

**St. John the Baptist Parish  
Economic Development Committee**  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 7, 2017

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Evin Stein  
Leroy Mitchell

**Staff:**

Jerry Jones  
Denise Burrell

**Guest:**

Wayne Aucoin	Larry Snyder
Kimmie Carlos	Joy Banner
Tyren Snyder	Mala Taylor
Shaun Adams	Lois Frank
Linda Prudhomme	Lucien Gauff
Yolanda Williams	Dayna James
Megan Ryburn	Eliza Eugene
Penelope Freeman	Jonas Nash
Steven Perrilloux II	

**I. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Peggy Joseph called meeting to order at 12:04p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Prayer and Pledge**

Elizabeth Joseph led prayer. Tomy Acosta led pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Meeting open for public comments (3) Minutes**

- United Front Transportation Service - Services the River Parishes for transportation (elderly, kids, tours, etc.). Kali Jenkins inquired about transportation for Medicaid patients for doctor appointments. Currently working toward transporting Medicaid patients. No business cards present & website is under construction.
- Councilman Larry Synder asked for Transportation Service to be added to next council meeting.

**V. Adoption of Minutes from July 18, 2017 Meeting**

Motion from Tomy Acosta and seconded by James Oubre, Jr. to adopt the minutes of the July 18, 2017 meeting.

**VI. Director's Report – Monthly EDC Update, Jerry Jones**

- St. John the Baptist Parish 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Andouille Festival is already in the planning phase. Having initial meetings to start moving forward in preparation for a record crowd. Last year's festival was highlighted on several media outlets throughout southeast Louisiana.
- Attended the Rotary Club of LaPlace meeting.
- Industry Career Day planning efforts continuing to develop. The library has now connected with both South Central Louisiana Technical College and the River Region Chamber of Commerce.
- Louisiana Calling - is a program that serves as an opportunity to achieve career and financial success. 1<sup>st</sup> priority with Louisiana Calling is making sure everyone recognizes the many opportunities available in Louisiana, right here, right now. Louisiana Calling's multi-year public messaging campaign, resources and strategic partnerships will help Louisianans to discover and learn about the many pathways to career and financial success. 2<sup>nd</sup> priority is connecting Louisiana citizens to those opportunities to develop the high-value skills for short and long-term success.
- Economic Development Newsletter is in the review phase and will be submitted for a final design. Will receive 300 newsletters from St. John Parish Library called "Bookmarks" and share them along with our newsletter.

- Ribbon cutting was held for The Jambalaya Shoppe located at 150 Belle Terre Blvd.
- Looking towards scheduling meetings with Retails Shop owners and commercial real estate agents to assist on how to best assist with growing our commercial sector.
- LA SAFE-Louisiana Strategic Adaptation for Future Environments meeting - planning and more information to follow within the next few days.
- Delta Regional Authority in partnership with leading national arts and government organizations launched its pilot Delta Creative Placemaking Initiative to strengthen the Delta economy and improve the quality of life for the regions 10 million residents. Creative Placemaking fosters economic development in ways of enhancing the quality of place and improves the quality of life for residents.
- Fairfield Inn & Suites LaPlace is under construction.
- New website [www.OpportunityStJohn.com](http://www.OpportunityStJohn.com).

**VII. Old Business – No Old Business**

**VIII. New Business – Business Connection LED**

**IX. Community Partners Update**

- **River Region Chamber of Commerce (RRCC)** – Presented by Jerry Jones
  - Leadership River Region Class-Still a few spots available in the event someone is interested. Please visit website
  - Hosting Congressman Graves on August 31, 2017 9:00a.m. at Ormond Plantation in Destrehan. Invites will go out this week.
  - Annual RRCC Fly-In is scheduled for September 27-28, 2017. Anyone interested can reach out to Chassity directly.
  - Will be advertising the small biz expo for Congressman Richmond, as well as, a few other community events in the tri-parish area.
- **South Central Louisiana Technical College** – Penelope Freeman
  - Transitioning into River Parishes Community College
  - Credit Program will move Fall of 2018
  - Workforce Training in talk with Energy & other locals
  - Classes start 2 weeks from today and staff returns next Monday
  - October 4, 2017 Scholarship Dean Luncheon
  - Food truck working well on campus
- **Louisiana Small Business Development Center** – Wayne Aucoin
  - FastTrac Fall 2017 new start date is September 14, 2017, entirely new process and most of it is online.
  - Working on (4) Lunch & Learns starting in September and will be at the St. John Community Center an (1) hour per meeting.
  - Scheduling a QuickBooks & Social Media Class (TBA)
- **St. John Community Center** – Kimmie Carlos (Jo Banner emailed additional information)
  - Inquire of use of room for wedding reception in 2018
  - Tax Incentive review at Celtic Studios – July 20<sup>th</sup>
  - **Sound Stage Inquiries (1)**
    - Location Manager Mickey Lambert toured the facility for an upcoming television series. Filming to begin in late October 2018. Use of the atrium and outside of center as a location and possible use of soundstage.
  - **Private Event Inquiries/Update (3)**
    - Wedding Reception in August '18. Toured the facility on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Will drop off check and contract week of July 18.
    - Inquiry regarding use of Room A for wedding Reception in 2018. Will visit the center to look at room A sometime next month.
    - Request to use center grounds for a church tent revival

- **Events Held (1)**
  - St. John the Baptist Parish – IEDC Workshop/ Atrium July 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Backpack Giveaway- July 22<sup>nd</sup>
- **Location Request/Scouting (1)**
  - Preacher filmed in Edgard June 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>
- **Ad Placement (4)**
  - Oz Entertainment Directory
  - Louisiana Film and Television Magazine
  - Cest La Vie - L'Observateur
- **River Parishes Tourism and Commission** – Kimmie Carlos/Megan Ryburn
  - Met Joe Miller, Area Director for Q Hotel Management
  - Met with Gumbo Group
  - Working on a Christmas Trail Brochure
  - Board Meeting on August 16, 2017 at Belle Terre Country Club
  - Met with 32 Motor Coach
  - Went to Canada to promote tourism with Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser
- **South Central Planning and Development Commission** - Absent
- **Port of South Louisiana** - Linda Prudhomme
  - Paul Aucoin awarded the Prestigious Award. Will be presented in November
  - Land donors would like to have their site certified (certification program)
- **Entergy** - Absent
  - Nothing to report at this time per Jerry Jones
- **St. John the Baptist Parish School Board** - Absent
- **St. John Business Association** - Absent
  - August 9, 2017 meeting scheduled at 6:00p.m. Petra Restaurant in LaPlace.
- **Workforce Investment Board** - Absent
- **EME Consulting Group** - Eliza Eugene
  - Month of July
    - 4 Ambassadors visits
    - 13 businesses was referred to business development center
    - 5 businesses closed
    - 3 businesses was submitted
    - 1 business declined visit
  - EME reviewing if closed business has an active Occupational License in the parish
  - Approx. 3500 people attended Backpack Drive-Thank You to Community
  - Great turn out on West Bank Supply Give-A-Way
  - Introduction of staff member- Jonas Nash and Steve Perrilloux II

## I. **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Elizabeth Joseph and seconded by Robert Taylor. Meeting was adjourned at 12:59p.m. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2017.