

HORTICULTURE COMMISSION MEETING

March 22, 2018

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bass at 9:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mrs. Lane.

Members present: Rob Barry III, Fred Bass, Gary Bullock, Chad Danos, Steve Hoover, Jack Hopper, Mitch Mayes, Benjy Rayburn, Rusty Ruckstuhl, Cole Sims.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Michael Heier, Hearing Officer; Amy McInnis, LDAF Legal Counsel; Ansel Rankins, LDAF; Tina Peltier, LDAF; and Christie Lane, LDAF.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Ruckstuhl made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2017 meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and passed unanimously.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

The next Horticulture Commission meeting will be Thursday, June 28th, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

Mr. Brent Reid requested to have his landscape architect and irrigation contractor licenses reinstated. **Motion:** Mr. Mayes made a motion to allow reinstatement of Mr. Reid's Landscape Architect and Irrigation Contractor licenses contingent upon completion of continuing education for each license. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hopper and passed unanimously.

Ms. Chantell Bolden requested to have her Retail Florist license reinstated. **Motion:** Mr. Hopper made a motion to allow reinstatement of Ms. Bolden's Retail Florist license. This motion was seconded by Mr. Barry and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Paula Croft requested to have her Retail Florist license reinstated. **Motion:** Mr. Barry made a motion to allow reinstatement of Mrs. Croft's Retail Florist license. This motion was carried by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.

At 9:59 a.m. the Commission took a brief recess.

At 10:07 a.m. the Commission resumed the meeting.

At 10:08 a.m. the meeting was turned over to the hearing officer, Mr. Michael Heier.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

CONTINUED CASES

Chasity Touchet
26003 Gaspard Road
Kaplan, LA 70548

Case No. 17-011

One violation of L.R.S 3:3804(C) for soliciting and engaging in a regulated profession (arborist), without a proper license.

Ms. Touchet was not present but the department proceeded because service was effected.

Motion: Mr. Ruckstuhl made a motion to find Ms. Touchet in violation. This motion was seconded by Mr. Bullock and passed unanimously. The department recommended a penalty of \$1,000 per violation for a total fine of \$1,000. **Motion:** Mr. Ruckstuhl made a motion to accept the recommended penalty. This motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and passed unanimously.

Daniel Littlejohn
9023 Old Hermitage
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Case No.: 17-011

Two violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for soliciting and engaging in a regulated profession (arborist), without a proper license. One violation of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for engaging in a regulated profession (arborist), without a proper license. One violation of L.R.S. 3:3810 A(2) for violating a written stop order issued 6/1/16.

This case was continued to the next hearing date.

NEW CASES

Kelly Gould
d/b/a Beaumar's Tree Service
1824 Orleans Street
Mandeville, LA 70448

Case No.: 18-001

Two violations of L.R.S. 3:3804(C) for advertising in a regulated profession (arborist) without a proper license. One violation of L.R.S. 3:3810 A(2) for violating a written stop order issued 05/23/16.

This case was continued to the next hearing date.

CVS Pharmacy #10220
One CVS Drive
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Case No.:18-002

Two Violations of L.R.S. 3:3804(C) for engaging in a regulated profession (retail florist) without a proper license. One violation of L.R.S 3:3810 A(2) for violating a notice of non-compliance dated 3/15/17.

A stipulation was received. The department recommended a penalty of \$500 per violation for a total of \$1,500. **Motion:** Mr. Mayes made a motion to accept the stipulation with the recommended penalty. This motion was seconded by Mr. Danos and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Rankins gave the following updates:

House Bill 563, the deregulation of the Landscape Horticulturist license, has been pulled by the bill's author. House Bill 561, the deregulation of the Retail Florist license, will be heard by the House Ag Committee on March 29th.

Lethal Yellowing of Palms has been detected throughout the Baton Rouge area. Lethal Yellowing affects 37 palm species and is transmitted by a species of leafhopper which can be moved in nursery stock.

Citrus greening has been confirmed in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, bringing the total number of parishes affected by citrus greening to five. Quarantines are being determined and LDAF continues to remove infected trees.

The USDA Citrus Nursery Stock Protocols have been revised by the USDA-PPQ. These protocols allow nurseries to move citrus nursery stock interstate from quarantined areas.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture implemented a boxwood blight quarantine on February 4th which affects nurseries that ship boxwood to Tennessee. Nurseries enrolled in a cleanliness program will be inspected for compliance with management practice.

The Horticulture and Quarantine staff will be participating in the 2018 Southern Plant Board meeting in May. This meeting allows state agriculture departments and their federal counterparts to address plant pest and green industry issues of concern to the region.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

Mr. Bass took a moment to thank the commission members and inspectors for the good job they do. Mr. Barry complimented the Alexandria district office for conducting routine inspections.