

HORTICULTURE COMMISSION MEETING

June 28, 2012

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order by Mr. Bass at 9:36 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mrs. Bellington.

Members present: Fred Bass, Todd Parker, Dr. Regina Bracy, Stephen Hoover, Rob Barry, Mitch Mayes, Zefferino Von Kurnatowski, Chad Danos, Aaron Wade, Harold Tani and Jack Hopper.

Members absent: Patsy Spedale and Rusty Ruckstuhl.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Lindsey Hunter, Hearing Officer; Murphy Bell, Commission's Attorney; Tad Hardy, LDAF; Ansel Rankins, LDAF; Thelma Earls, LDAF; Jacqueline Henry, LDAF; Kevin Finley, LDAF; and Fran Bellington, LDAF.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Dr. Bracy made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2012 hearing.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Parker and passed unanimously.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

The next Horticulture Commission meeting will be Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

Mr. Billy Broussard requested that his arborist license be reinstated. **Motion:** Mr. Parker made a motion to allow Mr. Broussard to reinstate his license. This motion was seconded by Mr. Von Kurnatowski and passed unanimously.

At 9:46 a.m. the meeting was turned over to the hearing officer.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

NEW CASES

Alton Dillon
d/b/a Alton Dillon Tree Service
41208 Hwy 190 E.
Slidell, LA 70461

Case No.: 12-001

Two violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for advertising and engaging in a regulated profession (arborist) without the proper license and one violation of L.R.S. 3:3810 (A) (2) for violating a stop order.

Stipulation received. Recommended penalty of \$500.00. **Motion:** Mr. Parker made a motion to accept the stipulation and recommended penalty. This motion was seconded by Dr. Bracy and passed unanimously.

Larry Davis
d/b/a Davis Tree Service
1524 Pauline Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Case No.: 12-002

Two violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for engaging in a regulated profession (arborist) without the proper license and one violation of L.R.S. 3:3810 (A) (2) for violating a cease and desist order.

Stipulation received. Recommended penalty of \$750.00. **Motion:** Mr. Parker made a motion to accept the stipulation and recommended penalty. This motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.

The meeting was turned back over to Mr. Bass at 9:48 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Fine collection report

Mr. Rankins introduced Ms. Jacqueline Henry, paralegal, who is working on processing LDAF delinquent fees and fines. Mr. Kelvin Robins paid his \$14,000.00 fine in full recently with the help of Ms. Henry. Mr. Rankins also introduced new inspector Mr. Lyndon Leonards and acknowledged Mrs. Tina Peltier and Mr. Devin Boudreaux, all of whom were present, for the great job that they do.

Mr. Hardy informed the Commission that changes to the Horticulture Law are on hold regarding the LARE exam because the department was unable to advance the amendments in this year's legislative session; however, changes to the regulations may be needed. Also, South American Palm Weevil, a pest of coconut and date palms, was found in south Texas in May of 2012. Federal and state survey is ongoing in Texas for this new ornamental pest.

Mr. Richard Miller, a 10-year LDAF employee, has joined our Horticulture & Quarantine staff as Administrative Coordinator for Quarantine Programs. He will be working on pest issues affecting the green industry.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments but Mr. Bass took a moment to thank the staff and the Commission members for the job that they do.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Danos and passed unanimously.