

Brister introduces transition team Slidell Sentry-News

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Brister introduces transition team

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Saying that she wanted a "seamless transition," Parish President-elect Pat Brister presented her transition team to the public Friday afternoon at a press conference.

Thanking the 40 people she has chosen to help her take the reins of parish government, Brister said these are all people who have a passion for the parish.

"We will all do a sterling job," Brister said, before turning the floor over to the director of her transition team, attorney Howard Daigle Jr.

PARISH PRESIDENT-ELECT PAT BRISTER

Daigle said the parish was faced with a unique situation, because of the great job done by the administration of President Kevin Davis for the past 12 years.

"The transition has a solid base," Daigle said.

The transition team is made of up eight committees that will have specific duties. Daigle said Brister's focus during her campaign has been on economic development, and that committee will be chaired by **Marty Mayer**. Daigle said Mayer and the other five members will look into ways of improving public and private partnerships that will help increase economic development in the parish.

Daigle said in these days of shrinking revenue, Brister has put together a committee, chaired by Todd Richard that will look at all the revenue streams for the government, and decide which are good for the parish.

"They will be looking five years down the road to plan on funding the government," Daigle said.

There is another committee that will look into the parish's boards and agencies.

Daigle said currently there are 60 different boards and agencies in the parish, and the committee will take a "fresh look" at the entities and see if there is a need for some boards. They will also look at the members of these boards and agencies and see if they have the necessary qualifications to serve.

"The committee will also look at what qualifications are needed to be on these boards and agencies," Daigle said. Maura Donahue will chair this committee.

Daigle said how the parish serves its residents is a big concern and the four members of the Customer Service Committee, chaired by Dian Lusher will look at ways to improve the interface between the public and the government.

"We are taking a marketing perspective on how best to assist the people in the parish," Daigle said.

Brister also wants to take a look at how the parish contracts for professional services, and a committee chaired by Jim Rozycki look at the current method of contracting and see if they can improve on it using "best practices."

"We want to make sure the people get the best professionals at a decent rate," Daigle said.

With declining revenue throughout the parish, Daigle said there is a need to improve the relationship between the parish government and other government agencies like the Sheriff's Office, Parish Assessor, Parish Council and city governments. The Intergovernmental Relations Committee, chaired by Trilby Lenfant will look at ways in which all these entities can interact to solve parish problems.

Daigle said there is also a need for a new process in hiring and training parish employees and that will be researched by the Personnel and Human Resources Committee chaired by Susan Bonnett. Daigle said the committee will look at establishing a human resources department that will not only hire the best people and take care of them, but will also offer additional training to make employees perform even better than before.

Finally Daigle announced the formation of the Administration Policy Committee, chaired by Bill Newton. This group will take the current massive tome of parish administration policy and try and pare it down to a manageable size.

"There is a need to take a look at all the policies and procedures, and make sure they still have relevance," he said.

Brister said that she also wants to make jobs a priority in her administration. She said bringing more jobs into the parish will help it get over the current economic doldrums.

But she said the transition has already proved to be a lot easier than she expected.

"It's amazing how open the current administration has been with us," Brister said.

Transition Team

Administrative Policy