

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission

Minutes of September 18, 2019

Members Present: Marlene Theriot, Shannon Neveaux, Sandra Reaux, Karen Broussard, Odile Segrest, Judy LeBlanc, Terry Lancon, Tammy Gordon, Eric Adcock

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Alison Miller, Charlene Beckett, Arlene Colleé

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

The Commissioners reviewed the Agenda. There were no additions or changes.

Charlene Beckett (guest) updated the Commission on Sounds on the Square. Geno Delafosse will play on Oct. 3 and The Cool Dudes will be on Oct. 17. There will only be two concerts this Fall.

Arlene Colleé (guest) introduced herself and informed the Commission on the upcoming Omelette Celebration on Nov. 2-3 and that Robert Dafford will try to finish the mural during the Omelette Celebration.

Shannon Neveaux asked for an update on the “Merci” signs on the downtown trashcans around the parish and if we were able to get a better ad rate in the Chamber Directory. Alison Miller will need to obtain an amount of trashcans located in each downtown and photos of the trashcans to see what sort of signs need to be made. The Commission was able to obtain a ¼ pg ad for \$750. A motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Wednesday, May 15, 2019 as written.

Alison Miller provided the Commission with the financial information. We are currently 4% above in sales tax collections when compared to 2018 figures. We have received our 2018-2019 CMP reimbursement from LOT. A motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Tammy Gordon, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer’s Report and payment of bills as presented.

The Commission reviewed the proposed multi-year grant plan for the BP Seafood and Tourism Promotion Grant. A motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Marlene Theriot, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed grant plan as presented and to submit the required information to BP.

Alison Miller provided the Commission with a wrap-up of Congres Mondial Acadien (CMA) and the Grand Reveil Acadien which will be held in Acadiana on October 3-11, 2020. Most of the people at CMA were interested in speaking to people from Louisiana and when the Cajun band played, our pavilion was packed. For the Grand Reveil Acadien, there will be a Sounds on the Square on Oct. 8. We can “piggyback” on this event and invite parish festivals to cook and attractions to set up tables in the Square to inform visitors about their events/attractions. Tammy Gordon said that the Delcambre Seafood and Farmers Market will be on Oct. 3, 2020 and she will request a Cajun band play. Although it is over a year away, the earlier we have our event planned, the more it will be promoted on the Grand Reveil Acadien website and information. Charlene and Arlene suggested advertising in New Brunswick/Canadian publications. Arlene will send us information. The Commission also reviewed the total expenses for the CMA trip. A motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Odile Segrest, and unanimously carried to approve to reimburse Alison Miller for the out-of-pocket expenses through the BP grant.

Alison Miller informed the Commission that the Lafayette High French class will be doing French translations of our brochures, signage, etc. for the Commission and Alliance Center as a class project. Eric Adcock suggested having our restaurant menus translated and Odile Segrest suggested the Points of Interest map be translated. Alison Miller will speak to the teacher to see if we are limited to the amount of translations and how they would like the information.

Alison Miller informed the Commission that our CD held at IberiaBank is up for renewal. The current rate is 0.85% for 12 months. A motion was made by Karen Broussard, seconded by Shannon Neveaux, and unanimously carried to renew the CD.

Alison Miller informed the Commission that it is time to prepare the 2020 budget and requested budgeting for an intern to work 10-12 hours per week at minimum wage (if needed). A brief discussion was held. The Commission agreed to allow Alison Miller to prepare the budget with funds for an intern, if the budget allows. Mrs. Miller will need four Commissioners to serve on the budget Committee.

Tammy Gordon gave an update on the Travel Fair held during the Lt. Governor’s Summit in August. Since Alison Miller and Fran Thibodeaux (Iberia Parish CVC) could not attend, Tammy Gordon (who is on both Tourist Commission boards)

displayed information from both parishes. She also informed the Commission that the Twin Parish Port will be installing a special needs playground at the Erath City Park.

Eric Adcock informed the Commission that he has been working with the Vermilion Historical Society to redo their website, create a Facebook page and a YouTube channel that will contain all of their presentations. The next meeting and presentation by Dr. Barry Ancelet, will be on October 23 at 6pm at the Abbeville Library.

Shannon Neveaux updated the Commission on a couple of events that will be held at the state park: Plate Lunch Sale, Eagle Scout project, Halloween Trick-or-Treating, Dutch Oven Cochon du Lait. She also informed the Commission that the Splash Pad will now be open all year.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 3:30 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission.

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

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Miller".

Alison Miller, VPTC Secretary