

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Bayou Vermilion District
Held at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana
4:30 pm, September 25, 2019

Call to Order was given by President Keefer. The meeting was called at 4:30 pm.

Roll Call: Given by the Secretary; Natalie Keefer, Kristie Cornell, Ray Landry, John Broussard, Thomas Michot were present. Commissioners Rodney Richard and Benjamin Richard were absent. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION:** (R. Landry/D. McConnell) Motion to accept the minutes from the August 28, 2019 regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Introduction of Guest(s): Guest: Wayne Prejean, Robert Minyard, and Calvin Leger, Staff: CEO Cheramie, Shawntell Lewis, Anne Mahoney, Wesley Davis, Maegan Smith, Millicent Norbert, Brady McKellar, Curtis Willingham, and Kim Fournet.

Public Comment(s): There were no public comments.

President's Report: President Keefer informed the board that October would be her last meeting, she is resigning from the board due to heavy work load. President Keefer will still be involved with the accreditation process and grants.

Commissioner Catherine Comeaux joined the meeting at 4:32.

CEO's Report: Copies of CEO Cheramie's report and coordinators reports (on file) were e-mailed. CEO reviewed his report. CEO expressed his dismay at N. Keefer leaving the board. CEO informed the board that long time woodcarver employee, Cliff Mire had passed away. Mayor President Robideaux signed the proclamation declaring September 28, 2019 as "Bayou Vermilion Day". CEO Cheramie thanked the out-going commissioner for their time and dedication to the BVD Board. CEO is preparing the 2020 budget. July numbers are down from 2018. Hopefully, the August numbers will improve. Millicent Norbert is working hard to get wedding and events but many couples are opting to have smaller weddings or getting married at home. Marketing is promoting BVD's events. There is more completion for people's time and money.

Marketing/Public Relations: The committee did not meet. Commissioner R. Landry reminded the board there is a Jam Session every Saturday and a Dance/Band every Sunday. The Cajun French Music Association (CFMA) donates \$2,500, a year to help pay for Jam host. The Boat Parade is September 28th, it will start at Vermilionville and end at Southside Park, with a short at Camellia Bridge. At Southside Park there will be bands, food and beverage until 8pm. Commissioner C. Comeaux asked about art painting the areas around Camellia Bridge and Southside Park to dissuade graffiti. Shawntell Lewis handed out Le Bal du Dimanche posters.

Finance/Capital: The committee did not meet. Rotary Point is open. North Landing is still closed because of I-10 construction. The bids for the BVD Water Quality Lab will be opened October 9, 2019.

Operations/Bayou/Maintenance: The committee did not meet. Tom Melancon, Bayou Ops Crew Chief, is requesting new equipment to replace very old equipment. This equipment is used to maintain the river and properties.

Environmental: The committee did not meet. Emile Ancelet gave a presentation at “Science on the Bayou”.

Programming/Education/Grants: The committee did not meet.

Curatorial/Acquisitions: The committee did meet to discuss board members joining Accreditation Planning committee to set goals for BVD and museum for 2020-2025.

Master Plan: The committee will meet October 2, 2019, at Girard Hall at 5pm.

Budget: The financial analysis comparison for the month ending August 2019 and August 2018 was available for the commissioners’ review. The financials are also emailed to the commissioners. There were no questions.

New Business: President Keefer read **Resolution 2019-02** to the board. A vote was called for by the president: (7) yeas: N. Keefer, C. Comeaux, K. Cornell, J. Broussard, R. Landry, T. Michot, and S. McConnell ; (0) nays; (0) abstained and (2) absent: R. Richard and B. Richard. Resolution 2019-02 was adopted on September 25, 2019.

Commissioner T. Michot thanked the board members who were leaving. Commissioner C. Comeaux suggested a Meet and Greet open house for the new board members, possibly on a board meeting night, to help familiarize them with all aspects of BVD. The Foundation Board is looking for 3 new members if anyone has any suggestions.

Adjournment: MOTION: (R. Landry/D. McConnell) Motion to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Natalie Keefer, President

Catherine Comeaux, Secretary