

Minutes
Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board Meeting
1:00 p.m.
May 17, 2022
The Mint- New Orleans Jazz Museum
400 Esplanade Ave, New Orleans, LA 70116

Meeting called to order at 1:15 p.m.

Board Members Present In Person

Brenda Williams, Chairman, Wanda Anderson Davis, Secretary, Thelma Harris French, Ernest Jones, Karl Connor, Pricilla R. Edwards, Judge Roland Belsome, Madlyn Bagneris, Loyce Pierce Wright, and Sidney Barthelemy

Quorum was not established. Only 9 members present.

Also Present

Dr. Michael McKnight –Director State Museums

Chairman Brenda Williams dispensed with reading of minutes. The following discussion ensued:

Black Caucus HB – Legislation was being introduced primarily because Board cannot get a quorum. There has not been a quorum since June 2021. Rep. Duplessis, Pierre, Alisha Williams, and Commissioner Jay Darden to review the legislation.

Dr. Michael McKnight informed us that the Commissioner advised there was no money in the budget. LT Gov. has advised that the Convention Center is not in the discussion; until, the Gallagher study is completed.

Documents were reviewed for HB2 that passed yesterday- \$2,765,000 in the budget line 34 – priority 1- Construction of Civil Rights Museum. The legislation will not fund a new museum.

HB2 - Capital Outlay was told \$20,000,000 and will be increased because cost gone out. Pg. 7 is already built in to get operating funding, but until a structure, the 7.5 million will not be given for Civil Rights Museum. This document is submitted every year. It was only to get money to put us in the Arsenal. The Chairman expressed that it was not presented clearly that being in the Arsenal is what was needed to trigger funding.

Dr. McKnight advised that on March 22, 2022 Gallagher reached out and on April 5, 2022 Perry advised that the documents would be sent the next day, April 6, 2022 the division sent documents to Gallagher and April 26th, Gallagher is ready to start interviews once documents are signed.

Ernest Jones asked Dr. McKnight about the feasibility study and how the Lt. Gov. intends to proceed. If the top recommendation is the Convention Center or whatever the Gallagher recommendation is.

It was reported that Rep. Duplessis recommended that the Advisory Board work with the Black Caucus to push forth legislation to mutually move further. Chairman Williams advised of contact with Rep. Duplessis regarding HB876. It was recommended that we work with Black Caucus. There was discussion that the chairman is the official spokesperson for the Board.

Discussed HB 876 and discussion regarding why the draft of the bill proposes to get rid of the entire board. Some organizations no longer exist and the appointments were made. So, legislation proposed to deal with the quorum issue.

Discussion regarding the number of appointments in the bill by the Lt. Governor and Black Caucus.

Gallagher needs a meeting to discuss the document and the input of each member as to what they want in the feasibility study. Then it will be compiled and sent back to the State. Gallagher can meet any time after June 1, 2022.

Meeting terminated at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Wanda Anderson Davis

Wanda Anderson Davis

Approved with corrections August 16, 2022