



State of Louisiana
LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

DECEMBER 14, 2023
MEETING MINUTES

On Thursday, December 14, 2023, the Louisiana Real Estate Commission (“LREC” and/or “Commission”) conducted its regularly scheduled, monthly meeting in-person and at the Commission’s domicile office located at 9071 Interline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809 in accordance with La. R.S. 37:1430 *et seq* and other applicable law.

Commission Members Present:

Mr. Jeff Free, Chair (Sup. Ct. Dist. 2)	Ms. Synde Devillier (Sup. Ct. Dist. 6)
Ms. Paula Duncan, Vice Chair (Sup. Ct. Dist. 3)	Mr. Rodney D. Greenup, Sr. (At-Large)
Mr. Joseph Pappalardo, Jr. Secretary (Sup. Ct. Dist. 7)	Mr. Theodore Major (At-Large)
Ms. Hanna Chustz (Sup. Ct. Dist. 5)	Mr. Matt Ritchie (Sup. Ct. Dist. 4)
Mr. Tony Cornner (3 rd Congress. Dist.)	Ms. Gladys Smith-Coward (5 th Congress. Dist.)

Commission Members Absent:

Ms. Doneva Halphen (Sup. Ct. Dist. 1)

Staff Present:

Ms. Summer S. Mire, Executive Director	Ms. Allison OToole
Mr. Thomas E. Devillier, Dep. Dir./Exec. Counsel	Ms. Courtney Stafford
Ms. Arlene C. Edwards, General Counsel	Mr. Jeremy Travis
Ms. Allison Burnette	Ms. Nikki Wallace
Ms. Dusty Evans	Ms. Sloane Watts
Mr. Mark Gremillion	Ms. Jenny Yu

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Others Present:

Ms. Tara Blank – Court Reporter

Ms. Carole Horn

Mr. Wardell Coward

Mr. Matt Hughes

Fmr. Commissioner, Jeff Donnes

Fmr. Commissioner, Deanna Norman

Ms. Amy Fennell

Fmr. Commissioner, Rick Roberts

Fmr. Commissioner, Eloise Gauthier

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Free called the meeting to order at or about 10:00 a.m. A roll call was conducted in open meeting. See attendance detailed above. Commissioner Major led the invocation; and, Chairman Free led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2023

Commissioner Pappalardo made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith-Coward, and unanimously approved to adopt the minutes of the October 19, 2023 meeting as written and circulated (Exhibit A).

IV. PERSONAL APPEARANCES (SEE OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT/RECORD)

1. Case No. 2023-0481; In re: Michael D. Caldwell: Mr. Caldwell requested an eligibility determination and applied for authorization to obtain a real estate license in accordance with R.S. 37:1430 *et seq.* Mr. Caldwell was placed under oath by Ms. Blank. Mr. Devillier presented information regarding hearing procedure and questioned Mr. Caldwell, who confirmed on record that he previously received and waived objections to the introduction of the proposed *Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order* and related exhibits (Exhibit B). Commissioner Devillier made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Greenup, and unanimously approved to introduce all exhibits submitted *en globo*. Mr. Caldwell proceeded with his testimony. Commissioner Greenup made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Pappalardo, and unanimously approved to authorize Mr. Caldwell to obtain a real estate license in accordance with law.

2. Case No. 2023-2052; In re: Noah A. Thomas: Mr. Thomas requested an eligibility determination and applied for authorization to obtain a real estate license in accordance with R.S. 37:1430 *et seq.* Mr. Thomas was placed under oath by Ms. Blank. Mr. Devillier presented information regarding hearing procedure and questioned Mr. Thomas, who confirmed on record that

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he previously received and waived objections to the introduction of the proposed *Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order* and related exhibits (Exhibit C). Commissioner Devillier made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Greenup, and unanimously approved to introduce all exhibits submitted *en globo*. Mr. Thomas proceeded with his testimony. Commissioner Major made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith-Coward, and unanimously approved to authorize Mr. Thomas to obtain a real estate license in accordance with law. The motion carried 5-3 with Commissioners Chustz, Cornner, and Devillier voting in opposition. Commissioner Ritchie abstained from the vote.

3. Case No. 2023-2080; In re: Marti E. Grosjean-Pearson: Ms. Grosjean-Pearson requested an eligibility determination and applied for authorization to obtain a real estate license in accordance with R.S. 37:1430 *et seq.* Ms. Grosjean-Pearson was placed under oath by Ms. Blank. Mr. Devillier presented information regarding hearing procedure and questioned Ms. Grosjean-Pearson, who confirmed on record that she previously received and waived objections to the introduction of the proposed *Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order* and related exhibits (Exhibit D). Commissioner Devillier made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Greenup, to introduce all exhibits submitted *en globo*. Ms. Grosjean-Pearson proceeded with her testimony. Commissioner Pappalardo made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Chustz, to approve Ms. Grosjean-Pearson's authorization to obtain a real estate license in accordance with law. The motion failed 6-3 with Commissioners Cornner, Devillier, Duncan, Major, Ritchie, and Smith-Coward voting in opposition.

4. Case No. 2023-2093; In re: Samuel E. Penton: Mr. Penton failed to or refused to appear for the scheduled hearing. Accordingly, the hearing was indefinitely postponed and may be rescheduled for a future hearing.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Budget. Secretary Pappalardo reported regarding the Commission's budget report (Exhibit E).

2. Education. Commissioner Devillier said that the post-licensing taskforce will resume in or around January 2024. Ms. Mire reminded the Commissioners that *Train the Trainer* education courses begin on Friday, December 15, 2023 in Shreveport, with additional courses on Tuesday, December 19th in Baton Rouge, LA and Wednesday, December 20th in Kenner, LA.

3. Legal / Legislative. Ms. Mire delivered an update regarding the Commission's digital fingerprinting background check process. Ms. Mire stated that the new process is fully implemented and that all the information has been uploaded to the Commission's website. The new digital process has significantly reduced the amount of time it takes LREC to receive background check results.

4. Standardized Forms. Ms. Mire stated both mandatory forms are uploaded to the Commission's website, including a video with Commissioner Halphen and Mr. Roberts highlighting the updates.

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5. Technology. None.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Annual Training. Ms. Mire reminded the Commissioners to complete their outstanding, annual training courses as required by law before the end of the year.

2. License Renewals. Ms. Mire provided an update regarding annual license renewals. Ms. Mire stated the Commission has delivered nine (9) reminders to real estate licensees to renew their licenses before December 31, 2023 expiration. The Commission also engaged with licensees to educate licensees who may be seeking to renew their license in the inactive status.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of 2024 Officers. Commissioner Major made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith-Coward, to nominate Commissioner Devillier to the role of Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ritchie made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Greenup, to nominate Commissioner Pappalardo to the role of Vice Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Major made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Pappalardo, to nominate Commissioner Duncan to the role of Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of 2024 Business Calendar. Commissioner Smith-Coward made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Major, and unanimously approved to set the Commission's 2024 Business Calendar (Exhibit F). The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Devillier made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Greenup, and unanimously approved.