

HORTICULTURE COMMISSION MEETING

June 24, 2014

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, Steven Hoover, Mitch Mayes, Rob Barry, Zefferino Von Kurnatowski, Chad Danos, Jack Hopper, Rusty Ruckstuhl and Harold Tani.

Members absent: Dr. William Richardson and Aaron Wade.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Lindsey Hunter, Hearing Officer; Murphy Bell, Commission's Attorney; Tad Hardy, LDAF; Ansel Rankins, LDAF; Jyhmechia Dunn, LDAF; Hugh Lee, LDAF; and Fran Bellington, LDAF.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Danos made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2014 hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Parker and passed unanimously.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

The next Horticulture Commission meeting will be Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

Mr. Andrew Sheppard and Mr. Michael Sheppard requested to have their arborist licenses reinstated. **Motion:** Mr. Von Kurnatowski made a motion to deny reinstatement for them both. This motion was seconded by Mr. Parker and passed unanimously.

At 10:09 a.m. the meeting was turned over to the hearing officer.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

NEW CASES

Walmart Store #521

2500 N. Martin Luther King Hwy.

Lake Charles, LA 70601

Case No.: 14-006

Three violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for engaging in a regulated profession (retail florist) without the proper license, and two violations of L.R.S. 3:3810 A (2) for violating stop orders.

Stipulation and \$1,250.00 payment received. **Motion:** Mr. Danos made a motion to accept the stipulation and payment. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hoover and passed unanimously.

Charles Taylor & Shawn Waller
d/b/a Taylor Tree Service
138 Donahoe Rd.
Delhi, LA 71232

Case No.: 14-007

Three violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for advertising and engaging in a regulated profession (arborist) without the proper license and two violations of L.R.S. 3:3810 A (2) for violating a stop order.

Stipulation and \$1,250.00 payment received. **Motion:** Mr. Parker made a motion to accept the stipulation and payment. This motion was seconded by Mr. Danos and passed unanimously.

Jean Paul Rico
d/b/a Premier Cuts
50 Oaklawn Dr.
Metairie, LA 70005

Case No.: 14-005

One violation of L.A.C. Title 7, Part XXIX, Section 117 E (4) and one violation of L.R.S. 3:3810 A (8) for failing to meet appropriate minimum standards of practice.

Mr. Rico was present and admitted to the charges. Recommended penalty of \$250.00 per violation for a total fine of \$500.00. **Motion:** Mr. Von Kurnatowski made a motion to accept the recommended penalty. This motion was seconded by Mr. Parker and passed unanimously.

The meeting was turned back over to Mr. Bass at 10:33 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Update

Mr. Hardy gave the following updates:

Our Division soon will be implementing a federally-funded survey program designed to monitor the presence of select citrus pests in southeastern Louisiana. The 12-month survey will focus primarily on citrus canker and citrus greening and will be centered in our citrus nursery stock-growing area.

Our annual 'sudden oak death' survey is on hold with temperatures now above optimal for disease manifestation. However, we have pulled 61 samples in this program and all have been negative for this nursery stock pathogen. Sampling will resume in the fall.

Mr. Hardy will be giving a presentation to the Specialty Crop group at the LA Farm Bureau Federation convention this weekend, covering licenses, permits, quarantines, pest problems and regulatory surveys.

Mr. Hardy and Mr. Rankins will be attending the National Plant Board meetings in Missouri in July. This annual meeting provides states an opportunity to discuss agricultural issues, regulations, policies and plant pest issues with federal counterparts and other states nationwide.

Kadee Bonvillain, administrative assistant to Mr. Rankins, has resigned her position with LDAF to pursue another career. However, we are anticipating that we will be able to replace her quickly.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to adjourn at 10:51 a.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.