

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
NGO APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2024

The Caddo Parish NGO Appropriations Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. Cothran, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Cothran, Thomas, and G. Young (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and J. Young (2).

Mr. Thomas gave the invocation, and Mr. Atkins led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. There being no Agenda Additions or Citizens Comments, the Committee moved to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Continued discussion regarding the 2024 NGO process to possibly include recommendations for future action or policy.*

Mr. Cothran said that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the process of awarding monies to NGOs.

Mrs. Barnett said that all of the NGOs who were awarded funds during the budget process followed protocol. The MLK Dream Keepers NGO was awarded funding on the day of budget adoption. This organization did not meet the qualifications of this committee. Mrs. Bryant further explained that if they came through this Committee, they would have been deemed ineligible. The Commission approved the funding on the date of the Budget Adoption, so a letter was sent to the NGO stating this. Mrs. Barnett mentioned that they did not submit an application.

Mr. Cothran reiterated that the NGO did not submit an application; did not meet the two-year requirement; and were approved for funding on the date of adoption. Mrs. Bryant agreed and said that has been the standard practice of the Commission.

Mrs. Bryant further explained that the organization held their event, and now are asking for the funds. She said that they have not received the funds because the CEA has not been signed. Mrs. Barnett said that they are working with the organization, but it is an ongoing process.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know what could be done on a legal standpoint with regards to ordinances. Attorney Bernstein said that there is not a higher authority that will set a rule on the Commission and enforce it on the Commission. Mr. Cothran said that there are rules and regulations in place, and the Commission must adhere to them.

Mr. Cothran also mentioned that if an organization is not vetted through the NGO Committee and Finance, then it should not be awarded funds.

Mr. J. Young said that the By-Laws could be changed to state just that. He also mentioned that there should still be opportunity before the Budget Adoption to allow for amendments.

Mr. G. Young said that there needs to be objective criteria for all organizations to follow prior to receiving funds.

Mrs. Bryant mentioned that once the Commission appropriates dollars, it is up to the Administration on how those dollars are spent.

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mr. , *to ask Legal to draft an amendment to the By-Laws requiring all NGO appropriations to pass through the Appropriations Committee, and to forbid amendments to the NGO appropriations on the date of Budget Adoption.*

The Clerk of the Committee explained that these subcommittees are advisory only. He wanted to know how would a Commissioner, not on the Committee, make amendments.

The audio/video equipment failed. The recording ended at 30 minutes. The minutes going forward are solely based on the notes of the Commission Clerk.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 2:38 p.m.


Assistant to the Commission Clerk