

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 25th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in an Appropriations Committee Meeting, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Hopkins, Johnson, and Lazarus (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1).

Mr. Cawthorne gave the invocation, and Mr. Lazarus led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has declared a statewide Public Health emergency, inclusive of Caddo Parish, in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor, has further extended that declaration via Proclamations Number 96 JBE 2020 and Number 97 JBE 2020; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 42:17.1 allows members of political subdivisions to participate in its meetings electronically under certain limited circumstances.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the Provisions of R.S. 42:17.1, the presiding officer of the Caddo Parish Commission hereby certifies that this meeting is to address matters that are:

- (a) directly related to the public Commission's response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and are critical to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.
- (b) that if they are delayed will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation and hardship.
- (c) critical to continuation of the business of the Commission and that are not able to be postponed to a meeting held in accordance with the other provisions of Open Meetings Law due to a legal requirement or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed by the public body.

Date: September 24, 2020

/s/Lyndon B. Johnson, Chair

Mr. Johnson opened up the floor for Citizens Comments.

Ms. Janet Parker submitted the following comment:

Dear Caddo Parish Commission,

The Arc Caddo-Bossier's Goldman School and Child Development Center is the only childcare program in our region that offers services to children with severe disabilities. I stress that we are the only ones. We have never in our long history turned away a child due to his or her disabilities. We serve little ones who are tube-fed, or on oxygen, or are seizure-prone or have other unique and fragile conditions. We offer an exceptional low ratio of teacher to child, and we provide staff that have very advanced training and experience. We serve children aged 8 weeks to 5 years. The ratio is 3 children to 1 teacher for those under 12 months of age, and a ratio of 4 children to one teacher for the children aged 1 year to 5 years. Our teachers must, as a minimum, have Child Development Accreditation (CDA) and an additional Ancillary certification provided by the Louisiana Department of Education. Goldman School and Child Development Center has been nationally recognized for its progressive inclusion model, which combines typically developing children and children with severe disabilities. We receive no state or federal funding apart from the small percentage of children who participate in our Early Head Start program, which serves only about 1/5 of our census. Each year The Arc must raise about \$16,000 per child in order to provide our exceptional program. The pandemic closed our school altogether for a solid eight weeks. The loss of parents' fees for this period amounts to over \$ 82,600. We have reopened and are serving the maximum allowed by the department of education. We will indeed be grateful for your thoughtful consideration both of the unduplicated-yet-essential services the Goldman School and Child Development Center provides, as well as the severity of the fiscal impact we have experienced. We desperately need to be awarded the maximum amount allowed to continue supporting families and children in our community. Sincerely, Janet Parker Executive Director, The Arc Caddo-Bossier

Mr. Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting to discuss the following items:

- Discuss Appropriation Process and funding for NGOs regarding the 2021 Budget cycle

Mr. Johnson suggested to take each organization and discuss the Chair's recommended appropriation for adjustment. He said at the end of the listing, the Committee can then forward to the full body.

**A Quiet Place in the Woods Enterprise**

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of a \$4,000 appropriation for A Quiet Place in the Woods Enterprise.

**Arc of Caddo Bossier**

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to amend the appropriation for Arc of Caddo Bossier to \$8,000. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Hopkins, Johnson, and Lazarus (4). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**Beulah's Safe Haven**

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of a \$10,000 appropriation for Beulah's Safe Haven.

**Bernstein Development, Inc.**

The Committee then moved onto Bernstein Development, Inc. An application was not submitted, so they were placed in the "parking lot" to be discussed at a later time.

Mr. Cawthorne mentioned that this organization is in his district and it is associated with Paradise Baptist Church.

**Betty & Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center**

The Committee then moved onto Betty and Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center.

Mr. Young asked that the Committee support this organization with some funding. He suggested \$10,000. He then requested that this organization be moved to the "parking lot" to be discussed at a later time.

**Boy Scouts of America, Norwela Council**

The Boy Scouts of America, Norwela Council is non-compliant, so the Committee agreed on the recommendation of an appropriation of \$0.

**Caddo Council on Aging**

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$100,000 for Caddo Council on Aging.

**Catholic Charities of North Louisiana**

The Committee then moved onto Catholic Charities of North Louisiana.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this organization received CARES Act funding. Mr. Johnson said that he is not sure if they received funding.

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$10,000 for Catholic Charities of North Louisiana.

**Cedar Grove CDC**

Cedar Grove CDC did not apply for funding. The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$0 for Cedar Grove CDC.

**Christian Service Program Institute**

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$25,000 for Christian Service Program Institute.

**Common Ground Community, Inc.**

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$3,500 for Common Ground Community, Inc.

**Community Renewal International, Inc.**

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$3,500 for Community Renewal International, Inc.

**Compassion for Lives**

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$5,000 for Compassion for Lives.

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Shreveport Alumnae Chapter**

Mr. Jackson asked if the Commission's funding could be used for scholarships. Mr. Johnson explained that they do not use the Commission's funds for scholarships, but host events to raise money for scholarships.

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$5,000 for Delta Sigma Theta.

