

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2019

The Caddo Parish Appropriations Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mrs. Gage-Watts, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Cawthorne, Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Gage-Watts (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman, Chavez, and Dominick (3).

Also, in attendance were Parish Administrator Dr. Woody Wilson, Parish Attorney Donna Frazier, Finance Director Mrs. Erica Bryant, and Commissioners Atkins and Middleton.

Mrs. Gage-Watts welcomed everyone to the meeting to discuss the following items:

- Discuss funding request for Providence House
- Discuss funding for Hope Connection

**Motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to expand agenda and add the discussion of First Tee to the agenda.*

Floor was opened for anyone wishing to speak for or against expanding the agenda. No one came forward to speak on issue.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, by the following vote: YEAS: Commissioners Cawthorne, Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Gage-Watts (4). NAYS: None (0) ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman, Chavez, and Dominick (3).

Mrs. Gage-Watts moved onto the first New Business item, *Discuss funding request for Providence House:*

Ms. Monique Bryant, Providence House, read aloud a prepared statement by Ms. Verni Howard:

*'Eighteen members on our Board of Directors, our 44 staff members, and most importantly, our 47 families (129 people—82 children and 47 adults), are under our care right now. We thank you for your longstanding support of Providence House and its community. We simply could not do this work without all of you. Thirty-one years, Providence House has endeavored to break the homeless cycle. That is our mission. The core of our daily work is to move families to the highest level of self-sufficiency. We are focused on two components there—education and workforce development. Our holistic approach to homelessness encompasses education, onsite counseling, case management, children services, affordable and high quality childcare services, parenting, life skills, housing—emergency and permanent, and financial literacy. Our funding comes from three different sources: 35% State and Federal, 60% grants, and 6% business enterprises. Last year, you all helped us do the following: we served 448 people—296 of those were school-aged children ages 0-17 (70% of our average daily population is homeless children); 222 volunteer groups and 582 individuals supported the agency by giving over 4,000 hours of community service; 407 furniture pickups supported more than 51 families; 38 families (40 adults and 100 children) graduated from Providence House program last year (our total in 31 years of graduating families is 590 families from Providence House); 39,000 meals were served; and 165 HiSET adult classes were taught. It was your generosity that made that impact to the community.'*

Ms. Bryant also said that the Commissioners should have received invitations to the Behind the Red Door event. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Mrs. Gage-Watts then moved onto the next New Business item, *Discuss First Tee*:

Mr. stated that they work with First Tee, but the nonprofit is actually named, NWLA Youth Golf & Education. They are in attendance to request funding for their organization. He said that each year the funding for the program decreases. They serve communities like Allendale, Lakeside, Queensborough, etc. They provide a tutorial, meals, golf, camps, etc. They are asking for additional funding to keep the program going.

Answering a question from Mrs. Gage-Watts regarding the request amount, he said that the request amount is \$25,000.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know if there was an area with more urgency within the program. They said that the ACT prep course is in urgent need.

Mr. Atkins mentioned that these organizations all go through the proper vetting processes. He suggested that the Committee stick to the discipline of evaluating all of these issues at the same time. This would allow allocation of capital across all of the needs of the community.

Mrs. Gage-Watts pointed out that Providence House was not allowed to submit their application due to it being late.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to send to the full body to fund the following groups at the following additional appropriations: \$20,000 to Providence House; \$15,000 to Hope Connection; and \$8,000 to First Tee (NWLA Youth Golf & Education).*

Mr. Jackson said that Providence House and Hope Connections do so much for the community. He also encouraged the nonprofits to reach out to other funding streams because it is not the job of the Parish to fully fund any specific program.

Mr. Cawthorne pointed out that First Tee is not only teaching children how to play golf, but also to shape young men and women and prep them for their futures.

At this time, Mr. Jackson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call vote: YEAS: Commissioners Cawthorne, Jackson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Gage-Watts (4). NAYS: None (0) ABSENT: Commissioners Bowman, Chavez, and Dominick (3).

Meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

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