Monthly EDC Update – Director’s Report

Thank everyone who is in attendance today for our monthly Economic Development Committee (EDC) meeting. National Economic Development Week was a huge success! The response to the week of events was extremely positive.

VII. Old Business

No Old Business to Report

VIII. New Business

- Re-Authorize Bylaws/Vision/Mission/Objective Committee
- Rene Pastorek - St. John Parish Historic Preservation Study Committee: Present of Findings and Recommendations. Approved recommendation of Planning & Zoning. Made by Tomy Acosta and seconded by Robert Taylor

IX. Community Partner(s) Reports

- **Entergy Louisiana** – Absent

- **Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC)** – Wayne Aucoin
 - FastTrac Graduation was May 25, 2017.
 - (20) Twenty graduates
 - (1) One graduate student present - Pamela Allen
- **Port of South Louisiana** – Absent
- **River Parishes Tourist Commission** – Kimmie Carlos
 - Working on budget
 - Participating in St. James Business Appreciation Banquet on June 13, 2017
- **River Region Chamber of Commerce - (RRCC)** – Chassity McComack
 - Special thanks for allowing RRCC to partner with St. John Economic Development Department during National Economic Development Week
 - (65) Sixty-five new people joined the Chamber during the Business Regional Networking Event at Acadiana Cinemas in LaPlace.
 - Revitalized Business Development Committee
 - Chamberita Mix & Mingle “Women’s Networking Event” –
 - June 22, 2017 at LaCaretta’s 5-7pm
 - Hosting 1st Leadership River Region Class-Start Fall October-June 2018
 - St. John Theater Workforce Development Committee-July 20, 2017
- **South Central Louisiana Technical College (SCL)** – Absent - Report given by James Oubre
 - July 1, 2017 SCL will be a community college.
 - Will be SACS Accredited
 - Fee & Curriculum will not change until after 2018
 - All programs will continue until 2018
 - Working toward all teachers being certified
 - James Oubre hosting the second part of Industrial Maintenance Training program for Delgado (free for students 18 years old & up) until July 19 and more funding has been provided to offer the training again for Fall 2018.
- **South Central Planning and Development Commission** – Absent
- **St. John Business Association** - Absent
EDC Director Jerry Jones will be guest speaker for the upcoming meeting at Petras 6pm
- **St. John Community Center & Soundstage** - Jo Banner
 - Private Event Inquiries/Update (2) (Birthday party for Fall '17, Wedding & Reception Fall '18 & Baby Shower-June 17)
 - Location Request/Scouting (Preacher filmed in Edgard June 8th-9th)
 - Upcoming Events-
 - EDC Training –July 6th & 7th
 - Backpack Giveaway-July 22nd
 - Ad Placement-Oz Entertainment Directory, LA Film & Television Magazine,
 - Cest LA Vie-L’Observateur,
 - Incentives Magazines
 - Designed Booth Backdrop for AFCI,
 - S 254 Billed Passed,
 - Queen Sugar Premiere-June 20 & 21,
 - Research information for center-vendor policy, insurance, etc.
- **St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools** – Absent
- **Workforce Investment Board** – Absent

- **EME Consulting Group - Eliza Eugene**
 - Ambassador for St. John Parish Small Businesses
 - Provide services to small business
 - Collect Emergency Contacts for the Parish
 - 2400 Businesses in Database
 - Work with Procurement with Jean Stewart
 - Make phone calls to businesses
 - Recommended for FastTrac graduates to become a vendor in St. John Parish.
 - Request EDC Director to host a workshop
 - Total visits for the year 299 businesses in St. John Parish
 - Out of the 109 graduates, there are 29 graduates with licenses in St. John Parish
 - 58- graduates have LLC or Corporation
 - 49- no destination
 - 2- non profit
 - 17- active
 - 10- home-based
 - Discussion with Parish President and Jerry Jones pertaining to making sure local businesses occupational license are current
 - See EME Consulting Group Annual Report for more information.

X. Economic Development Committee Comments

Robert Taylor suggested a Bicycle Path event for bicyclist. He thinks that would draw a lot of people and tourist. Jerry Jones stated he would take it under consideration.

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Michelle Jenkins and seconded by Tomy Acosta. Meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.