

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

**Minutes
June 20, 2016**

Date and Place: The regular meeting of the Convention and Visitors Bureau was held at the Convention and Visitors Bureau office on June 20, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The Chairman, Nash Patel presided.

Roll Call: **Present**

Dr. Jerry Edmondson	Sammy Gordy
Lane Howell	Sue Nicholson
Don O'Toole	Nash Patel
Ryan Roark	Norene Smith

Absent

Omar Elgourani (excused)	Janet Rutledge (excused)
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Staff:

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

Agenda: It was moved by Don O'Toole and seconded by Lane Howell to approve the June 20, 2016 board meeting agenda. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Minutes: It was moved by Don O'Toole and seconded by Jerry Edmondson to approve the May 16, 2016 minutes as read. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Treasurer Reports: The board members reviewed the itemized deposits and disbursements showing the following balance on hand as of May 31, 2016.

General Funds	\$8,176,556.08
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Report filed for audit.

Travel Plans: It was moved by Jerry Edmondson and seconded by Lane Howell to approve the additional travel plans for June through October 2016. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Committee Reports:

Tourism Development Grant Committee- Ryan Roark reported that the Tourism Development Grant committee met on June 20, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. to review payment requests.

He reported that the committee reviewed the following requests.

1. Mann's Family Charities requested final payment in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the Crawfish Craze 5D Barrel Run
2. Twin City Ballet Company request final payment in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the 2015 thru 2016 Season performances.
3. The Downtown Rivermarket request 75% (7,500.00) of dedicated funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 for electrical work.

It was moved by Ryan Roark and seconded by Don O'Toole to approve the tourism development grant payments as requested. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Other Business: Alana Cooper reported that she sent via email changes to the By-Laws to the board members to review and voted on in the June 20, 2016 meeting. She stated if there are no objections she requested a motion to approve as changed.

It was moved by Lane Howell and seconded by Ryan Roark to approve the Convention and Visitors Bureau By-Laws changes as presented by the President/CEO. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Alana Cooper discussed that Mrs. Ruth Booker has contacted her in regarding to the Cotton Stakes Dog show that was held in Monroe-West Monroe over the Labor Day Weekend. The show was cancelled after the director Mr. Pat Booker passed away. Mrs. Booker is interested in bringing the Dog Show back to the Monroe-West Monroe area to be held over the Memorial Day weekend. Alana Cooper reported that in the past the board had agreed to dedicate \$5,000.00 each year to help sponsor the Dog Show. Alana Cooper asked the board if they wanted to continue to sponsor the Dog Show in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be held in Monroe-West Monroe in May 2017.

It was moved by Sue Nicholson and seconded by Jerry Edmondson to dedicate \$5,000.00 to help sponsor the 2017 Dog Show over the Memorial Day Weekend. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Alana Cooper reported that the board dedicated \$20,000.00 to sponsor the American Bass Anglers National Championship to be held in Monroe-West Monroe October 14-21, 2016. After getting the contract they are asking for an additional \$10,000.00 more to host a banquet and other event expenses for the fishermen. She requested approval to add \$10,000.00 more in dedicated funds.

It was moved by Sammy Gordy and seconded by Jerry Edmondson to increase the dedicated funds to host the American Bass Anglers National Championship from \$20,000.00 to 30,000.00. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Alana Cooper discussed that Travel South USA International Sales Mission partnership with the state tourism offices. They will be conducting a sales mission to China, September 10-16, 2016. She stated the cost of the trip is \$4,750.00 plus airfare. They will stay three (3) nights in Beijing and three (3) nights in Shanghai. She stated that she was leaving up to the board if they would like for a staff member to go. The board members suggested that if a staff member goes that we should invite Nell Calloway with the Chennault Aviation Museum. It was stated that the Chennault Aviation Museum is on a limited budget

and will not have the funds to send Nell Calloway. The board asked Alana Cooper if she could get a grant or scholarship from the Convention and Visitors Bureau. They instructed Alana Cooper to check with Nell Calloway to see if she would be interested in going.

It was moved by Norene Smith and seconded by Sammy Gordy to approve that a staff member travel and attend the China Sales Mission in Beijing and Shanghai. If Nell Calloway is interested in attending the China Sales Mission in Beijing and Shanghai the Convention and Visitors Bureau will offer her a grant through the Tourism Development Grants process. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was moved by Sammy Gordy and seconded by Lane Howell to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried by a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Nash Patel, Chairman

Sammy Gordy, Secretary/Treasurer