

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission

Minutes of September 20, 2017

Members Present: Terry Lancon, Betty Girouard, Shannon Neveaux, Sandra Reaux, Ferric Montgomery, Kathie Terpening
Members Absent: Marlene Theriot, Judy LeBlanc (illness), Odile Segrest (illness)
Others Present: Alison Miller

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

The Commission reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried to continue with the agenda as presented.

There were no guest comments at the meeting.

A motion was made by Kathie Terpening, seconded by Sandra Reaux, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Wednesday, July 19, 2017 as written.

A motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented. Alison Miller informed the Commission that she is working with Debbie Garrot to research properties in Vermilion Parish that are renting houses/rooms on AirBnB.com and vrbo.com and not paying occupancy tax. Recent legislation was passed that requires these properties to collect and remit sales and occupancy taxes. Kathie Terpening suggested that when a hurricane or flood happens that forces people into hotels, the hotels should offer discounts to these individuals. Alison Miller will mention it to the hotel owners. It was also suggested that local groups get together and cook meals for the evacuees.

Alison Miller provided information on publishing our minutes in the local newspaper. According to the Open Meeting Law and the Louisiana statues on CVBs, we are required to make our minutes public but does not say that they need to be published in a local newspaper. Our minutes from 1994 to present are kept in the Tourist Commission office and are available to any person that requests them. Our minutes for the past two years are also on our website and can be downloaded. To publish our minutes in the Abbeville Meridional, it would cost over \$640 per year. A motion was made by Kathie Terpening, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried that since our minutes are available and we do not have the money in our budget, the Commission will not publish our minutes in the newspaper.

Alison Miller provided information on recent tourism meetings she has attended and a possible media group that will be in Acadiana in October. Tourism numbers are low throughout the parish and the Acadiana area. Hopefully the upcoming fall festivals will bring in tourists to the parish.

Alison Miller informed the Commission that the 2018 Budget will need to be prepared to present at the November meeting for approval. Katie Terpening, Shannon Neveaux and Terry Lancon agreed to sit on the Budget Committee. We will meet in October.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 4:00 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission.

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

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:
Alison Miller, VPTC Secretary