

## Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission Minutes of March 16, 2022

Members Present: Victoria Sagrera, Tammy Gordon, Henri Deshotels, Cathy Burdette, Karen Broussard, Lindsay Watson  
Members Absent: Bill Comeaux (ill), Angela LeBlanc (ill)  
Others Present: Alison Miller, Allie Horton

The meeting was called to order and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commission reviewed the agenda. There were no additions and the meeting proceeded.

Alison Miller introduced the new Maurice commissioner, Lindsay Watson. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and provided information on the area they represent.

**A motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Wednesday, November 9, 2022, as written.**

The Commission reviewed the financial statements and bills to be paid. **A motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Henri Deshotels, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented.**

Nominations for the 2023 Officers were opened. Tammy Gordon nominated Victoria Bourque as Chairperson. There were no further nominations. A brief discussion was held regarding the duties of Vice-Chairperson. Tammy Gordon nominated Lindsay Watson as Vice-Chairperson. There were no further nominations. Since Alison Miller takes the minutes and handles the bookkeeping, Tammy Gordon motioned to appoint Alison Miller as Secretary/Treasurer. **A motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to accept the nominations presented for the 2023 Officers.** All nominated accepted the positions/appointments.

Alison Miller informed the Commission of the issues that occur during the Giant Omelette Celebration with the music stage being placed adjacent to the Alliance Center. The music rattles the windows and it is very loud inside which makes it hard to help visitors inside the Center. With the stage being next to the building, patrons sit on the Center's porch and also on the sidewalk to get to the public restrooms making it difficult to get to the restrooms. In 2019 and 2022, Mrs. Miller had requested the stage be moved but the request was not considered. After a lengthy discussion, **a motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Lindsay Watson, and unanimously carried to send a letter to the Giant Omelette Celebration formally requesting a different location for the musical stage currently located next to the Alliance Center building.**

Alison Miller provided the Commission with information on the 2020 US Census. Per capita, Vermilion Parish still has the highest number of residents claiming Cajun ancestry; however the Census is only in the US therefore, should the Commission remove "on Earth" from the tagline? Commission members asked if our claim has been challenged, which it has not. There were a couple of inquiries as to whether or not we still have the most amount of Cajun people. After a brief discussion, the Commission asked Alison Miller to see if "Cajun Capital of America" is trademarked and to speak to other Cajun "experts" regarding the "Most Cajun Place on Earth" claim. **The Commission also did not oppose continuing to use our current tagline.**

Alison Miller provided an update on the Commissioner replacement for Abbeville. The two individuals she spoke to are not able to serve. She will meet with Roderick Darby from the Vermilion Reach Group to see if there are any interested people. Commissioners also provided Mrs. Miller with some possibilities.

Victoria Bourque informed the Commission on new developments with the Louisiana Cattle Festival. At their recent meeting, a new President and Board were elected and the festival will be moving back to downtown Abbeville. The weekend in October has not been finalized. A meeting with Whittington Vet Clinic will be held to not conflict with their Anything Over Rice event that also occurs in the beginning of October.

Tammy Gordon invited the Commission to the Groundbreaking of the Acadiana Seafood Hub that will be built in Erath on Hwy. 14 Bypass near Quality Sports Authority. The groundbreaking will be held on January 25 at 2 p.m.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 3:30 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission office.

There being no further business, **a motion was made by Karen Broussard, seconded by Henri Deshotels, and unanimously carried to adjourn.**

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Miller, VPTC Secretary