

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

June 19, 2014

The Louisiana Real Estate Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., at 9071 Interline Ave, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, according to regular call, of which all members of the Commission were duly notified, at which meeting the following members were present:

COMMISSION

Paul Burns, Chairman
James Gosslee, Vice Chairman
Lynda Nugent Smith, Secretary
Patrick T. Caffery, Jr.
Steven Hebert
Cynthia Stafford
Frank Trapani
Evelyn Wolford

STAFF

Bruce Unangst, Executive Director
Arlene Edwards, Legal Counsel
Summer Mire
Debbie Debrates
Mark Gremillion
Chad Mayo
Robert Maynor
Ryan Shaw
Marsha Stafford
Jenny Yu

GUESTS

Jeffrey Donnes
Jim Friar – Pearson Vue Educational Testing
Brent Lancaster – Bob Brooks School of Real Estate
Norman Morris – Louisiana REALTORS
Roy Ponthier - ProEducate

Commissioner Carraway was unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Nugent Smith led the Invocation; Commissioner Caffery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Commissioner Gosslee made motion, seconded by Commissioner Trapani, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 22, 2014. Motion passed without opposition.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Budget – Commissioner Stafford reviewed the budget report. She stated that operating revenues are slightly down due to on-time renewals. Supplies have a slight increase due to server upgrade costs. Overall, the Commission is in good financial condition.

(Attachment A)

2. Education/Research/Publication – Commissioner Hebert stated that he would like to have a committee meeting prior to the regular business meeting in July. The agenda will be to discuss the 2015 mandatory topic ideas. He thanked Commissioner Nugent Smith for soliciting topics and stated that we would also be receiving suggestions from an upcoming newsletter survey. He stated that a popular idea was to have multiple topics within the 4-hour mandatory course. He also asked for suggestions from Louisiana REALTORS and the education vendors. Commissioner Caffery stated that he attended the alternative commercial mandatory course and that it was an excellent course.

Jim Friar from Pearson Vue Educational Testing gave a presentation on their testing services and facilities.

3. Legal/Legislative/Timeshare – No report.
4. Standardized Forms – Commissioner Wolford stated a meeting is planned with Louisiana REALTORS to discuss possible changes to the existing forms. Commissioner Trapani suggested that attorney Bill Young be included in the discussions. Commissioner Wolford has no objection to that.
5. Strategic Planning – Commissioner Nugent Smith stated that there may be new Commissioner appointments in the next month. She will be appointing a task force to narrow down items for the strategic plan. The members of the task force will include herself, the Commission Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Chairmen of the Education and Standardized Forms Committees. She is hoping to have a committee meeting planned for August.
6. Errors & Omissions – No report.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Mr. Unangst reported that Commissioner Carraway's son had a recent stroke and asked that the Commissioners keep him in their prayers.

Mr. Unangst reported that Griffin and Company was selected by bid as the accounting firm to conduct the annual legislative audit report for the Commission. The cost is \$6,000 cheaper than the previous auditor. A full report will be available to the Commission in September. Budget adjustments will be made in July due to the end of the fiscal year but the Commission should not expect any surprises.

Mr. Unangst stated that the annual continuing education audit letters will be mailed out soon. There have been minor changes to the procedure to help administratively. Staff expects there to be around 97% compliance rates as in years past.

Mr. Unangst noted that licensee counts are finally on a slow rise.

Mr. Unangst discussed the 2015 mandatory topic for continuing education. He stated that the Commission will develop and RFP to put out to have a course developed. Due to the legislative standards, vendors could go out and develop their own course and get approved by the Commission. He stated that most vendors would have difficulty to do this when they could use content from the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Team Advertising Rules – Commissioner Nugent Smith made motion, seconded by Commissioner Trapani, to adopt the changes made at the June meeting as presented. Commissioner Gosslee inquired as to how brokers will be notified of the rule change. Mr. Unangst stated the rules must be posted with the Register for the required time period. After this, all parties involved such as Louisiana REALTORS, local boards, brokers, etc. will be notified via newsletter, email blast, social media, etc. Motion carried without opposition. (See Attachment B)

NEW BUSINESS:

Post Licensing Course Content Approval – Commissioner Caffery made motion, seconded by Commissioner Trapani, to approve the requests for non-exclusive use of the Commission 45-hour Post License Course by ProEducate, Donaldson Educational Services, and Burk Baker School of Real Estate. Motion carried without opposition.

Stipulation and Consent Orders – Commissioner Stafford made motion, seconded by Commissioner Wolford, to approve the stipulation and consent orders as presented. Commissioner Trapani stated that he objects to the approve of item “a” (Case No. 2013-2114 LREC vs. Stacey B. Millet) as he feels this case should go to a formal hearing before the Commission due to it being a fraud case. Commissioner Trapani amended the motion, seconded by Commissioner Caffery, to approve the stipulation and consent orders for item “b” (CE Audits, PL Audits, Delinquent Renewal Cases) and to have item “a” be presented to the Commission at a formal hearing. Motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Stafford reported on her attendance at the District 2 ARELLO conference in Nebraska. Items discussed were unlicensed activity, videos on continuing education such as agency, flat fee listings, and limited service listings. Mr. Unangst agreed that videos are effective learning tools and suggested that the strategic plan look into this.

Commissioner Caffery suggested that it would be nice to create a past Chairman’s board in the hearing room to recognize the service of the commissioners. He stated that he hopes the future members keep changing and moving forward with the industry. Praise and thanks were given to Commissioners Caffery and Trapani.

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

PAUL BURNS, CHAIRMAN

LYNDA NUGENT SMITH, SECRETARY