

July 14, 2009

**A Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, Bossier Parish, Louisiana was held in the Nature Center Building, located in the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation Area, Benton, Louisiana on the above date with the following being present:**

**Present: Ernest Covington, Wes Burdine, Jerry Juneau, Ralph Whitley, Sonny Head**

**Absent: None**

**Also Present: Dickie Walden, Sandra Baldwin, James Southerland, Melissa Whittington, James Bates, Bruce Easterly, Mike Strayhan, Emmett & Mary Smith, George Dennis, Bobby Hardcastle**

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**President Covington called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. At this time the rotation of officers was as follows: Wes Burdine-President, Jerry Juneau-Vice President and Sonny Head-Secretary.**

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**Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Mr. Juneau, seconded by Mr. Whitley. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Walden stated that the Old Business, Video Camera Systems will be tabled until the August 11<sup>th</sup>, meeting due to Dan Wolff's absence.**

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**Motion to approve the Minutes of Meeting held June 9, 2009 was made by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Mr. Covington. The motion was unanimously approved.**

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**Motion to approve the Revenue, Expenditures and Bills for Payment was made by Mr. Head, seconded by Mr. Whitley. The motion was unanimously approved.**

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**At this time Melissa Whittington gave the following Nature Center Report:**

**Total number of guests to the Nature Center in June, 2009 was 1,200. Mr. David Gillespie and Mr. Robert Frost of Aquaria, Inc. have arranged for another donation of aquariums for the Nature Center worth \$25,000. Several of the aquariums will be utilized at the Zoo to kick start the new "Reptile Hut" in the planning process, while the nature center sets up our new reptile tank that will house our aquatic turtles in a much better habitat. Things are looking great! Thanks to these wonderful community partners.**

**4H National Shooting Sports Competition held in Nebraska, June 22-26, the Louisiana Hunting Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Nation. 4H University Competitions are over. Here are the results of the youth that trained through the nature center: Maggie Brakeville-5<sup>th</sup> place Energy Conservation Blue ribbon Winner, Chosen National 4H Conference Delegate; Bossier Parish Outdoor Skills Team – Ben Moore, Derek Moore, Daniel Doran – 1<sup>st</sup> Place State Team Trip Winners; Desoto Parish Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place; Bossier Parish ATV – Nathan Vercher- Blue Ribbon Winner.**

**Bossier School System is changing their website setup which will allow the nature center to have an awesome website included. I have been working on this for about two weeks and it's going to be great. I will be including links to the park and other groups of importance.**

**Attendance for the 2008-2009 school year (July 1,2008 – June 30, 2009) – Walkins 4,075, students and educators – 7,517 for a total of 11,592.**

**Accomplishments for 2008-2009:**

**Began compiling Nature Center History**

**Received numerous books to begin the Robbins Research Library**

**Conducted Sci-Fi workshop – Middle school teachers**

**Assisted with the release & Publicity of immature Eagle**

**Sponsored & hosted the 4H Outdoor Skills Festival**

**Six Scouts completed Eagle Projects**

**Hosted three Boater Safety classes**

**Nature Center listed on the new Highway 2 Touring Trail**

**Nominated three youth for the Times "Discovering tomorrows Leaders" – all three were selected**

**Secured tow donations for the Nature Center from Aquaria, Inc in the amount of \$56,000**

**Trained an Envirothon Team for competition in Lafayette**

**Organized ten community service projects for Scouts and Benton Elementary Student Council**

**Designed ten new display/games for visitors**

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**At this time Mr. James Bates, CPA reviewed the 2008 Audit. No findings were noted. Mr. Bates did advise the Board of the need to generate additional revenues for the maintenance and repair of the buildings in the park. One way would be to roll forward our Tax Millage back to the previous rate of 1.54. Mr. Walden will check with the Tax Assessor's office on Wednesday.**

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**Bruce Easterly's Report:**

**At this time Mr. Easterly introduced Mr. Bobby Hardcastle, Lot 21, Woodlake Ridge subdivision who applied for a construction permit to build a boathouse. After compiling all the necessary construction requirements a permit was issued. He also stated that when he bought the property the deed included permission to extend construction out to 40 feet. Mr. Hardcastle was approached by Mr. Robert Aiello who said the boathouse would have to be moved because another landowner had complained that it obstructed his view. After much discussion, the board concurred that Mr. Hardcastle's construction permit was valid.**

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**Executive Director's Report:**

**Financial updates- We continue to keep pace with income and expenditures.**

**Ranger training - Mike Strayhan has requested Pepper Spray and Baton training for Ranger Jake Hillen since he is not commissioned and does not carry a gun. On motion by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Mr. Head and unanimously carried, permission was granted.**

**Zoo updates – The zoo continues to make improvements and additions to the animal exhibits.**

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**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.**

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**Wes Burdine, President**

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**Sonny Head, Secretary**