

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District
Held at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana
4:30 pm, March 25, 2015

Call to Order was given by President Richard at 4:33. **Roll Call:** Given by Secretary Commissioners Steve Gremillion, Rodney Richard, David Barry, Thomas Michot and John Broussard were present. Commissioners John Troutman, Don McConnell and Derek Landry were absent. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION** (J. Broussard/T. Michot) to approve the minutes as submitted for February 25, 2015 meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Introduction of Guest(s): Eddie Cazayoux, Foundation Board member. Staff: CEO Cheramie, Charissa Helluin, Greg Guidroz, Millicent Norbert, Anne Mahoney, Curtis Willingham and Kim Fournet.

Commissioner K. Cornell joined the meeting.

Public Comment(s): Eddie Cazayoux presented to the board a plan that was previously discussed by the BVD board many years ago. Mr. Cazayoux handed out a map of the village. The map has a foot trail (Nature Trail) along the bayou going back to the Native American area. The plan is to have the entire Festive Area (courtyard) as a free zone, open to the general public. There would be a footbridge from Jean Lafitte coming between the Cooking School and Water Shed into the courtyard. Admissions would be collected at Coussan House (Gateway House), this would be the introduction to the historic part of Vermilionville. The Foundation Board would like to see an artisan in every house, not only for interpretation but for security of the houses and artifacts. Commissioner Gremillion commented that collecting at Coussan House would prevent people from entering the village without paying. The questions arising from this plan are quite a few. The security of the footbridge at night and the actual logistics of the bridge, the design and building of the bridge. It might be necessary to purchase or build another building as opposed to altering the Coussan House to accommodate visitors. The Sunday Dance is a revenue producing event which is held in the Performance Center, located in the Festive Area, this would have to be readdressed. Commissioner Gremillion asked for a resolution to either agree or disagree about this plan. Commissioner Broussard liked the idea of the footbridge coming from Jean Lafitte but pointed out that there would need to be a barrier to control the public from entering the Village without paying. President Richard asked Mr. Cazayoux if he would be willing to take on this challenge to get BVD a design and plan for the complete project. Mr. Cazayoux expressed that the Foundation Board would be willing to accept this challenge. President Richard thanked Eddie Cazayoux for all he has done.

President's Report: President Richard commented on the parking lot restriping. Emile Ancelet and Curtis Willingham went to Lake Martin to see how the lake is flushed. Lake Martin is flushed out (the water is lowered) every so often because of the nesting and the water eventually goes into the Vermilion. This is a probable source of increased fecal contamination in the Vermilion River. Lake Martin is not in Lafayette Parish but it is a watershed to the river. BVD would like to test the water quality of waters entering the

river at any point that could possibly be a contaminant to the Vermilion. BVD wants to know what contaminants are coming into the river to make adjustments to its protocol.

CEO's Report: A copy of CEO Cheramie's report and coordinators reports (on file) were e-mailed and are in each Commissioner's binder. CEO was a keynote speaker at the Dutch National Convention of French Teachers, this helps promote Vermilionville and the French language in the area. Dr. Cheramie presented the convention with an Acadiana flag, which was flown next to the other countries flags. This event connected CEO to many dignitaries. BVD's insurance has gone up due to the fact that more revenue is coming in from the Gift Shop and Food and Beverage Department. BVD will be receiving a reimbursement from LWCC as an incentive to keep our injuries and claims to a minimum. The February revenues are up by approximately \$3,000, from last year. Catherine Fontenot's last day will be April 17th, the position has been advertised. Speaking French is a must for the Tour Coordinator's position. Rankin, LLC, Consulting Engineer, has its lawyer drafting a Services Contract for BVD, for the work at Rotary Point. BVD has released Garden City Construction from its commitment to do the work at Rotary Point. Commissioner Broussard asked CEO about the progress of the public address system for the village. CEO will obtain a quote for next month's meeting for an overall P/A system. BVD's 25th Anniversary is April 1, 2015, there will be activities including all the cultures associated with BVD. A log cutting ceremony, similar to the opening day ceremony in 1990, will take place in front of the Performance Center.

Committee Reports: Marketing/Public Relations: There was no meeting.

Finance/Capital: There was no meeting.

Operations/Bayou/Maintenance: The committee met this afternoon to discuss the Rotary Point project. Commissioner Gremillion is reviewing with Whit Rankin (Consulting Engineer with Rankin, LLC) the possibility of putting a floating dock at Rotary. The entire project will be in three phases. The first phase would be the bulkhead and walkway. Phase two would be the stairway leading down to the pavilion. Phase three would be a bulkhead on the opposite side. The committee also met at the Bandalong site with Jim Edwards and Bess Foret. In theory the Bandalong is a fabulous deal in practice there are several issues that have to be worked out. LCG agreed to dump the Bandalong basket and BVD will pay for the removal of the trash. It appears that the engineers with LCG did not communicate well with Public Works as to how and when the basket will be emptied. The contract with LCG is that city employees empty the basket and BVD pays for the removal of the trash. The cost of the Bandalong was split between LCG and BVD.

Environmental: Commissioner Michot met with Emile Ancelet to get an update on the water quality sampling. The committee will meet before next month's meeting to discuss where things are and where they are going. Possibly taking samples from the coulee and the river at the same point to see what is coming from the coulee and how it effects the river.

Education/Programming: Jolie Johnson presented the committee report. The review the projects for 2015. The committee is restructuring the way BVD will proceed with Native American Cultural Day. Jolie has started a strategic plan for the Vermilionville side and would like do one for the Bayou Ops side then merge them together for an entire institutional strategic plan. This is to help create and streamline all the plans that need to happen into a capital fund request. This request is included in the coordinators report.

Curatorial/Acquisitions: Commissioner Gremillion met with Charissa Helluin and Anne Mahoney to discuss Commissioner Gremillion assisting with a temporary storage unit to store artifacts in a climate controlled unit. The Collections Management Project Plans, drawn up by Anne, were also reviewed. The committee will come to the board with an official request for items and monies needed to complete these plans.

Commissioner T. Michot asked if there were any new developments with the French Immersion Day Care Center. The plan presented by Nicole Boudreaux was more of a suggestion that BVD do the center rather than the private citizens who supported the plan. The Black Pot plans were discussed. CEO Cheramie reported that he is working with Gerald Boudreaux, the director of Parks and Recreation, and Glen Fields, the organizer. The event will need to change from what it has been to something new to at BVD's facilities. It is a go for 2015. President Richard reminded the committee chairs to get their projects and goals to the board, to allow the board to make long term plans.

New Business: Commissioner J. Broussard explained he was absent from January's meeting because his brother was ill and subsequently died. Condolences were expressed by the board. **MOTION:** (J. Broussard/D. Barry) to approve \$4,250.00 of Capital monies necessary to complete the second structure of the Native American Common Ground Expansion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

/s/ Rodney Richard
Rodney Richard, President

/s/ John Troutman
John Troutman, Secretary