

**Monroe-West Monroe
Convention and Visitors Bureau
212 Walnut Street, Suite 100
Monroe, Louisiana 71201
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Minutes
November 18, 2019**

Date and Place: The regular meeting of the Convention and Visitors Bureau was held at the Convention and Visitor Bureau, 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, Louisiana 71201 at 4:00 p.m., November 18, 2019. The Chairman Ryan Roark presided.

Roll Call: Present
Kevin Crosby
Sammy Gordy
Jordan Guillot
Mickey Merritt
Sue Nicholson
Nash Patel
Ryan Roark
Norene Smith
Roderick Worthy

Absent
Omar Elgourani
Don O'Toole, Jr.

Staff: Alana Cooper, President and CEO
Elmer Noah, Board Attorney
Ruth Canales, Office Manager

Visitors: Mayor James E. Mayo, City of Monroe
William McElroy – M3A Architecture
Tad L. Shultz-International Stadia Consultancy
Raymond Garfield, Jr.-Garfield Public Private
Mike Woolan-Garfield Public Private
Mike Vinning-City of Monroe

Agenda: Jordan Guillot moved, and Mickey Merritt seconded to amend the November 18, 2019, board meeting agenda to include the 2020 budget. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Presentation: Mayor James E. Mayo spoke about work being done on the concept of a Monroe Events Center or Epic Center. The following gentlemen spoke on the work being done to come up with the completed idea for the Epic Center: William McElroy, M3A Architecture, Tad L. Shultz, International Stadia Consultancy, Raymond Garfield, Jr., Garfield Public Private and Mike Woolan, Garfield Public Private. The concept contains four components: Arena, Meeting Rooms and Ballroom, Indoor amateur sports facilities, and full-service hotel with 200 rooms. Each component was discussed by the group and explained to the Board.

Minutes: Sammy Gordy moved, and Mickey Merritt seconded to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2019 board meeting as read. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Treasurer Reports: The board members reviewed the itemized deposits and disbursements showing a balance on hand as of October 31, 2019:

General Funds: \$8,880,127.73

Sammy Gordy moved, and Jordan Guillot seconded to approve the October 31, 2019 financial reports including the budget to actual comparison. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Reports filed for audit.

Travel Plans: Sammy Gordy moved, and Nash Patel seconded to approve the travel plans November 2019 – February 2020. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Committee Reports:

Tourism Development Grant Committee:

Chairman Jordan Guillot reported that the City of Monroe-Chennault Park Disc Golf Upgrades had requested their final payment in the amount of \$4,408.00. All requirements of the Summary Report have been met. Jordan Guillot moved, and Mickey Merritt seconded to pay \$4,408.00 to the City of Monroe-Chennault Park Disc Golf Upgrades. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Chairman Jordan Guillot reported that the Horse Assisted Therapy Services of North Louisiana/River Rat Paddle Challenge had requested their final payment in the amount of \$625.00. All requirements of the Summary Report have been met. Jordan Guillot moved, and Roderick Worthy seconded to pay \$625.00 to the Horse Assisted Therapy Services of North Louisiana for the River Rat Paddle Challenge. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Chairman Jordan Guillot reported that the City of Sterlington had submitted Application #6 for the Sterlington Sports Complex-Tri Group, LLC. Jordan Guillot moved, and Roderick Worthy seconded the payment of Application #6 in the amount of \$90,166.31. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Review of the Billboard Grant Request were as follows:

- (a) Antique Alley: \$11,136.00
- (b) Biedenharn Museum and Gardens: \$26,580.00
- (c) Chennault Aviation and Military Museum: \$30,000.00
- (d) Children's Coalition for Dragonboat Fest: \$8,295.00
- (e) Downtown RiverMarket: 14,600.00
- (f) Northeast Louisiana children's Museum: \$7,300.00 Extra Board: \$10,000.00
- (g) Ouachita African American Historical Society: \$25,980.00
- (h) Twin City Art foundation/Masur Museum: \$25,980.00

Awards will be based on negotiations with Billboard Companies.

Jordan Guillot reviewed the Twin City Marathon beneficiary of sponsorships. Sue Nicholson moved, and Sammy Gordy seconded that the proceeds from the Twin City Marathon should be divided as follows:

City of Monroe Police Department:	\$2000.00
City of West Monroe Police	\$2000.00
Department	
Willpower	\$3000.00

Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Other Business: Mickey Merritt presented the 2019 Revised Budget and the 2020 Requested Budget for approval of the Board. Mickey Merritt moved, and Sue Nicholson seconded approval of the 2019 Revised Budget and the 2020 Requested Budget. The motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

President and CEO Alana Cooper updated the Board on the progress of the Wayfinding Signage Projects. Signs are beginning to be seen through the Monroe-West Monroe area. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year barring weather concerns.

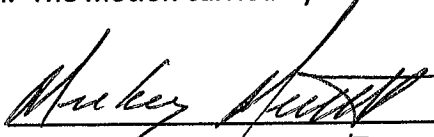
President's Report: President and CEO Alana Cooper advised the Board of the Board Reminder located in the front of the Board books. The Board needs to complete Ethics Training before December 31, 2019.

President Alana Cooper updated the Board on the renovations taking place at the West Monroe office. Demolition is nearly complete and due to some changes, that have been made there will be an addition of four (4) to five (5) days. It was decided by the Executive Committee to approve putting net and insulation into the space between the floors to help with the noise problem.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Sammy Gordy moved, and Mickey Merritt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. The motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.



Ryan Roark, Chairman



Mickey Merritt, Secretary/Treasurer