**Expanding Young Minds**

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$0 for Expanding Young Minds.

**Family Resources for Education & Empowerment, Inc. (FREE)**

Mr. Cawthorne said that this organization does work with Juvenile Services.

The Committee agreed to place FREE in the “parking lot” for further discussion at a later time.

**Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana**

The Committee agreed on the recommendation of \$100,000 for the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana.

**Galilee Family Enrichment Center, Inc.**

Mr. Jackson said that he will contact them. The Committee agreed to place Galilee Family Enrichment Center, Inc. in the “parking lot” for further discussion at a later time.

**Gertrude’s Gifts**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$5,000 for Gertrude’s Gifts.

**Girl Scouts**

The Committee agreed on not funding this organization.

**Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, Inc.**

The Committee agreed to place Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, Inc. in the “parking lot” for further discussion at a later time.

**Grace Community Outreach**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$5,000 for Grace Community Outreach.

**Grace Project**

Grace Project was not in compliance. The Committee agreed to place Grace Project in the “parking lot” for further discussion at a later time.

**Harmony Faith Ministries**

Harmony Faith Ministries did not submit an application. The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$0 for Harmony Faith Ministries.

**Heartwork Foundation**

This organization did not submit an application. The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$0 for Heartwork Foundation.

**Holy Angels**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$15,000 for Holy Angels.

**HOPE Connections**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$15,000 for HOPE Connections.

**Image Changers, Inc.**

Image Changers did not submit an application. The Committee agreed to place Image Changers in the “parking lot” for further discussion.

**Inner City Entrepreneur Institute (ICE)**

Mr. Burrell said that he did receive the ethics report regarding ICE. Mr. Burrell advised that he will be abstaining from this vote due to his previous involvement in the organization. He also said that he resigned from the board.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know what the ethics opinion said. Mr. Burrell said that there is not an issue with him being a volunteer. Attorney Frazier further explained that Mr. Burrell would have to recuse himself from the vote if he is donating his services without salary.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$15,000 to Inner City Entrepreneur Institute (ICE)*. **Motion carried**, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Hopkins, Johnson, and Lazarus (4). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSTAIN: Commissioner Burrell (1).

**Inter City Row Modern Dance Company—Shreveport**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$7,500 to Inter City Row

Modern Dance Company—Shreveport.

**Ivy Crown Community Services, Inc.**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$5,000 to Ivy Crown Community Services.

**JAG Family Resource**

Mr. Johnson said that this is an organization that works with Juvenile Services.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to amend the recommended appropriation for JAG Family Resource to \$10,000. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Hopkins, Johnson, and Lazarus (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

**Lakeside Area Neighborhood**

Mr. Jackson said that he is working to get more groups and organizations to collaborate with each other. The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation for \$5,000 to Lakeside Area Neighborhood.

**Loving All Little Ones, Inc.**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation for \$5,000 to Loving All Little Ones, Inc.

**Martin Luther King Community Development Corporation**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation for \$20,000 to Martin Luther King Community Development Corporation.

**Martin Luther King Health Center**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation for \$20,000 to Marth Luther King Health Center.

**Mission Project Foundation**

The organization did not submit an application. The Committee agreed not to fund the Mission Project Foundation.

**North Caddo Shooting Club**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$2,000 for North Caddo Shooting Club.

**Northwest Louisiana Community Development Corporation**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$20,000 to the Northwest Louisiana Community Development Corporation.

**Northwest Louisiana Education & Leadership Training Foundation**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$10,000 to the Northwest Louisiana Education & Leadership Training Foundation.

**Northwest Louisiana Youth Golf**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$7,500 to the Northwest Louisiana Youth Golf.

**Oasis of Hope Louisiana**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$15,000 to the Oasis of Hope Louisiana.

**On Purpose Coaching**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$0 to On Purpose Coaching.

**Pamoja Art Society**

The Committee agreed to place Pamoja Art Society in the “parking lot”.

**Project Seek**

Project Seek did not submit an application. The Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**Providence House**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$40,000 to Providence House.

**Querbes Park Foundation**

Querbes did not submit an application. The Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**Reader Chapel CME Church**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$5,000 to Reader Chapel CME Church.

**Reach Out & Touch Incorporated**

Reach Out & Touch did not submit an application and is non-compliant. The Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**Red River STEM (Sci-Port Discovery Center)**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$0 to Red River STEM.

**Renzi Education & Art Center**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$3,500 to Renzi Education & Art Center.

**Rho Omega & Friends, Inc.**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$20,000 to Rho Omega & Friends.

**R.I.S.E. Shreveport**

RISE did not submit an application. The Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**Robinson's Rescue Low Cost Spay/Neuter**

Dr. Wilson explained that there is an issue with overpopulation of animals in the community. He said that Robinson's Rescue is crucial to the success of lowering the euthanasia rate as well as lowering the overpopulation of animals.

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$35,000 to Robinson's Rescue.

**Salvation Army—Boys & Girls Club of Shreveport**

The Salvation Army did not submit an application and is non-compliant. The Committee agreed to place this organization in the "parking lot".

