

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAFAYETTE CONVENTION & VISITORS COMMISSION, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 19, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of the Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission, State of Louisiana, met in person at the Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission boardroom, 1100 Lafayette St., Lafayette, LA at 3:15 pm.

In attendance were the board of Commissioners as follows: Dr. Vincent June, Chair, Chris Alack, Vice-Chair, Gerald Breaux, Jim Doré, Dr. Jessica Leger, John O'Meara, and Brenda Trahan.

Commissioners Nayan Patel, Treasurer, and Ricky Patel, Immediate Past Chair, were absent due to other obligations.

SPECIAL GUESTS: Michael Hebert, Attorney, Becker & Hebert, LLC, and via Zoom Kent Schexnayder, Senior Vice President, The Sisung Group, John Mayeaux, Senior Vice President, The Sisung Group, and Brennan Black, Bond attorney, Foley & Judell, LLP.

GUESTS: Sonia Kurowski and Kaleb Speyrer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair June called the meeting to order.

MINUTES FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING JANUARY 13, 2025

Commissioner O'Meara motioned to approve the **January 13, 2025**, Executive Board meeting minutes as written. Vice-Chair Alack seconded the motion. There was no public comment. Motion carried.

MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 15, 2025

Commissioner Breaux motioned to approve the **January 15, 2025**, regular meeting minutes as written. Commissioner O'Meara seconded the motion. There was no public comment. Motion carried.

JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Vice-Chair Alack presented the **January** financial statement report to the Commissioners. Commissioner Breaux motioned to approve the **January** financial statement report presented by Vice-Chair Alack. Commissioner Leger seconded the motion. There was no public comment. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT & CEO'S REPORT

Ben Berthelot, President & CEO, stated the attorneys from Breazeale, Sachse, & Wilson are finalizing their review of our policies and procedures manual, and noted they also conducted a supervisor training for staff.

Mr. Berthelot noted we renewed the marketing sponsorship with female race car driver Sarah Montgomery.

Mr. Berthelot reported on the success of the Bienvenue a Lafayette Suite during Washington D.C. Mardi Gras with the Allons Lafayette theme designed by VP of Creative, Lance LeBlanc.

Mr. Berthelot noted there are eleven floats confirmed for the Krewe Allons Friday Kick-Off Parade.

Mr. Berthelot stated Martin Accordions will begin group tour presentations again.

Mr. Berthelot noted this is the third and final year of the Livability.com partnership with LEDA and One Acadiana.

Mr. Berthelot reported he attended a meeting with the Lt. Governor, Mayor-President Boulet and local attorney Barry Sallinger regarding his interest in starting a Waterfowl Hunting Museum.

Mr. Berthelot noted LCVC received the 2025 Louisiana Travel Association Louey Award for Major Event of the Year for hosting the USA Karate National Championships.

Mr. Berthelot reported the sponsorship of Louisiana Seafood Board through donation of the crawfish for the two LCVC events at SXSW.

Mr. Berthelot noted he met with Kevin Blanchard, Downtown Lafayette CEO, regarding upcoming projects and the establishment of a new 501(c)(3).

Mr. Berthelot reported we are working on a project with Senator Gerald Boudreaux on the historical perspective of locally owned African American restaurants.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of municipal advisor engagement letter

Mr. Berthelot introduced Kent Schexnayder, Senior Vice President, The Sisung Group, John Mayeaux, Senior Vice President, The Sisung Group, and Brennan Black, Bond attorney, Foley & Judell, LLP via Zoom to answer questions regarding the municipal advisor engagement letter between Sisung Securities Corporation and LCVC. This agreement is required to determine the bond capacity and financial health of LCVC, should Commissioners move forward with an indoor sports complex.

Mr. Schexnayder reiterated LCVC would not be financially obligated to Sisung Securities Corporation until purchase or financial investment occurred. Discussion ensued between Mr. Schexnayder, Mr. Mayeaux, and Commissioners regarding the steps involved with evaluating the bond capacity including review of tax revenue for the facility, and estimating long term expense and revenue of the facility to provide a conservatively underwritten sustainable project, debt service reserve, and operations and maintenance reserves.

Commissioner Trahan motioned to approve the municipal advisor engagement letter between Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission and Sisung Securities Corporation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leger. There was no public comment. YEA: (7) V. June, C. Alack, G. Breaux, J. Doré, J. Leger, J. O'Meara, and B. Trahan. NAY: (0). ABSENT: (2) N. Patel, R. Patel. ABSTAIN: (0). Motion to approve the municipal advisor engagement letter passed.

Approval to amend the LCVC Bylaws regarding Commissioner attendance policy

Mr. Berthelot reviewed the proposed updates to the LCVC Bylaws with Commissioners that were previously presented during the January 15, 2025 board meeting. Commissioner Trahan motioned to approve the updates to the LCVC Bylaws regarding the Commissioner attendance policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leger. There was no public comment. YEA: (7) V. June, C. Alack, G. Breaux, J. Doré, J. Leger, J. O'Meara, and B. Trahan. NAY: (0). ABSENT: (2) N. Patel, R. Patel. ABSTAIN: (0). Motion to update the LCVC bylaws passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Indoor sports complex updates

Mr. Berthelot summarized the discussion from the LTID Advisory Board held on January 30, 2025 and noted Dr. Ramesh Kolluru presented updates to the UL Master and Strategic Plans. The hoteliers on the LTID advisory board did not feel the lease of the land provided by UL was their best offer. University of Louisiana officials will provide a financial value for the land. Additionally, the hoteliers on the LTID Advisory Board requested UL provide a percentage of the economic advisory district tax on this particular project be returned to the indoor sports facility. Currently Mr. Berthelot is awaiting more information from UL officials. Discussion ensued among Commissioners regarding additional specific recommendations from the LTID Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Doré suggested a joint meeting between the LCVC Board of Commissioners and the LTID Advisory Committee to further discuss the indoor sports complex.

Mr. Hebert clarified and read the legislation around the development of the LTID to address questions from the Commissioners.

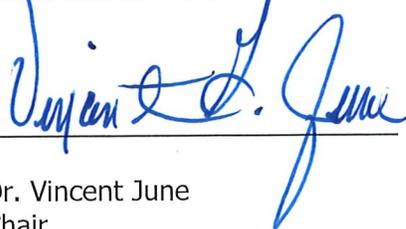
Mr. Berthelot noted that the underwriter for Synergy Sports properties, Centurion, works only with municipalities and therefore cannot assist with the LCVC indoor sports facility. Synergy Sports now has another underwriter in place.

Mr. Berthelot shared with Commissioners that the Rue Louis property of interest to the hoteliers on the LTID Advisory Committee may no longer be available after multiple offers were received by the realtor.

Mr. Berthelot reported he has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Warren Abadie, Director of Traffic, Roads, and Bridges, to discuss possible traffic, sewer, and other engineering requirements for proposed properties for the indoor sports facility.

Commissioner Breaux motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner O'Meara seconded the motion. There was no public comment. Motion carried.

There was no other business. Chair June adjourned the meeting.



Dr. Vincent June
Chair



Benjamin J. Berthelot
President & CEO