

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Bayou Vermilion District
Held at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana
4:30 pm, June 26, 2019

Call to Order was given by President Keefer. The meeting was called at 4:31 pm.

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

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION:** (C. Comeaux/T. Michot) Motion to accept the minutes from the May 22, 2019 regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Introduction of Guest(s): Guest: Christie Dunn, CPA with Wright, Moore, DeHart, Dupuis and Hutchinson, LLC, Whit Rankin with Rankin LLC, Laurie Seilhan and Rick Baron with Acacia Neighborhood. Staff: CEO Cheramie, Brady McKellar, Marcus Bergeron, Anne Mahoney, Shawntell Lewis, Wesley Davis, Millicent Norbert, Maegan Smith, Curtis Willingham, and Kim Fournet.

Commissioners Benjamin Richard and Don McConnell joined the meeting at 4:33.

Commissioner John Broussard joined the meeting at 4:36.

Presentation of December 31, 2018 Audit Report: Ms. Dunn distributed a copy of the December 31, 2018, audit report and a required letter addressed to the Board. Ms. Dunn reported that there were no errors found in the accounting records. There were no disagreements with management and no compliance findings. About the audit report: the firm had an unmodified opinion, which means that everything is in order. Ms. Dunn presented several statements concerning the operations of the Bayou Vermilion District that ensure it is in compliance. General Fund revenues are mostly ad valorem driven. In regards to Vermilionville revenues, BVD is working very hard to keep the revenues as high as possible and being proactive on making necessary changes to help with revenues and expenditures. Wright, Moore, DeHart, Dupuis and Hutchinson, LLC will submit the audit report to the Legislative Auditor. The board accepted the report and findings presented by Ms. Dunn from Wright, Moore, DeHart, Dupuis and Hutchinson, LLC. Commissioner C. Comeaux asked about the Vermilionville deficit, Ms. Dunn explained that the museum is in a deficit but BVD as a whole is not. Museums are not usually self-sustaining.

President's Report: President Keefer acknowledged that Vermilionville strives to be self-sustaining and the Foundation Board receives grants and donations to help BVD/Vermilionville. Vermilionville's ability to support itself through revenues, grants, and/or donations is very important to the accreditation process.

CEO's Report: Copies of CEO Cheramie's report and coordinators reports (on file) were e-mailed. CEO reviewed his report. CEO reported on the Vermilion River stages. The June 6th rain put the river above flood stage for 10 days. The work at Rotary Point is going very slowly due to the high river. The staff is diligently preparing the celebration of our thirtieth anniversary in 2020. Our French Intern, Laurie Grégoire, is going back to France. She was a great asset to BVD. CEO reminded the board of his vacation in July and also informed them he would be out August 17-20 for the Congrès Mondial Acadien

2019. Commissioner Broussard became involved with the Congrès Mondial Acadien and Vermilionville in 1998. The revenues for May 2019 were down from 2018, as was attendance.

Public Comment(s): Laurie Seilhan and Rick Baron came to the meeting to represent the Acacia Neighborhood, which is located across the river from Rotary Point. The rain on June 6th caused some damage to the neighborhood and Ms. Seilhan and Mr. Baron wanted to express their concerns about the barges in the river that are doing repair work at Rotary Point. They also asked BVD to consider having an evacuation plan for equipment on the river, and the impact on neighboring areas when working on the river. Commissioner Comeaux explained that the river changes its own course and is not controlled. Commissioner Michot commented that cement coulees bring water to the river more quickly. The Army Corps decides if a river is to be dredged not BVD. Lafayette Parish has an ongoing drainage incentive plan to clean coulees. BVD cleans the river. Carencro has had a massive cleaning of coulees which makes water flow faster into Lafayette. The commissioners thanked Ms. Seilhan and Mr. Baron for coming to the meeting and speaking to the board. Commissioner Comeaux asked them to remain vocal and send letters to their public officials about their flooding concerns.

Marketing/Public Relations: The committee did not meet. Commissioner R. Landry requested that he be made the chair of the committee, it was agreed upon.

Finance/Capital: The committee did not meet. The financials were reviewed with Ms. Dunn's presentation

Operations/Bayou/Maintenance: The committee did not meet.

Environmental: The committee did not meet.

Programming/Education/Grants: The committee met to discuss NEA 2020 grant. The 30th Anniversary, and other upcoming events with local parishes.

Curatorial/Acquisitions: The committee did not meet. Anne Mahoney informed the board she had a webinar that could help commissioners understand the accreditation process.

Master Plan: The committee did not meet.

Budget: The financial analysis comparison for the month ending May 2019 and May 2018 was available for the commissioners' review. The financials are also emailed to the commissioners. Ms. Dunn discussed the audit earlier in the meeting.

New Business: Commissioner J. Broussard relayed the passing of Lil Buck Sinegal. Commissioner Broussard also commended Brady McKellar and Millicent Norbert on the success of Creole Culture Day. Millicent Norbert will have a tribute in October for Mr. Sinegal.

Adjournment: **MOTION:** (J. Broussard/T. Michot) Motion to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Benjamin Richard
~~Natalie Keefer, President~~
Benjamin Richard, Vice President

/s/ Catherine Comeaux
Catherine Comeaux, Secretary

