

**Monroe-West Monroe
Convention and Visitors Bureau
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Minutes
June 19, 2016**

Date and Place: The regular meeting of the Convention and Visitors Bureau was held at the Convention and Visitors Bureau on June 19, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. The Chairwoman, Sammy Gordy presided.

Roll Call: **Present**

Dr. Jerry Edmondson	Sammy Gordy
Lane Howell	Mickey Merritt
Don O'Toole	Ryan Roark
Norene Smith	

Absent

Kevin Crosby (excused)	Omar Elgourani (excused)
Sue Nicholson (excused)	Nash Patel (excused)

Staff: Alana Cooper, President/CEO
 Sylvia Bullard, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
 Elmer Noah, Board Attorney

Agenda: It was moved by Dr. Jerry Edmondson and seconded by Ryan Roark to approve the June 19, 2017 board meeting agenda. Motion carried by a vote of seven (7) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Minutes: It was moved by Don O'Toole and seconded by Mickey Merritt to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2017 board meeting as read. Motion carried by a vote of seven (7) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Treasurer Report: The board members reviewed the itemized deposits and disbursements showing the following balance on hand as of May 2017.

General Funds	\$8,808,420.84
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Report filed for audit.

Travel Plans: It was moved by Lane Howell and seconded by Mickey Merritt to approve the additional travel for October, 2017. Motion carried by a vote of seven (7) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Signage Committee Report: Ryan Roark reported that the committee reviewed a proposal from S.E. Huey Company for construction management of the Wayfinding project, to include development of the bid packet and services needed to supervise the placement of Wayfinding and Signage for the Monroe and West Monroe area in the amount of \$35,500.00.

It was moved by Ryan Roark and seconded by Don O'Toole to accept the proposal from S.E. Huey and Co. in the amount of \$35,500.00 for construction and management including the development of a bid packet for installing Wayfinding Signage in Monroe and West Monroe. Motion carried by a vote of seven (7) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

President/CEO Report: Alana Cooper reported that the Convention and Visitors Bureau has the opportunity to host the US Team Penning National Finals competition for 2018 and 2019 with an additional year option to return. She stated it is a seven (7) day event with an estimated economic impact of over \$500,000.00. She requested the board to dedicate \$22,000.00 per year if we are the successful bidder to cover rental cost and bid expenses at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center.

It was moved by Norene Smith and seconded by Ryan Roark to dedicate \$22,000.00 per year to cover the rental cost and bid expenses at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center for the US Team Penning National Finals. Motion carried by a vote of seven (7) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Alana Cooper reported that the Convention and Visitors Bureau has the opportunity to host the Quarter Horse Sugar Bowl Classic to be held December 28 through the December 31, 2017 at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center. She requested board approval to dedicate \$5,000.00 to be used for rental of the Ike Hamilton Expo Center. She stated that the Convention and Visitors Bureau will also help with advertising the event as we have done in the past. The event utilizes 330 room nights between Christmas and New Year's Eve.

It was moved by Don O'Toole and seconded by Mickey Merritt to dedicate \$5,000.00 to the Quarter Horse Sugar Bowl Classic to be used for the rental of the Ike Hamilton Expo Center. Motion carried by a vote of seven (7) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Alana Cooper reported that she was asked to write a letter to Mr. Wick Moorman, President of Amtrak Rail Service, in support of a proposed I-20 Corridor long distance rail connection. The service will run through North Louisiana and connect with the East Coast.

It was moved by Ryan Roark and seconded by Norene Smith to write a letter to Mr. Wick Moorman, President of Amtrak Rail Service in support of a connection between North Louisiana and the East Coast. Motion carried by a vote of seven (7) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was moved by Lane Howell and seconded by Ryan Roark to adjourn at 5:10 p.m. Motion carried by a vote of seven (7) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Sammy Gordy, Chairwoman

Lane Howell, Secretary/Treasury

