

Minutes Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission

Wednesday, September 8, 1999 at Sherwood Forest Country Club in Baton Rouge Louisiana.

Meeting was called to order by J. Curtis Jelks, Chairman, at 10:05 a.m. In the absence of Marilyn Bateman, Secretary, Mr. Jelks asked Donald Browning to act as Secretary

Administration of the oath of office was given by Ellis Magee to the following Commissioners and Alternates who were recently appointed by their parish government: Dr Henry Moreau, alternate from Avoyelles; Patrick Witty commissioner, and Jerome Lacombe alternate from Pointe Coupee; Vernon McMorris, Commissioner and Ike Jenkins, alternate from St. Helena; and Robert E. Magee, commissioner from Washington.

Mr. Jelks requested that Mr. Browning call the roll. Commissioners and alternates in attendance were: Dr. Henry Moreau (Avoyelles), Curtis Jelks (E. Feliciana), Patrick Witty and Jerome Lacombe (Pointe Coupee), Vernon McMorris and Ike Jenkins (St. Helena), Robert Magee (Washington); Kevin Dreher and Donald Browning (W. Feliciana). Mr. Jelks declared a quorum in attendance.

Mr. Jelks then recognized guests and public officials in attendance. Mr. Jelks also stated that this meeting had been designated "Mayor's Day" and recognized the following mayors: Earle Brown (Franklinton), Craig Couvillion, (Simmesport), William D'Aquilla (St. Francisville), Toler Hatcher (Clinton), and Sylvester Muckelroy (New Roads) Mr. Elton Pody was in attendance representing the Mayor Ned Randolph of Alexandria. Other guests and public officials included: Linda Bordelon and Jim Nichol from Casino Avoyelles; Dan Broussard from DOTD; Larry Kinlaw and Leslie Tassin from Governor's office of Rural Affairs, Jo Ann Kimbro and Wendy Soulier from Pointe Coupee Electric; Jim Laurent, PC Parish Assessor; Reggie Covington and Rosario Saia, Bank of Greensburg; Bertell Dixon, President of Pointe Coupee Police Jury; Mrs. Vernon McMorris, Mrs. Ronald Saizon, Mrs. R. J. Saia, Ms. Paula Hughes and Mr. Jerry Ellzey.

Consideration of minutes of Quarterly Commission meeting of June 9, 1999 and Special meeting of August 10, 1999 was given. It was noted that the minutes of the special meeting stated the date to be "8/31/99" and the correct date was "8/10/99". The Secretary was instructed to correct the master copy of these minutes. Ellis Magee noted that a phrase should be added to the paragraph pertaining to budget revision (found on page two of the special meeting minutes) after the figure "\$90,000". The phrase he suggested "with a commensurate increase in the REVENUES-Carry forward from FY 98-99' category." The Chairman instructed the Secretary to make this change in the minutes. With no further changes or corrections, Dr. Moreau moved that the minutes of both meetings be accepted with the corrections and changes noted. Second by Mr. Dreher. Motion carried.

Pat Witty presented the Treasure's report. (copy attached to master copy of these minutes). Mr. Witty noted that the report was only current as of July 31, 1999 as the August bank statement did not arrive in time to be included. After discussion, Mr. Witty moved that his report be accepted. Second by Mr. McMorris. Motion carried.

In his Chairman's Report , Mr. Jelks noted that at the August 10, 1999 meeting the Commission was authorized to enter into a contract with Adams and Reese to provide legal services on behalf of the Commission in Washington. Mr. Jelks stated that the contract would run for five months ending December 31, 1999. Mr. Jelks noted that a copy of a report from Adams and Reese dated September 7, 1999 had been passed out to the members, and that any or all of it could be discussed. With no request for discussion on the report, Mr. Jelks said that a copy of the Master Plan done by NY Associates had been received. He emphasized that this was a first draft report and was available for the group to review. He also said that the Commission had until October 15, 1999 to respond to this report back to the DOTD.

Mr. Jelks stated that item 8 on the agenda would be put on hold till a future date.

Mr. Jelks then requested that Mr. Leslie Tassin from the Governor's office of Rural Development give a report on the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative.

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Mr. Charles East gave the group an update on his activities including a proposed change in the letterhead. He also noted that the large cloth banners with a map of the Parkway route have been ordered and should be received shortly.

Election of officers was then held. After motions duly made and seconded with unanimous approval of the Commission, Mr. Jelks was re elected Chairman, Mr. Roy re elected Vice Chairman, Mr. Witty re elected Treasurer, and Mr. Kevin Dreher was elected Secretary.

Mr. Jelks then requested a motion be made to add to the agenda an item concerning the Commission's Legal Service contract. Motion made by Mr. Dreher and second by Dr. Moreau to add this to the agenda. Mr. Browning conducted a roll call vote to add this new item. All voted in favor. Mr. Magee stated that he had, some time ago, advised the Chairman that he (Mr. Magee) wished to reduce his workload and that he would like to see the Commission enter into a contract with a second attorney, who would begin to handle a portion of the legal service work.

Mr. Magee further stated that he and the Chairman were recommending that Samuel D'Aquila be selected to work with Mr. Magee in providing the legal service needed by the Commission. Following a discussion of the matter, Mr. Witty offered the following motion:

That the motion adopted at the August 10, 1999 special meeting of the Commission relative to legal service be rescinded; that the Chairman be authorized to execute contracts with Ellis Magee and with Samuel D'Aquila which will contain the following provisions:

1. The contracts will be for a term of three years beginning with the current fiscal year.
2. Each will contain a 30 day cancellation clause;
3. The hourly rate for Mr. Magee's contract will be \$50 per hour; and the hourly rate for Mr. D'Aquila's contract will be \$75 per hour.

And that the Chairman be further authorized to require from each of the said attorneys a letter at the beginning of the contract hereby authorized and at the beginning of each of the two succeeding fiscal years in which each attorney agrees to limit billings in accordance with the Chairman's request, it being the intent of this motion the Chairman will in each fiscal year limit the combined billings of the two attorneys to \$18,000 per year.

The motion was duly seconded and unanimously adopted.

Neil Wagoner then gave a report to the Commission concerning activities related to preparation in building the bridge between New Roads and St. Francisville. The U. S. Coast Guard, acting as the lead federal agency, has advised DOTD that the "purpose and needs statement" required as a preliminary step for permitting the New Road/St. Francisville Bridge, has been approved. This allows DOTD to move forward with the next phase to identify possible alignments and to prepare environmental assessments of the alignments.

With no further business at hand, motion was duly made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted
/s/ Donald Browning, Acting Secretary