

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

**Minutes
September 21, 2015**

Date and Place: The regular meeting of the Convention and Visitors Bureau was held at the Convention and Visitors Bureau office on September 21, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. The Chairwoman, Norene Smith, presided.

Roll Call: **Present**

Jerry Edmondson	Omar Elgourani
Sammy Gordy	Lane Howell
Sue Nicholson	Nash Patel
Ryan Roark	Janet Rutledge
Norene Smith	

Absent

Gretchen Kovac (excused)	Don O'Toole (excused)
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Staff: Alana Cooper, President/CEO
 Sylvia Bullard, Office Manager
 Elmer Noah, Board Attorney

Guests: Zack Parker, Ouachita Citizen
 Jon Schmieder, Huddle Up Group, LLC

Agenda: It was moved by Jerry Edmondson and seconded by Lane Howell to approve the September 21, 2015 board meeting agenda. Motion carried by a vote of Nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Minutes: It was moved by Sammy Gordy and seconded by Sue Nicholson to approve the August 31, 2015 minutes as read. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) 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 August 31, 2015.

General Funds	\$7,236,784.86
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Report filed for audit.

Travel Plans: It was moved by Ryan Roark and seconded by Omar Elgourani to approve the additional travel plans for September through November 2015. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Committee Reports:

Signage Committee- Ryan Roark reported the signage committee met on September 21, 2015 at 3:15 p.m. to discuss quotes for the construction and placement of the Convention and Visitors Bureau location sign. Alana Cooper reported that we received three (3) quotes. After reviewing the quotes the committee recommended to approve the quote of Platinum Signs of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

It was moved by Ryan Roark and seconded by Sue Nicholson to approve the quote from Platinum Sign of Natchitoches, Louisiana in the amount of \$18,730.00 for sign and up to the amount of \$22,000.00 with electrical work. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Tourism Development Grant Committee – Janet Rutledge reported that the grant committee met on September 21, 2015 at 3:45 to discuss and re-review the Chenault Aviation and Military Museum’s July 2015 grant application at the museum request. They requested for the committee to reconsider funding the proposal of land purchase for the Museum to be used for future additions.

Janet Rutledge reported that after the presentation by the Museum the grant committee reviewed the grant proposal. The committee had a unanimous opinion that the acquisition of property is not the appropriate use of the Convention and Visitors Bureau grant funds.

Other Business: Jon Schmieder, Founder and CEO, of the Huddle Up Group in Phoenix, Arizona, made a presentation to the board on his qualifications and background in sports tourism. He stated that his goal is to analyze the existing events, venues, and sports tourism activities in Monroe looking for the best growth potential for sports tourism.

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was moved by Sue Nicholson and seconded by Omar Elgourani to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried by a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Norene Smith, Chairwoman

Lane Howell, Secretary/Treasurer