

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission

Minutes of May 18, 2016

Alison Miller performed a roll call:

Members Present: Ron Darby, Kathie Terpening, Shannon Neveaux, Marlene Theriot, Odile Segrest

Members Absent: Betty Girouard, Terry Lancon, Sandra Reaux

Others Present: Alison Miller

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

The Commissioners present reviewed the agenda. There were no changes or additions to the agenda. A motion was made by Ron Darby, seconded by Marlene Theriot, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

There were no guest comments at the meeting.

A motion was made by Kathie Terpening, seconded by Marlene Theriot, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of March 16 as written.

A motion was made by Odile Segrest, seconded by Kathie Terpening, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented.

Alison Miller provided the Commission with the proposed Marketing Partnership Proposal to present to municipalities and other businesses to help fund. After a brief discussion on the ads presented and what businesses would be approached, a motion was made by Odile Segrest, seconded by Marlene Theriot, and unanimously carried to approve the Marketing Partnership Proposal with the addition of Louisiana Sportsman and a birding publication.

Alison Miller presented the Commission with an update on the activities and meetings attended on behalf of the Tourist Commission. The Financial Disclosure Forms that were turned into the office were copied for our records. The originals were mailed by Certified Mail and with a Return Receipt at the beginning of May. Alison Miller informed the Commission about the recent journalists that visited Vermilion Parish and will forward any articles that were written to the Commission. Alison Miller informed the Commission on the new bank signature cards and that additional information from a couple of Commissioners was requested. Once the cards are ready to sign, Alison will let the Commissioners know.

Alison Miller will be out of the office at the end of June for surgery. The Commissioners said they would be able to handle any work-related issues that need to be taken care of while Alison is recuperating. Alison is expected to be out of the office for at least a week.

Odile Segrest inquired about the process to have a DOTD sign relocated. The directional sign on Hwy. 90 informing people about the Abbeville exit is too close to the actual exit and does not provide enough warning. Several Commissioners stated that they agree with Mrs. Segrest and have had people state that they have missed the exit. Alison Miller will contact DOTD to inquire about having the sign moved.

Shannon Neveaux and Alison Miller informed the Commission of the State's removal of the non-profit status for all organizations. This requires all organizations to remit sales tax. This applies to our festivals as well, which could cause some of the smaller festivals to not be held resulting in the decrease of visitors attending the festivals and events. Our Acadiana representatives are aware of the issue this could possibly cause and are looking into ways to correct this issue. The Tourist Commission sees a slight increase in visitors whenever a festival is being held in Vermilion Parish or in the surrounding area. Kathie Terpening requested that we add a line on our Visitor Register for email addresses. Alison Miller will add a line.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2015 at 4:00 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Kathie Terpening, seconded by Marlene Theriot, and unanimously carried to adjourn.

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:

Kathie Terpening, VPTC Secretary