

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Economic Development Committee**
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, January 8, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Michelle Jenkins
Elizabeth Joseph
James Oubre, Jr.
Peggy Joseph
Robert Taylor
Evin Stein
Kali Jenkins
Tomy Acosta
Tyler Lewis

Absent:

Staff:

Jerry Jones
Denise Burrell
Terri Abadie
Jean Stewart

Guest:

Jo Banner
Joy Banner
Larry Sorapur
Kevin Belanger
Patrick Gordon
Russell Gaudet
Yasmaine Magee
Chassity McComack
Linda Prudhomme
Lois Frank
Mala Taylor
Buddy Boe
Wayne Aucoin
Dayna James
Shaun Adams
Jaclyn Hotard
Toni Flynn
Rena Jackson

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Peggy Joseph called meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Nine (9) Committee members were present. (0) Absent. Quorum was met.

III. Opening Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

Peggy Joseph led prayer. Michelle Jenkins led Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public Comments (3) Minutes

- Joy Banner - Director of Communication with Whitney Plantation update
- Dayna James with United Front Transportation - February 17, 2018 Grand Opening

V. Adoption of Minutes from November 6 & December 4, 2017 Meeting

Motion from Tomy Acosta and seconded by James Oubre to approve the November 6, 2017 & December 4, 2017 meeting minutes.

VI. Monthly EDC Update-Director Report- Jerry Jones

VII. Old Business - Election of Officers

- *Chairperson:* Michelle Jenkins nominated herself, seconded by Evin Stein; Peggy Joseph nominated Elizabeth Joseph, seconded by Elizabeth Joseph. (5 - 3) Michelle Jenkins elected as Chairperson.
- *Vice Chairperson:* James Oubre nominated Elizabeth Joseph, seconded by Peggy Joseph. Michelle Jenkins nominated Evin Stein, seconded by Kali Jenkins. Elizabeth Joseph rescinded nomination. Evin Stein elected as Vice Chairman.
- *Secretary:* Robert Taylor nominated Peggy Joseph, Peggy Joseph declined nomination; Elizabeth Joseph nominated Kali Jenkins, Kali Jenkins declined nomination.
 - Secretary election was tabled for *Old Business* for next month's meeting.

VIII. New Business- Budget Review by EDC Director, Jerry Jones

- Budget Review - Discussion regarding funds received for Economic Development. (Review of the Budget)
- James Oubre inquired of River Parish Transit Authority as it relates to transportation for South Central Louisiana Technical College (River Parishes Community College) students.
 - Councilwoman Jaclyn Hotard shared the River Parish Transit Authority Transportation is open to the public for a small fee.

- Councilwoman Jaclyn Hotard spoke regarding Andouille Festival.

IX. Community Partners' Update

- **Entergy Louisiana** – Absent
- **Louisiana Small Business Development Center** – Wayne Aucoin
 - Lunch & Learn – Speaker, Jo Banner – “Engaging your Business with the Film Industry”
 - Roundtable facilitated by Ron Markham 2 sessions January 16 & 23, 2018
 - Next FastTrac class begins March 8 through May 17, 2018
 - Five (5) FastTrac Graduates present at EDC meeting
- **Port of South Louisiana** - Linda Prudhomme (Recap)
 - 9.6 million dollar expansion of additional warehouse in our Port district,
 - Pin Oak Terminals Ground Breaking Ribbon Ceremony 2 years ago became a reality...
- **River Parish Tourist Commission (RPTC)** – Buddy Boe (New Executive Director of RPTC)
 - Introduction of Staff
 - Attempt to fill Sales position with RPTC
 - Next RPTC Meeting tentatively January 18, 2018
- **River Region Chamber of Commerce** - Chassity McComack
 - Board retreat was held December 7, 2017.
 - Remainder of year events still being finalized.
 - Surveys will be conducted this week on legislative issues important to businesses and what value added programs are important to small businesses.
 - Next Registration for Leadership River Region will be May 2018.
 - Workforce Development Summit Regroup held December 12, 2018.
 - Small Biz Roundtable scheduled via SBDC targeting St. John Parish Chamber members.
 - 2018 Annual Banquet scheduled for January 19, 2018 at 11:30a.m. at San Francisco in Garyville.
- **South Central Louisiana Technical College** – Absent
 - College Updates handed out to attendees
- **South Central Planning and Development Commission** - Patrick Gordon
 - Loan program working with St. John Parish covering grants and applicants
 - Still have money left over and can assist small businesses.
 - Working with Ms. Penny Freeman for River Parish Community College to go out on bid
 - January 17, 2018 meeting at Belle Terre Country Club on available grants
- **St. John Business Association** – Absent (Jerry Jones shared)
 - Next Business Association Meeting is January 10, 2018 at Petra Restaurant in LaPlace
- **St. John Community Center & Soundstage** - Jo Banner
 - (2) Private Event Inquiries
 - (2) Events Held
 - (2) Upcoming Events
 - (3) Location Request/Scouting
 - (3) Ad Placement
 - Misc-Regional Meeting with Film Baton Rouge 11/13/17
 - LFEA Quarterly Meeting in New Orleans 12/8/17
- **St. John the Baptist Parish School Board** - Absent
- **Workforce Investment Board** - Absent

X. Announcements – N/A

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Tomy Acosta and seconded by Evin Stein. Meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.