

HORTICULTURE COMMISSION MEETING

September 27, 2012

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 Mr. Bass at 9:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mrs. Bellington.

Members present: Fred Bass, Todd Parker, Dr. Regina Bracy, Stephen Hoover, Rob Barry, Mitch Mayes, Zefferino Von Kurnatowski, Aaron Wade, Rusty Ruckstuhl, Harold Tani and Jack Hopper.

Members absent: Chad Danos and Patsy Spedale.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Lindsey Hunter, Hearing Officer; Murphy Bell, Commission's Attorney; Tad Hardy, LDAF; Ansel Rankins, LDAF; Dane Morgan, LDAF; Robert Rarick, LDAF; Andie Marchand, LDAF; and Fran Bellington, LDAF.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2012 hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Tani and passed unanimously.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

The next Horticulture Commission meeting will be Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

Mrs. Sherry Swanson requested that her landscape horticulturist license be reinstated. **Motion:** Mr. Parker made a motion to allow Mrs. Swanson to reinstate her license. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wade. 10 members voted for the motion and 1 member voted against. The motion passed.

At 9:48 a.m. the meeting was turned over to the hearing officer.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

NEW CASES

Barry Blackledge
d/b/a Gulf South Turf and Landscape
2142 O'Neal Lane #303
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Case No.: 12-003

Two violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for advertising, soliciting and engaging in regulated professions (landscape architect, landscape horticulturist and landscape irrigation contractor) without the proper licenses and one violation of L.R.S. 3:3810 (A) (2) for violating a cease and desist order.

Mr. Blackledge was not present but the department proceeded because service was effected.

Motion: Mr. Ruckstuhl made a motion to find Mr. Blackledge in violation. This motion was seconded by Mr. Parker and passed unanimously. Recommended penalty of \$250.00 per violation for a total fine of \$750.00. **Motion:** Mr. Mayes made a motion to accept the recommended penalty. This motion was seconded by Mr. Parker and passed unanimously.

James Jiles
d/b/a J & J Tree Service
1651 Alma Street
Shreveport, LA 71108

Case No.: 12-004

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

Stipulation received. Recommended penalty of \$500.00. **Motion:** Mr. Parker made a motion to accept the stipulation and recommended penalty. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hoover and passed unanimously.

Suzanne Rudiger
2014 Clearview Pkwy.
Metairie, LA 70001

Case No.: 12-005

Five violations of L.R.S. 3:3808 (B) (2) for advertising and engaging in a regulated profession (retail florist) without a licensed regular employee. One violation of LAC 7XXIX 115(A) for providing false statements to a representative of the commission. One Violation of L.R.S. 3:3810 (A) (2) for violation of a stop order.

Continued to the December 13, 2012 hearing date.

The meeting was turned back over to Mr. Bass at 10:04 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Director's report

Mr. Hardy introduced Ms. Andie Marchand, new employee in Horticulture & Quarantine, who will be working mainly with the issuance of licenses.

Two LDAF inspectors attended an HIS (Horticulture Inspection Society) field event in Tennessee in June to learn more about imported fire ant, SOD (sudden oak death) and boxwood blight inspection as well as receiving an introduction to SANC (Systems Approach to Nursery Certification).

Mr. Hardy attended the NPB (National Plant Board) meeting in July. The topics included federal pests and budgets.

Mr. Rankins represented Louisiana at the fall CLARB (Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards) meeting in September where he had significant input on national policy issues. He will join the CLARB Executive Committee in October, giving Louisiana an even greater voice nationally.

LDAF inspector training was held in September, covering several pest and horticulture-related topics, including SOD and SANC. LSU assisted in the training activities. The training was successful and well received.

Annual Ethics Training

Commission members were briefed on required ethics training pursuant to LA R.S. 42:1170 (A).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments but Mr. Bass took a moment to thank the staff and the Commission members for the job that they do.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to adjourn at 10:28 a.m. This motion was seconded by Dr. Bracy and passed unanimously.