

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2019

The Caddo Parish Appropriations Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 1:30 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Jerald Bowman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Bowman, Cawthorne, Chavez, and Gage-Watts (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Dominick, Lyndon Johnson, and Jackson (3).

Also, in attendance were Parish Administrator Dr. Woody Wilson, Assistant Parish Administrator Randy Lucky, Parish Attorney Donna Frazier, Finance Director Mrs. Erica Bryant, and Commissioner Middleton.

The invocation was given by Mr. Cawthorne and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Chavez.

Mr. Bowman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and stated that today's meeting is to discuss the following items:

- Discuss funding Oasis Outreach Group – Shreveport's First Annual Father's Day 5K run/walk.

Mr. Bowman opened the floor for public comments. There being no public comments, Mr. Bowman close the public comments at this time and moved onto the first item of New Business, to *Discuss funding Oasis Outreach Group – Shreveport's First Annual Father's Day 5K run/walk.*

Mr. Chavez informed the group that Mr. Alex T. Ray came to him with an ideal to hold a Father's Day 5k run/walk to bring fathers and other male role models together with children of the community. He felt this plan was a way to bring children together with mentors and fathers to make a positive impact on the children of this community. Mr. Chavez stated this is Alex's' opportunity to share his vision with the Commission.

Mr. Alex T. Ray came forward to explain the Oasis Outreach Groups intention to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Father's Day 5k run/walk and what it will mean to the community. Mr. Ray stated that it is very important to the community that children have positive male role models in their lives and he felt one way to achieve this was through a 5k run/walk where they could all be brought together for a day of fun and fellowship where relationship s can be built for the future.

Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding event being for fathers and single mothers, etc., Mr. Ray stated that this an opportunity to bring out those single fathers, mothers or grandmothers that are helping raise the community's children. We calling it Father's Day 5K but everyone is invited to participate.

Answering a question from Ms. Frazier on the availability of an economic development impact study, Mr. Ray stated that this event is a non-profit event that in the end we hope to provide scholarships for fathers that are currently students. Ms. Frazier questioned whether those scholarship recipients' would-be low-income students from Caddo Parish and Mr. Ray stated that was the intention of this program. Ms. Frazier questioned whether funds would be use exclusively for funding scholarships; Mr. Ray stated that portion would but they also need funding in the area to put on the event.

Answering a question from Ms. Frazier regarding whether the event would be able to make a \$5,000 profit to use for scholarships, Mr. Ray stated that he believes that is possible in coming years but not entirely confident it is possible in the first year of an event.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Ray for bring this event and its information to the

Commission today and she too feels that is very important to have an event where fathers are highlighted and where they can be brought together with children looking for positive role models. Mrs. Gage-Watts questioned Mr. Ray on what the ask was going to be to fund this event.

Mr. Ray stated that he was requesting \$5,000 for the event.

Answering a question from Mr. Cawthorne regarding a budget, Mr. Ray stated that he has other sponsors willing to help with the event.

Answering another question related to other services available during this event, Mr. Ray stated that there are areas of services being planned to coincide with the 5k run/walk. He pointed again that this event would be a full day event to try and build relationships between adults and children.

Answering a question from Mrs. Gage-Watts regarding earlier issue on providing scholarships, Ms. Frazier stated that to fund either a economic development impact study has to be provided or it has to be for social welfare. Ms. Frazier stated that the event itself is not for social welfare since it is targeted for the entire city/parish.

Answering a question from Mrs. Gage-Watts regarding this event qualifying under the Safe Summers program, Ms. Frazier stated that this possibly could but they will need to provide statistics for qualifying the program.

Answering a question from Mr. Chavez regarding low-income children and fathers being able to participate without paying a fee, Mr. Ray stated that his intention was to bring those children and fathers together that usually don't spend enough time together, so if there are those that cannot afford the entry fee to run and participate they will be allowed to take part in the event.

Ms. Frazier stated that that type of program would qualify as long as there is \$5,000 dollars of low-income entry fees waved and that information available for backup. She pointed out that their income status would have to be tracked.

Mr. Ray stated that each father participant fee is \$20.00 and a child participant in event would be \$10.00.

Answering a question from Mr. Middleton regarding if this is first event, Mr. Ray stated that this would be the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual event.

Mr. Bowman stated that we will have another meeting to continue this discussion in the future, time will be determined at a later date.

Mr. Cawthorne would like to see more information before we move forward and vote on this event.

Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/Todd Hopkins  
Todd A. Hopkins  
Commission Clerk