**Salvation Army—Merkle Center**

The Merkle Center did not submit an application and is non-compliant. The Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**Setting Children on the Road to Excellence (SCORE)**

SCORE did not submit an application. The Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**Shady Grove**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$10,000 for Shady Grove.

**Shreveport Bossier Sports Commission Showtime Boxing Event**

The organization did not submit an application, and the Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**Shreveport Green—Neighborhood & Education Program**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$7,500 to Shreveport Green—Neighborhood & Education Program.

**Shreveport Green—Local Food Production**

Mr. Young said that this is not just for a community garden, but to hire a liaison for the whole school system and gardening program. He said that the project is to show students how to grow their own food, prepare it, and nourish themselves within this community. They will also be managing the MLK Community Garden. He asked that the Committee fund them at \$55,000.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this was for the entire school system. Mr. Young explained that they work with about 15-20 schools, but would like to expand that and add additional schools.

Mr. Burrell then wanted to know if they receive money from the State. Mr. Young said that he does not know the details of their other funding.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know what happened to 4H. He said that 4H was a program in the school system when he was growing up that taught these types of things. Mr. Johnson further explained that his only issue with this is that it focuses primarily on the school systems. He thought it was going to be community gardens within the Parish.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the gardens were located on school property. Mr. Young

said that there are gardens located on school property, but some of them would be in the Parish like the MLK Community Garden. Mr. Johnson pointed out that garden goes through Parks & Recreation.

Attorney Frazier mentioned that she has not had the chance to review this application. She also cautioned the Commission that these funds cannot be used to improve school board property.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there were any restrictions on funding salaries directly of NGOs. Attorney Frazier said that there are restrictions, unless they are specifically working on the grant program versus their general allocation. The part that is allocated to the grant program can be paid by the grant, but not any of the other salary.

Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if there would be an issue for the Commission to provide financial support for a coordinator for the program that is being proposed. Attorney Frazier said that if the program is legal, and if they are not working in any other capacity for Shreveport Green. If they are working with other parts of Shreveport Green, that part cannot be paid for with Parish funds. The person would need to be a contract person, and not an employee of Shreveport Green.

Mr. Burrell suggested that additional information be provided on this program due to the number of questions. Mr. Young asked that the Committee write down their questions so that he can provide them to Shreveport Green.

Mr. Hopkins suggested that the Commission contact the School Board, LSU Ag Center, Shreveport Green, the Master Gardener Program, etc. to come together and have further discussions on this. He said that he is in support of the program and funding it at \$50,000, but he would like it to be done right because it is beneficial for the whole Parish. Mr. Cawthorne agreed.

Mr. Jackson wants to ensure that the Commission is consistent, i.e. regarding salaries.

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$35,000 to Shreveport Green—Local Food Production.

**Shreveport Little Theater**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$0 to Shreveport Little Theater.

**Shreveport Opera**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$4,000 to the Shreveport Opera.

**Shreveport Regional Arts Council**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$0 to Shreveport Regional Arts Council.

**Shreveport Youth Boxing**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$5,000 to Shreveport Youth Boxing.

**SISTERS International, Inc.**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$10,000 to SISTERS International, Inc.

**Social Justice Civic League, Inc.**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$10,000 to Social Justice Civic League, Inc.

**St. Luke's Episcopal Mobile Medical Ministry**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$6,000 to St. Luke's Episcopal Mobile Medical Ministry.

**St. James Lunch & Learn**

St. James did not submit an application, and the Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**Steeple Success, LLC**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$2,000 to Steeple Success, LLC.

**Successfully Preparing Our Teens**

Successfully Preparing Our Teens are not in compliance, and the Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**SuperMan for Christ**

SuperMan for Christ did not submit an application and is not in compliance. The Committee agreed not to fund this organization.

**T.E.A.M.S. Training, Education, & Meditation for Students**

The Committee agreed to the recommended appropriation of \$10,000 for TEAMS.

**Theater of the Performing Arts of Shreveport**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$10,000 for The Theater of the Performing Arts.

**Urban Support Agency, Inc.**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$5,000 to Urban Support Agency.

**Volunteers for Youth Justice**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$20,000 to Volunteers for Youth Justice.

**Youth Outreach Services**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$10,000 to Youth Outreach Services.

**YWCA Northwest Louisiana**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$5,000 to YWCA Northwest Louisiana.

**WEBDuBois Child Enrichment Center**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$10,000 to WEBDuBois Child Enrichment Center.

**Woody's Home for Veterans**

The Committee agreed on the recommended appropriation of \$20,000 to Woody's Home for Veterans.

**YouTOO, Inc.**

YouTOO did not submit an application. The Committee agreed to place the organization in the "parking lot" for further discussion at a later date.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to recommend to the full body the \$734,000 in NGO appropriations for the 2021 Budget.*

**Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body the \$734,000 in NGO appropriations for the 2021 Budget, with a line item of "unallocated funds" to the amount of \$16,000, along with the "parking lot" organizations having to submit their applications by next week. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Hopkins, Johnson, and Lazarus (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioner Chavez (1). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Nations  
Deputy Commission Clerk