



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Restaurants and Entertainment Task Force

May 20, 2020

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

Task Force Members:

- Edgar “Dook” Chase
- Stan Harris
- Dennis Lauscha
- Corey Wilson
- Verge Ausberry
- Roman Banks
- Randy Barrios
- Alana Belton
- Jay Cicero
- Larry Connor
- Tommy Cvitanovich
- Perry Eastman
- Ron Foreman
- Ron Forman
- Nick Hazard
- David Hearn
- Stephen Hightower
- Robert King
- Damien Lewis
- Matt Massey
- Shane Morrison
- Dr. Catherine O’Neal
- Dr. David “Rusty” Ponton
- Peter Sclafini
- Missy Setters
- Ike Spears
- Chris Stelly
- Scott Taylor
- Doug Thornton
- Brad Watts
- Emery Whalen
- Camille Whitworth

- **Welcome & Introductions**
 - Stan Harris – TF Co-leader called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.
- **Certification of Inability to Operate Due to Lack of Quorum**
- **Roll Call & Greetings**
 - Roll was called and a quorum was present.
 - Commissioners Ti Martin and Walt Leger thanked everyone for their work so far on the task force.
- **Review & Approval of the Minutes of the Prior Task Force Meeting**
 - The minutes from the 5/13/20 meeting was posted for review. Upon a motion made and seconded, the minutes of the 5/13/20 Task Force Meeting were unanimously approved.
- **Review of Resilient Louisiana Commission Guidelines**
 - Stan Harris reviewed the guidelines document for the Resilient Louisiana Commission and its Task Forces.
- **Guest Presentation**
 - Bill Hammack with Link Restaurant Group presented a report on the importance of restaurants to New Orleans and the tourism industry. Noted that while this is specific to New Orleans, it showed the risks the industry faces statewide and possible solutions.
- **Working Group Reports**
 - Dennis Lauscha – Had a discussion with the IT & Communications Task Force, which is a component that will play a huge role as we move forward across all industries. How customer journeys will look; cashless, ticketless, etc. This task force would like input from members of our task force. Specifically, regarding stadiums & arenas. We do have a draft circulating and once the state template is available Friday, we will get our submission to the state. There will hopefully be Federal assistance given to restaurants that we should continue to encourage. Entertainment Working Group have another call next week.
 - Corey Wilson – As we look to Phase 2 and beyond, we are speaking with the national associations. There is information as we enter the Summer for pools and splash pads that will help us shape our best practices in that area. Parks are large open spaces, such as state parks and will be easy to visit with social distancing. Playgrounds aren't open yet due to being high touch areas. Our next focus is also camps. We are trying to get an idea of what that would look like while meeting all requirements in Phase 2. We manage six golf courses here and rely on PGA guidance, but would be happy to share our recommendations for statewide guidance as well. We are also looking into long term best practices.
 - Larry Conner – Looking at country clubs, they operate similar to other clubs, fitness centers, and even restaurants but they are not pooled into any specific group or task force at this time. The guidance that all other clubs follow should

- also be given to them and to possibly even add them to our group, so they are given these regulations as well.
- Nick Hazard – Update on the newly formed Bars & Entertainment Sub Working Group. There were several questions in regard to to-go alcohol, and noted that there were laws already in place, which allowed for some things to be allowed while others would require the a new law. New rules would require wrapped straws, condiment and garnish trays will need to be kept covered and behind the bar to avoid possible contamination, use of reservations, marking social distance guidelines, managing the flow of people, etc. All of which would add costs to most venues. Will have another call next week. Anyone is welcome.
 - Stan Harris – Gave an overview of the Restaurants and Entertainment Task Force recommendations document that was sent to the Commission.
- **Guest Presentation**
 - Ashlye Keaton with the Ella Project presented a report on an initiative called Reopen Every Venue Safely (REVS). It is a national campaign to reopen live music venues with programs in eight U.S. cities (New Orleans being one) that offers technical assistance and mentorship to the cities while each develops and works through their own reopening plan.
 - **New Business**
 - Stan Harris reviewed requests for the following groups:
 - Small restaurants or related businesses. He asked that anyone from the task force who is interested in running this group to email him or resilientlouisiana@la.gov.
 - There has also been a request from the IT & Communications Task Force for 2-3 members from our task force to join in an interview and provide information on the industry's needs. If anyone would like to participate in this please email Stan or resilientlouisiana@la.gov.
 - **Solicitation of Public Questions**
 - Stan addressed questions in chat about bridging the gap between these task forces and legislature. He noted that the deadline to submit bills has passed and session ends June 1st. No time to push new legislation through in this session.
 - Mark Schettler (Bar Tonique) – Health care question in regard to getting it to the work force in the coming months. Stan replied that other organizations and other community health networks should potentially join in on a call or be involved to dive deeper into that.
 - Mark Schettler – Asked about establishing a road home for businesses that are closing their restaurants or letting rent lapse, then to later re-enter the industry. Stan replied that he doesn't have an answer specifically.
 - Rob Dowie (SELA Aquatics) – there is a lot happening in the aquatics world and some confusion because lap swimming is closed until Phase 2 according to Open Safely, however fitness centers received a document that they can open pools

for lap swimming only under Phase 1. We need clarity, especially as we proceed into Summer. This group would benefit from a small working group being formed under the Entertainment Working Group.

- **Date of Next Meeting**
 - May 27, 2020

Acknowledgement and adjournment at 3:14 p.m.