

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

**Minutes
March 19, 2018**

Date and Place: The regular meeting of the Convention and Visitors Bureau was held at the Convention and Visitors Bureau on March 19, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. the Chairman, Don O'Toole presided.

Roll Call: **Present**

Kevin Crosby	Omar Elgourani
Mickey Merritt	Sue Nicholson
Don O'Toole	Nash Patel
Ryan Roark	Norene Smith

Absent

Jordan Guillot (excused)	Sammy Gordy (excused)
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Staff: Alana Cooper, President/CEO
 Sylvia Bullard, Finance Manager
 Elmer Noah, Board Attorney

Agenda: Mickey Merritt moved and seconded by Sue Nicholson to approve the March 19, 2018, board meeting agenda. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Minutes: Kevin Crosby moved and seconded by Mickey Merritt to approve the minutes of February 19, 2018, board meeting as read. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) 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 February 28, 2018.

General Funds	\$9,346,022.76
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Reports filed for audit.

Travel Plans: Nash Patel moved and seconded by Omar Elgourani to approve the additional travel plans from April through July 2018. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Committee Report:

Tourism Development Grant Committee – Don O’Toole reported that the tourism development grant committee met on March 19, 2018, at 3:30 p.m. to review final payment requests.

1. The Chennault Aviation & Military Museum requested final payment of \$12,928.62 for a grant dedicated to Marketing and print new books.
2. The City of West Monroe requested final payment of \$2,500.00 for the printing of 25,000 Kiroli Park brochures.

Kevin Crosby moved and seconded by Sue Nicholson to approve the final payment requests as recommended by the grant committee. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negatives votes.

3. Louisiana Purchase Zoological Society requested the final payment of \$37,500.00 for the purchase of a train locomotive that will be delivered to the zoo no later than June. After reviewing the request the committee recommendation is to table until the April 16th board meeting.

4. The Town of Sterlington requested \$562,627.50, 75% of the awarded amount of \$750,170.00 for construction of the new sports complex parking lot. The committee made a recommendation to approve the request subject to receiving invoices of payments and the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

Kevin Crosby moved and Ryan Roark seconded to approve a payment to the Town of Sterlington of \$562,625.50 to be payable after copies of invoices and the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement is received.

President/CEO – Alana Cooper informed the board on different sporting events coming to the Monroe-West Monroe area and requested money to be dedicated to bid and sponsor them.

She requested funds to be dedicated as follows:

1. \$22,000.00 to host the Dixie 2018 Majors World Series Baseball to be held in July 2018 including the bid fees, team hotel rooms and other expenses.
2. \$42,000.00 to host the Dixie Pre- Majors and Majors World Series for 2019 including the bid fees, team hotel rooms, and other expenses.
3. \$5,000.00 to host the 2019 Dixie 15 and Under World Series hosting expenses.

Kevin Crosby moved and seconded by Sue Nicholson to dedicate funds to host the following events. The Dixies 2018 Majors World Series in July 2018 for \$22,000.00, the Dixie Pre- Majors and Majors World Series for 2019 for \$42,000.00 and the Dixie 15 and Under World Series for 2019 for \$5,000. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Alana Cooper reported that the National Horseshoe Pitching Association invited the Convention and Visitors Bureau to consider bidding to host the 2020 National Horseshoe Pitching Tournament in Monroe-West Monroe. She stated that the cost of the tournament would cost about \$72,000.00, which includes the \$21,000.00 bid fee, the Civic Center rental, clay, and other expenses.

Kevin Crosby moved and seconded by Mickey Merritt to dedicate \$72,000.00 in Special Promotion to cover the cost to host the 2020 National Horseshoe Pitching Tournament in Monroe-West Monroe if awarded. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Kevin Crosby moved and seconded by Mickey Merritt to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Don O'Toole, Vice Chairman

Mickey Merritt, Sec/Treasury