



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Hospitality and Tourism Task Force

June 2, 2020

Meeting called to order at: 2:00 p.m.

Task Force Members:

- Kyle France
- Jill Kidder
- Ben Berthelot
- Doug Bourgeois
- Christian Brown
- Ralph Calhoun
- David Carter
- Linda Curtis-Sparks
- Andrew Doss
- Kyle Edminston
- Lane Ewing
- Elroy James
- Elie Khoury
- Walt Leger
- Debra Mayhew
- JP Morrell
- Ralph Ney
- Billy Nungesser
- Naresh Patel
- Don Pierson
- Kimberly Robinson
- Melvin Rodrigue
- Mark Romig
- Julie Samson
- Dean Smith
- Michael Smith
- Stephen Watson
- Nick Zaver

- Welcome
- Roll Call
 - Sammi Rushing called roll and confirmed a quorum.
- Approval of RLC HTTF May 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes
 - ACTION ITEM: Kyle France asked for a motion to approve the May 26 meeting minutes. Ralph Ney made the motion. Debra Mayhew seconded. All approved. Motion carried.
 - Note new resources, listed below
- Subcommittee Updates
 - Festivals / Events – Mark Romig
 - Mark made mention of the various festivals, parades, etc. that will be closed in Phase 2. A report from the State Fair said that the impact on fairs has been devastating, and that the carnival suppliers are looking at uncertainty toward the rest of the year. Mark stated the festivals, parades and carnival suppliers need a decision by mid-summer, at the very latest, as to whether they will be allowed to hold their festivals, events and parades in the Fall and early Winter months. As hard as it would be to hear, a definitive “no” to holding Fall and early Winter events would be better than not knowing. There is a tremendous amount of planning, fund raising and signing of supplier agreements on the front end of even the smallest of events and these must be done in the summer for Fall events.
 - CVBs/Convention Centers/Youth Sports – Kyle Edmiston
 - Jill presented on behalf of Kyle and his group. His subcommittee is working hard to have something to the task force by the June 5 final subcommittee report deadline.
 - Cultural Attractions – Stephen Watson
 - Debra Mayhew presented on behalf of Stephen. They requested an extended deadline for their final report, as there are attractions opening daily. The efforts to reopen the children’s museums were successful with limitations and restrictions for Phase 2. The Children Museums had a call with the Governor’s team yesterday to discuss their plans.
 - Outdoor Recreation – Linda Curtis-Sparks
 - Outdoor recreation is thriving. If there was ever a time to get broadband help it is now. There are many ways to do regional inventory, and Linda hopes that expanding broadband access will ensure the state’s capabilities to do so.
 - Hotels/Accommodations – Ralph Ney
 - His committee met last week to make recommendations to the Governor. Larger hotels have event space for restaurants. Event

- centers are going into 50% occupancy. A lot of hotels right off the interstates are doing well. Hotels are open and having visitors!
- Kelley Lloyd presented for short-term rentals, and said that they are working on operating measures documents. She has been working with Bob Ellis to get the guidelines distributed. Bob said that he is asking that short term rentals distribute and abide by operating guidelines.
 - Nick Zaver asked if we could get the LG to do a “welcome letter” stating that operations are different/adjusted due to the phased opening approach and guidelines of the state, but please come back to their hotels. Jill and Kyle asked that the subcommittee provide information they would like addressed in the letter and they will place a request to the LG with his staff.
- Update from RLC Commission - Walt Leger
 - Walt mentioned that he is excited that the state will be moving into Phase 2 here shortly. He wants to make himself available for anyone who needs him.
 - Please go to the May 29 RLC meeting to hear the presentation by Mrs. Blackwell from PolicyLink that refers to equity and how to formulate an equitable response to Covid-19. Take a look at information on how to use equity, not just as a moral imperative, but as a superior growth model, allowing for all to contribute to a society. He referenced “curb cuts” which allow for ramps for with those with disabilities to access sidewalk and cross the street. But yet that policy, driven by the disability community and its advocates, has provided benefits for all of society. Walt charged the task force to be forward-thinking about this opportunity for inclusion and equity when writing our final reports.
 - Next Steps
 - Reminder of RLC Task Force Guidelines (attached) and Deadlines
 - Friday, June 5 is the deadline for subcommittee final reports. Next week, Jill and Kyle will work with Lt. Governor and Walt to get recommendations together.
 - Friday, June 12 is the deadline for Kyle and Jill to turn in final task force report based on subcommittee final reports.
 - Thursday, June 18, at 9:30 A.M., Final report presentation to RLC.
 - Q&A
 - Mark Romig asked that the task force, as well as Governor’s office, be as open and transparent as possible with deadlines and reopening procedures. Some festivals are becoming frustrated with the “what-if,” and are having trouble deciding what to do financially.

- Walt responded that the HTTF wants to do what is best for the people. He has some concerns regarding what could happen with the protests and the spread of the virus.
 - Walt also responded that unfortunately this virus will be with us for a while, despite confidence in the re-openings. While a vaccine is important, social distancing is still necessary and the vaccine should not be used as a crutch. Jill echoed the sentiments and mentioned that personal responsibility is important.
 - Linda said that she failed to mention that they have developed a safe operating guide for fresh and saltwater fishing depending on the movement into Phase 2. There are good ideas, such as doing awards ceremonies via livestream.
 - Mark asked if this covers how they're taking care of vendors, to which Linda responded there will be none during Phase 2.
- Final Thoughts
 - RLC Commissioners
 - Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser
 - RLC Chairs
 - RLC Staff
- Public Comments
- Adjourn
 - ACTION ITEM: Kyle France asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark Romig made the motion. Linda Curtis-Sparks seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Resource Links and Attachments:

New Resources for this week:

Jill

- **Coronavirus Survey Slides Wave 12 Highlights:**
https://www.dropbox.com/s/aufzr22nik0cuwz/Coronavirus%20Survey%20Slides%20Wave%2012%20Highlights%20Release%20-%20FINAL_pdf.html?dl=0
- **STR Recommended Operating Procedures:**
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y83c7b30v0d5ejr/STR%20Recommended%20Operating%20Procedures.pdf?dl=0>
- **Gov. Edwards Announces Louisiana's Roadmap to Resilience Will Start Phase 2 on Friday, June 5 | Office of Governor John Bel Edwards:**
<https://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/2521>
- **Can This Business Open? | Office of Governor John Bel Edwards:**
<https://gov.louisiana.gov/page/can-this-business-open>
- **Phase 2 Reopening in Louisiana: What's Open and What's Closed?:**
https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/coronavirus/article_1f04fde8-a43d-11ea-86b0-ef758bd0cf68.html