



Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission  
**MINUTES**  
 Quarterly Commission Meeting  
 March 12, 2008

Present

Curtis Jelks, Commissioner, East Feliciana  
 Martin Macdiarmid, Alternate, East Feliciana  
 Patrick Witty, Commissioner, Pointe Coupee  
 Jimmy Dubroc, Commissioner, Rapides  
 Vernon McMorris, Commissioner, St. Helena  
 Ike Jenkins, Alternate, St. Helena  
 Buck Cefalu, Commissioner, Tangipahoa  
 Douglas Kent, Alternate, Tangipahoa  
 Bob Bateman, Commissioner, Washington

Absent

A.J. Roy, Commissioner, Avoyelles  
 Carlos Mayeux, Alternate, Avoyelles  
 Samantha Jewitt, Alternate, Pointe Coupee  
 Buck Vandersteen, Alternate, Rapides  
 Marilyn Bateman, Alternate, Washington  
 Tobias Ford, Commissioner, West Feliciana  
 Joseph Boneno, Alternate, West Feliciana

The regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission was called to order by Chairman Curtis Jelks at 10:20 AM on March 12, 2008, at the Amite Community Center in Tangipahoa Parish.

Upon convening, Mr. Jelks called for new commission members to step forward to be sworn in. Having none present, the meeting moved to roll call.

Secretary Jimmy Dubroc called roll. The results of the roll call are shown above. Representatives of six parishes being in attendance, a quorum was declared to be present.

Mr. Dubroc moved to approve the minutes of December 12, 2007 as presented. Mr. Witty seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without objection.

Mr. Witty presented the Treasurer's report showing:

Carry forward from FY 06-07	\$ 7,486.92	
Legislative Appropriation	<u>50,000.00</u>	
		\$57,486.92
Expenditures:		
Administrative and Public		
Information services (ZTPA)	\$9,400.00	
Professional services		
Wagoner	\$3,600.00	
Magee	7,800.00	
Ducote (CPA)	<u>-.----</u>	
	11,400.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>1343.31</u>	
		<u>22,143.31</u>
Balance on hand		<u>\$35,343.61</u>

Members were presented with the Chairman's memo regarding the fiscal year 2008-2009 budget as well as a resolution to adopt said budget. The memo reads:

*MEMORANDUM - March 12, 2008*  
*TO: Members of the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission*  
*FROM: J. Curtis Jelks, Chairman*  
*SUBJECT: Budget for Fiscal Year 08-09*

*Beginning with Fiscal Year 96/97, the Legislature provided funds in the General Appropriations Acts for expenditure by the Commission. And funds for the Commission have been provided by the*



Legislature in every subsequent fiscal year except one. For the first three years, these funds were expended primarily in support of the Commission's education program.

As FY 99/00 began, we moved into a new phase of our work. Although our education program continued through use of the video, the brochure, the maps, the logo, new releases and newsletters, the emphasis shifted as we concentrated more of our efforts on (a) obtaining federal funds for the Parkway project, and (b) pressing for the start of construction of the bridge to be built across the Mississippi River between New Roads and West Feliciana Parish (named the John James Audubon Bridge by the Louisiana Legislature).

With construction of the Bridge and its approaches now under way and with completion of the project expected in the summer of 2010, we have achieved a major goal because the bridge is the centerpiece of the Zachary Taylor Parkway. We expect to place increased emphasis during the coming fiscal year on presentations to various groups and organizations. And we will actively pursue funding for the rest of the Parkway.

The estimated general fund balance at the beginning of FY 08-09 is \$0, and the estimated general fund balance at the end of the year is \$0. The Commission has no other funds and expects to create no other funds.

The Commission's sole source of funding for FY 08-09 is an anticipated Legislative Appropriation for FY 08-09 in the amount of \$100,000.

The resolution reads:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the members of the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission desire to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Budget Act, LSA-RS 39:1301 et seq.;

AND WHEREAS, the Chairman of the said Commission has prepared and submitted to this body a comprehensive budget for Fiscal Year 08-09 and a budget message in full compliance with the aforementioned statute.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the budget presented by the said Chairman and set forth herein below is hereby approved and adopted:

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 08-09  
FOR THE ZACHARY TAYLOR PARKWAY COMMISSION

REVENUES

Carry forward from FY 07-08	\$ 0	
Legislative Appropriation	100,000	
		\$100,000

EXPENDITURES

Administrative & Public Information Services (ZTPA)	\$ 22,000	
Professional Services Contracts	25,000	
Travel	8,000	
Administrative Expenses	1,500	
Supplies	2,000	
Printing and Reproduction	2,500	
Advertising and Public Relations	4,000	
Meeting Expenses	5,000	
Website and Education Outreach	25,000	
Capital Purchases (Technology)	5,000	
		\$100,000

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the power to make changes within various budget classifications is reserved to the Commission.



