

HORTICULTURE COMMISSION MEETING

June 23, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order by Todd Parker at 9:31 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Marissa Smith

Members present: Rob Barry, Todd Parker, Gary Bullock, Rebekah O'Quin,, Dr. Ansel Rankins, Dr. Ed Bush, Dan Johnson, George Bofinger, Mitch Mayes, Rusty Ruckstuhl , Chad Danos, and Cole Sims.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Jeffrey Wells, Paeton Burkett, Tina Peltier, Marsha Dugas and Marissa Smith.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Bullock made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2022 hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Danos and passed unanimously.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

The next Horticulture Commission meeting will be September 29, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

REINSTATEMENT REQUESTS

Ms. Marie Hudson Hines requested reinstatement of her retail florist license.

Motion: Dr. Rankins made a motion to allow reinstatement of Ms. Hine's retail florist license. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.

At 9:37 a.m. the meeting was turned over to the hearing officer, Mr. Jeffrey Wells.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

CONTINUED CASES

Scott Sambola

d/b/a Nature's Own Landscape

4801 Taft Park

Metairie, LA 70002

Case No.: 21-003

One violation of L.R.S. 3:3804(C) for advertising in a regulated profession (arborist, landscape architect and landscape irrigation contractor) without a proper license. One violation of L.R.S. 3:3804(C) for engaging in a regulated profession (landscape irrigation contractor) without a valid license.

This case was continued to the next hearing date upon request by Mr. Sambola.

Raphael Brown

d/b/a Mr. Reliable Lawncare and Mr. Reliable Groundworks
45 Sawgrass Drive
LaPlace, LA 70068

Case No.: 22-001

Two violations of L.R.S. 3:3804(C) for advertising in a regulated profession (arborist) without a proper license.

This case was continued to the next hearing date.

Steve Alberti

d/b/a Fleur De Leaf Landscaping
520 Mossy Oak Circle
Madisonville, LA 70447

Case No.: 22-005

Two violations of L.R.S. 3:3804(C) for advertising in a regulated profession (landscape architect) without a proper license. One violation of L.R.S. 3:3810(2)A for violating a notice of non-compliance dated 12/20/2019.

Stipulation Received. The department recommended a penalty of \$1,500.00 per violation for a total fine of \$1,500.00. **Motion:** Mr. Danos made a motion to accept the stipulation and recommended penalty. This motion was seconded by Dr. Rankins and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Director's Report:

Mrs. Peltier gave the following updates:

Staffing Updates: In May, our permit/apiary administrative assistant 3, Kim Thomas, accepted a lateral move to an administrative coordinator 3 position. She is now tasked with issuing new licenses, license renewals, updating CEUs and insurance, and updating our licensee list on our website. On May 31st, Chris Dilley was hired as an AES I inspector in the Monroe district. On June 13th, David Hinton, was promoted to Manager of the Opelousas district. David has been employed with LDAF since 2014.

Some of our horticulture staff attended an in-person meeting of the Southern Plant Board in Oklahoma City, Ok in April. Brett Laird, SSC, Richard Miller, Quarantine Program Coordinator, and Tina Peltier were all in attendance. Mrs. Peltier was also able to attend a National Plant Board sponsored Safeguarding American Plant Resources Meeting in May in South Carolina where they visited an actual Asian Longhorn Beetle eradication site and were taught resources on managing and responding to invasive pests.

GRKN Update: We continue to receive pre-shipment notifications from the nursery in Florida that shipped a foxtail fern positive for GRKN back in March of 2021. A total of 134 samples have been submitted and all have been reported negative for GRKN.

CAPS Update: CCS: This is a visual survey targeting 11 citrus pests. We have completed the first round of 32 inspections submitting only 3 samples to LSU. Two of these samples were positive for HLB and one was positive for citrus canker. These positives were taken from Jefferson Parish which is already quarantined for both diseases. We will begin the second round of 32 inspections in the Fall when fruit is mature.

SOD Survey: This is a visual survey targeting one pest. We have completed all 32 inspections and submitted 71 samples to LSU. Ten ELISA positives are currently being shipped to the University of Florida for further

testing. We will begin the water baiting portion of our survey in the Fall when water temperatures drop between 46 and 71 degrees Fahrenheit.

SCS: This trapping survey began in May and will continue through August. We are targeting 3 pests in tomato production: Old World Bollworm (OWB), Tomato Leafminer (TLM) and Tomato Fruit Borer (TFB). Three traps are deployed at 19 locations statewide in each of our 8 Districts. 16 locations are at commercial field grown operations, one location at commercial greenhouse operation and 2 locations are at home gardens.

FPS: This is a trap and visual survey targeting 9 forest pests. This survey will begin in July and continue through November. Three traps will be deployed at 14 locations statewide. These traps will be deployed in or near state parks, campgrounds, saw mills or anywhere we determine to be a pathway for new pests introduction. Traps will be serviced once per month and a visual survey will be conducted at each visit. Trap catches will be shipped to Alex Cunningham (PPQ Identifier) in Kenner, La.

Legislative Updates: We were watching a couple of bills this legislative session that could have affected our professional licenses. HB555 was originally introduced as a licensure by out of state recognition bill. The bill was completely changed to only requiring licensing boards to report license renewals, new licenses, and applications denied on the board's website. The bill also requires the licensing board to submit a one-page document identifying the requirements for licensure to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce. SB483 was also a licensure by out of state recognition. Through the efforts of LNLA and other green industry professionals, the bill was never brought up for debate on the House floor. Many thanks to LNLA for all the hard work making phone calls and sending emails to representatives to stop this bill from moving forward. All green industry association and groups need to be prepared for this type of legislation in the future. The issue is not going away anytime soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments, but Dr. Rankins took a moment to introduce our new intern for the summer, Madison Plaisance.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Bullock made a motion to adjourn at 10:02 a.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Barry and passed unanimously.