BOARD MINUTES

THE HARBOR CENTER BOARD
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025, 9AM
100 HARBOR CENTER BLVD. SLIDELL, LA 70461

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Board Chairman, Mr. Mark Myers. Mr. Myers gave the invocation, led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Victoria Paz performed roll call. Present: Grant Black, Glen Boyer, Kurt Bozant, Greg Ireton, Linda Larkin, Mark Myers, Darrell Smith, and Kathleen Wilkin. Absent: Troy Brackett, Eric Calvin, Kevin Davis, Donna O'Daniels, Don Thanars, Athena Tzuanos. Staff present: Victoria Paz, Jessica Hester and Judi Chase. Guest: Tani Budde with Ericksen-Krentel to deliver the 2024 audit presentation. There was no other guest or public comment.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Bozant moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Smith seconded with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Bozant moved to approve the June 5, 2025 minutes, Mr. Boyer seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Ireton went over the financial statements and reported that the gross profit line is up significantly but expenses are up too with the increase in business. Mr. Ireton also reported that the Board approved an increase in the budget for advertising, and that overall things look good. Mr. Ireton recommended that the Board take a look at the budget again for the second half of the year. Mr. Myers suggested gathering the budget committee to review the budget again. Mr. Smith moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Mr. Bozant seconded with all in favor.

Mr. Myers motioned to move 'New Business: a. Audit Presentation' ahead of Old Business so that Mr. Budde could deliver the presentation first and be free to go about his day. Mr. Smith moved to approve the motion and Mr. Bozant seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

New Business:

a. 2024 Audit Presentation: Mr. Tani Budde went over the financial reports from the audit and concluded that it was a clean audit, meaning there were no findings. Mr. Budde reported that everything looked good, and the process went smoothly. Ms. Wilkin asked if he had any advice for us going forward. Mr. Budde recommended focusing on controlling our expenses and looking at the ROI and key performance markers on advertising and other expenditures.

Mr. Bozant moved to approve the 2024 Audit Presentation, Mr. Ireton seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Myers motioned to go back to the regular agenda schedule of Old Business. Mr. Smith moved to approve, and Mr. Bozant seconded the motion with all in favor.

Old Business: Highway sign update. Ms. Victoria Paz informed the Board of the latest information regarding the repair of the highway sign. Ms. Paz said she is gathering quotes from a few companies to see whether it is feasible to re-build the controller or do something else.

New Business

b. Personnel Update: Ms. Paz updated the Board regarding an event manager who just accepted a position with another company. Ms. Paz said she will be conducting interviews this week to replace her and expects to have someone start by the 21st.
c. Executive session – Mr. Myers requested to move into executive session for discussion of the character, professional competence and/or health of Mary Landreneau. Mr. Smith approved, and Mr. Bozant seconded the motion with all in favor. The non-board members exit. After the executive session Mr. Smith moved to return to regular session with Ms. Larkin seconding the motion.

General Manager's Report: Ms. Victoria Paz informed the Board that the Times-Picayune Best of St. Tammany awarded The Harbor Center the Gold Award for best event venue! Then Ms. Paz updated the Board that staff completed fire safety, CPR and AED training, that the Seafood Cookoff Festival was well received, and that the Friends of The Harbor Center authorized new laptop computers to replace the outdated ones. Ms. Paz also updated the Board regarding the Technology Committee Meeting with 1Up-Tech to discuss a new proposal for bid and reaching out to other entities for comparison. Then Ms. Paz reported that Tri-Parish Works Summer Youth Program intern is working out very well. Ms. Paz stated that we had an Energy Assessment walkthrough but have not received the report yet and then gave a brief recap of the IAVM Venue Management School she attended. Mr. Myers requested that Ms. Paz give a presentation to the Board in a separate, optional meeting going over some of what she has learned. Ms. Paz then discussed ideas on gaining revenue through passive income such as advertising in HC hallways. The Board then discussed some advertising ideas. In closing Ms. Paz reminded the Board to complete the Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training if they had not done so already.

Sales Report: Ms. Hester reviewed Brand Awareness for June with stats for TV commercials, streaming and email blasts. Mr. Smith and the Board discussed the relevance of email advertising versus using the now popular Tik Tok and Snap Chat. Mr. Ireton suggested looking into the ROI on advertising as the budget increase has been approved in that area. Mr. Myers recommended starting to ask callers "How did you hear about us?" as some forms of advertising may be found to be obsolete or ineffective. Then Ms. Hester went over the YTD Sales Comparison numbers as well as the July and August bookings. Mr. Smith requested that since August has few bookings to host a Harbor Center Open House to advertise and to say thank you to the public. The Board then discussed ideas for the Open House.

Commissioner Comments: Mr. Myers briefed the Board on the Lobby Lounge shows coming up. Mr. Myers promoted master guitarist Hiroya Tsukamoto, who will be performing on July 24 and Cara Van Thorn performing on August 21. Mr. Myers then stated that the Lobby Lounge schedule for next year is being booked, and Roman Street is already scheduled for January and Crickets in April.

Mr. Myers stated the next meeting will be on August 7, 2025.

Mr. Smith motioned for adjournment with Ms. Wilkin seconding and then all approved to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judi Chase