

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

August 28, 2020

The Louisiana Real Estate Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2020, at 9 a.m. via teleconference, according to regular call, of which all members of the Commission were duly notified, at which meeting the following members were present:

COMMITTEE

Patrick Roberts, Jr., Chairman
Lacy Baaheth, Vice Chairman
Synde Devillier
Jeff Donnes
Paula Duncan
Jeff Free – arrived at 9:09 a.m.
Eloise Gauthier
Rodney Greenup
Ted Major
Deanna Norman
Joe Pappalardo, Jr. – arrived at 9:04 a.m.

STAFF

Bruce Unangst, Executive Director
Arlene Edwards
Summer Mire
Ryan Shaw
Jenny Yu
Mark Gremillion
Dusty Evans
Tom Devillier
Nikki Senegal
Telly Hollis
Henk vanDuyvendijk

GUESTS

Chris Donaldson – Donaldson Educational Services, LLC
Lisa Baker – Burk Baker School of Real Estate and Appraising, LLC
Kim Callaway – Louisiana REALTORS®
Brent Lancaster – Bob Brooks School of Real Estate and Insurance, INC

Commissioners Ritchie was unable to attend.

MINUTES

Commissioner Gauthier made motion, seconded by Commissioner Greenup, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2020. Motion carried without opposition.

(Attachment A)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Budget – Mr. Unangst reviewed the budget report with the commissioners. He stated that the budget needs to be approved by formal vote per statute. He stated that the new budget projections are based on a slight downturn in new license applications, which he attributes to COVID19. He stated that personnel services have gone up due to market adjustments. He stated that the budget is in good shape and the agency is in good standing.

Commissioner Pappalardo asked if transitioning to the new software system would come with a cost. Mr. Unangst stated that the cost of building the system has already been factored in and future costs will be limited to service and maintenance.

Commissioner Major made motion, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier, to approve the proposed budget. After roll call vote, motion carried without opposition.

(Attachment B)

Mr. Unangst stated that the Legislative Auditor has been on site performing an audit of the agency. He stated that as part of the process the Commissioners need to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. Commissioner Gauthier made motion, seconded by Commissioner Greenup, to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. Chairman Roberts and Secretary Ritchie executed the document for approval.

2. Education/Research/Publication – Commissioner Gauthier stated that the Commissioners have been working with CCIM to get the 2021 mandatory course ready for presentation.

Mr. Unangst stated that there were options in the RFP for possible moving to a remote course for Train the Trainer sessions due to COVID19. He stated that no decisions have been made, but that this is a possibility.

Commissioner Gauthier asked staff to speak on the replacement for State Reporting. Mr. Gremillion stated that in house system has been working well so far.

Commissioner Gauthier asked if licensees have been completing their education earlier this year since many are at home due to COVID19. Mr. Gremillion stated that the rate of non-compliance remains the same as most years and that he anticipates that most licensees will still complete their education in December.

Ms. Calloway stated that Louisiana REALTORS has heard from licensees in rural areas who want to know if there will be any education waivers due to COVID19. Chairman Roberts stated that he does not believe that there any plans to allow licensees to not take their required education.

3. Legal/Legislative/Timeshare – No report.
4. Standardized Forms – No report.
5. Errors & Omissions – Mr. Unangst stated that the renewal of the RISC contract

Commissioner Norman made motion, seconded by Commissioner Gauthier, to renew the RISC Errors and Omissions contract for 2021. After roll call vote, motion carried with no opposition.

6. Technology – Commissioner Greenup stated that staff is working to upgrade the MyLREC Portal for all stakeholders and that the new, upgraded portals will be ready for use in the coming months.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Mr. Unangst stated that the ARELLO conference is being done virtually this year and that Ms. Mire will get the information for signing up to the Commissioners. Ms. Mire stated that Commissioners need to let her know if they want to attend the conference as soon as possible so that she can get them registered.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Greenup made motion, seconded by Commissioner Norman, to approve the consent order for Case No. 2019-2993 – Kieth L. Slabaugh, BROK.09476.A-ACT. After roll call vote, motion carried with no opposition.

Commissioner Baaheth made motion, seconded by Commissioner Greenup, to approve the consent order for Case Nos. 2018-1616, 2019-0020, 2019-0091, and 2019-1941– Ashley M. Woods, SALE.995688161-ACT. After roll call vote, motion carried with no opposition.

Mr. Devillier stated that the LREC was notified by Louisiana REALTORS that a licensee was arrested for crimes of moral turpitude. He stated that the Regulatory Compliance staff has been in contact with the licensee’s broker and have reached out to the investigators in charge of the arrest. He stated that the licensee has not yet responded to attempts to reach out. Mr. Devillier stated that an Emergency Order to suspend the licensee was issued on August 11, 2020.

Commissioner Norman made motion, seconded by Commissioner Greenup, to ratify the Emergency Order (La. R.S. 49:961) to suspend the license of Willie J. Williams, SALE.995697135-ACT; 2020-0431. After a roll call vote, motion carried with no opposition.

Chairman Roberts stated that Ms. Mire received an email from a licensee requesting a waiver of Continuing Education requirements for Brokers over the age of 70. Chairman Roberts stated that the Commission receives requests of this nature around once a year. He stated that there is no need for a vote on this issue, it is on the agenda for discussion only unless any commissioners want to take up a formal vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

There being no further business, Commissioner Norman made motion, seconded by Commissioner Pappalardo, to adjourn. Motion passed without opposition.

RICK ROBERTS, CHAIRMAN

MATT RITCHIE, SECRETARY