The Treasurer's Report including current financials, chairman's memo and proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 was accepted without objection on a motion by Mr. Cefalu, seconded by Mr. Dubroc.

Mr. Witty completed his presentation by informing Commission members that our Annual Attestation was completed and a clean letter received from the Certified Public Accountant. Copies were provided to the Commission members.

Mr. Jelks provided a Chairman's report including:

- Quickbooks conversion is completed for past 5 years financials
- A Database to track meetings and documents has been complete
- Working on legislative appropriations
- Information on a future leadership retreat to establish goals
- A trip to Washington, DC, to visit with our Congressional delegation, this trip will not occur until after the May elections
- Lighting on the bridge
- Request for update and tour of the bridge

Mr. Mike Schiro, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Planning and Programming, and Ms. Mary Elliott, Highway Program Engineer, of DOTD provided a special presentation the full scope of DOTD projects, funding and responsibilities. Mr. Schiro completed the presentation with updates on existing and new projects within the Parkway corridor.

Mr. Wagoner, consultant to the Commission, discussed recent changes within the Department. He has met with new DOTD Secretary William Ankner. Mr. Wagoner gave a brief history of TIMED and gas sales tax revenue to fund those projects. He discussed the need for DOTD to have recurring revenues in order to keep the priority program funded – which includes the Parkway.

Mr. Magee presented a resolution to authorize the Commission's Executive Director to request an opinion form the Attorney General concerning the status of the Commission member from Rapides Parish. The resolution reads:

#### *R E S O L U T I O N*

*WHEREAS, the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission, a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, was created by the Louisiana Legislature and is governed by LA R.S. 48: 1801 et seq.;*

*AND WHEREAS, the Zachary Taylor Parkway District, created by LA R.S. 48:1804 A, is comprised of 7 parishes, including Rapides, and a portion of the Parish of Tangipahoa;*

*AND WHEREAS, LA R.S. 48:1804 B created the Commission and vested management and control of the District in the Commission;*

*AND WHEREAS, LA R.S. 48:1805 A authorizes the President of each Police Jury in the District (the Parish President in Tangipahoa) to appoint the Commission member to represent that Parish on the Commission and provides that each such appointment is subject to the approval of the parish governing body;*

*AND WHEREAS, LA R.S. 48: 1805 B provides that Commission members other than one-half of the initial members shall serve two year terms, which shall begin on the first day of September;*

*AND WHEREAS, LA R.S. 48: 1805 C provides that a voting member of the Commission may be removed by the appointing authority for just cause;*

*AND WHEREAS, Jimmy Dubroc was duly appointed as a Commission member by the Rapides Parish Police Jury President, and Mr. Dubroc's appointment was approved by the Rapides Parish Police Jury for the two-year term commencing on September 1, 2006;*

*AND WHEREAS, the Commission was subsequently advised by the President of the Rapides Police Jury in a letter dated October 25, 2007 (copy attached) that another person had*



*been appointed to serve on the Commission and that the appointment would "be ratified by the Police Jury in Regular Session Tuesday, November 13, 2007";*

*AND WHEREAS, it appears that one purpose of the action by the President of the Rapides Parish Police Jury was to remove Mr. Dubroc from the office of Commission member.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Maria Woodyear Bowen, Executive Director of the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission, be and she is hereby authorized and directed to request an opinion from Honorable Buddy Caldwell, Attorney General of the State of Louisiana, concerning the following question:*

*1, In the absence of a showing of just cause, have the actions of the President of the Rapides Parish Police Jury (as reported in his letter of October 25, 2007) resulted in the removal of Mr. Dubroc from the office of Member of the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission?*

On a motion by Mr. Cefalu, seconded by Dr. Kent, the resolution was adopted without objection.

Mr. Magee further discussed the need to revise the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission statutes, in particular R.S. 48:1805 A. This statute deals specifically with who makes the Commission appointments on behalf of the member parishes and names which parishes have a Parish President. The need is to remove mention of specific parishes and make our statutes more generic. Mr. Bateman moved to allow this revision and give authority for additional legislation as needed. Mr. Dubroc seconded the motion, which was approved without objection.

Mr. Jelks thanked Mr. Gordon Burgess and Tangipahoa Parish for hosting the Quarterly meetings.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the quarterly meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Dubroc, seconded by Mr. Macdiarmid at 11:40 AM. The next meeting of the Commission will be on June 11, 2008 in Rapides Parish.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy Dubroc, Secretary