

## Minutes ZTPC 6.13.01

The quarterly meeting of the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission was held on Wednesday, June 13, 2001 at the Front Porch Restaurant 9173 Hwy 67 S. in Clinton, LA.

Chairman J. Curtis Jelks called to the meeting to order at 10:05 am Secretary, Donald Browning, did Roll Call. Those in attendance included: E. Feliciania Parish, Curtis Jelks and alternate Minnie Douglas; Pointe Coupee Parish, Pat Witty and alternate, Jerome Lacombe; Rapides Parish, Jim Dubroc; St. Helena Parish, Vernon McMorris and alternate, Ike Jenkins; Tangipahoa Parish, Richard Kent and alternate, Dr. J. L. McClendon; Washington Parish, Robert Magee and alternate Marilyn Bateman; W. Feliciania Parish, Donald Browning.

Recognition of Officials and Guests was delayed. Mr. Jelks requested President Taylor to do this in the Association Board Meeting.

Consideration of minutes of March 14, 2001 meeting was then made. These minutes had been mailed to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. Mr. Jelks asked for any corrections. There being none offered. Mr. Browning moved they be approved. Second by Mr. Kent. All voted in favor of this motion.

As the treasurer was running late, Mr. Jelks continued the meeting by addressing item 6 "Chairman's Report (includes report on H.B. 1712" Copies of a memorandum from Mr. Jelks had been mailed to the Commissioners, and additional copies were handed out in the meeting. Mr. Jelks also gave a report from Adams and Reese. (Copy is attached to the Master of these minutes).

Mr. Witty then gave the Treasurer's Report, passing out copies to the group. (Copy is attached to Master of these minutes). After allowing time for review, Mr. Witty moved it be accepted. Second by Mr. Kent. All voted to accept. Mr. Witty then noted that the Commission's fiscal year ends June 30, 2001 and requested all current year invoices for payment be submitted by July 9, 2001.

Dan Broussard was asked to give a report from DOTD. Mr. Broussard said he had no formal report, and introduced some other members of DOTD. They included: Mike Aghayan and Roy Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt is a new district administrator and is replacing Gordon Nelson who has been promoted to new position in DOTD.

Consideration of resolution relating to the location (Alignment "B/C" vs. Alignment "F") of the bridge to be built across the Miss. River under the Timed program was then given. Copies of this resolution were handed out to the group (copy attached to this Master). Mr. Browning moved it be accepted, second by Mr. Witty. Mr. Jelks opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Mix Vosburg of PC Parish Police Jury stated that he felt the B/C Alignment was more logical, but he was not opposed to the F Alignment. Mr. Bert Babers, President of the WF Police Jury stated that the B/C Alignment would hurt the

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Historical district of St. Francisville, and that the F Alignment would benefit the industrial portion of WF Parish.

In response a question, Mr. Ellis C Magee stated he understood that the F Alignment would be less costly to build than the B/C. Ms. Joanna Wurtele of PC Parish stated she had recently returned to LA and the community where she had lived had a similar situation. She stated that the location of a nearby bridge had helped tourism in that community. She also felt that the B/C Alignment would help transportation of workers from Avoyelles Parish to get to Angola. Mayor D'Aquila of St. Francisville stated that the F Alignment would offer more room for industrial development as it had done with the Sunshine Bridge. Mr. Magee then noted that the resolution before the group said that the F Alignment was acceptable to the Commission, and did not give a preference for either alignment. Toye Taylor, president of the ZTPA Board of Directors, then gave a brief history of the Parkway Project. Mr. Taylor, President of the ZTP Association Board of Directors, noted that the Association and Commission had made it a point to stay out of local affairs. He felt the B/C Alignment to be the best choice, but felt the need for a bridge was the most important issue, and would support the resolution before the group. Louis Hebert, board member of the ZTPA said he agreed with President Taylor, and also agreed that the resolution before the group should be supported. Ronald Saizon, member of the ZTPA board, said he felt the B/C alignment to be the better choice, but would go along with the resolution. Cathy Munson of St. Francisville stated she felt the B/C Alignment would hurt the historical integrity of the town. Mr. Broussard then reported on a call to the DOTD and while not giving exact numbers said that according to his source the F Alignment would be less expensive to build. Mr. Richard Kent then called for a vote. All voted in favor. (Copy of this resolution is attached to Master of these minutes)

Consideration of proposal to establish Commission Office in West Feliciana Parish. and Designation of custodian of Commission records was then given (Agenda items 9 and 10). Mr Sam D'Aquila, (attorney for the Commission) stated that legal counsel at the WF Police Jury meeting held June 12, 2001 had stated that in his opinion, office space and custodian in WF was not required. Mr. Browning moved, that Mr. Jelks be authorized to make arrangements for office space and a custodian if it becomes necessary, and that he be authorized to execute a contract with the West Feliciana Police Jury. Second by Mr. Witty. All voted in favor

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Consideration of proposed revision of contract between the Commission and the Zachary Taylor Parkway Association was then made. Revisions to be considered relate: (a) to the involvement of Jamie Branch in handling of Commission activities, and (b) to those provisions that might be impacted by establishment of Commission Office in W. Feliciana Parish and by designation of new custodian of Commission records. Mr. Jelks stated that he had polled the Commission officers and they agreed to support the employment of Ms. Branch effective May 15, 2001. Based on their approval, he had authorized her to begin work on that date. Mr. Witty moved that Mr. Jelks be authorized to execute an amendment to the existing contract between the ZTP Commission and the ZTP Association in order to add the services to be provided by Jamie Branch for the Commission and in order to provide for an increase of \$200 per month in the compensation to be paid by the Commission to the Association. Second by Mr. Browning. Mr. Vosburg then offered space and services from PC Parish Police Jury should they be needed. With no other discussion, Mr. Jelks asked for a vote of the Commission. All voted in favor of Mr. Witty's motion.

Selection of place for next Commission meeting was then considered. Mr. Sam D'Aquila stated that the Attorney General's Opinion condemns the holding of meetings of public bodies in restaurants "if there is a charge", he further stated that since there is no charge for anyone attending Commission meetings, he believed that the Attorney General's Opinion is not applicable to our situation. He added that the fact that some people attending the meetings of the Commission and of the Association may choose to have a meal after the meetings have adjourned does not affect the legality of the Commission's holding its meetings in a restaurant even if those choosing to stay for the meal are charged for the meal.

Under Miscellaneous business, Mr. Jelks called on Mr. Bell for a review of Commission expenses as they compare to the budget. Mr. Bell stated that currently only one classification is over the budget amount, that being the audit expense which is budgeted at \$1,100, and is at this date, \$1,500. Mr. Jelks called for a motion to add an item to the agenda to amend the budget. Mr. Witty moved it be added, second by Mr. Browning. Mr. Browning then did a roll call vote of Commissioners and all agreed to add this item. Mr. Browning then moved that the current budget be amended to allow \$1,500 for audit expense. Second by Mr. Witty. All voted in favor.

With no further business at hand, Mr. Witty moved the meeting be adjourned. Second by Mr. Kent, all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted  
/s/ Donald Browning, Secretary

