

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission

Minutes of July 18, 2018

Members Present: Odile Segrest, Shannon Neveaux, Sandra Reaux, Karen Broussard, Kathie Terpening
Members Absent: Terry Lancon, Ferric Montgomery, Judy LeBlanc, Marlene Theriot
Others Present: Alison Miller, Charlene Beckett (Abbeville Main Street), Kayla Vidallier

The meeting was called to order and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Odile Segrest welcomed all in attendance at the meeting and the Commission reviewed the agenda. There were no additions to the agenda.

Charlene Beckett explained the proposed Downtown Abbeville Streetscape Project and answered questions from the Commission. The Commission asked Alison Miller to send a letter of support on behalf of the VPTC.

A motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Sandra Reaux, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Wednesday, May 16, 2018 as written.

The Commission reviewed the financial information presented. A motion was made by Kathie Terpening, seconded by Shannon Neveaux, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented.

Alison Miller provided the Commission with the results of the "What's Your Favorite?" poll and who the winner of the gift pack was. She also informed the Commission that VPTC was awarded a 2018-2019 Louisiana Office of Tourism's Cooperative Marketing Grant in the amount of \$10,667 and provided a spreadsheet showing the Gross Sales Tax collected on accommodations from May 2017-April 2018.

Alison Miller provided updated information regarding moving the Welcome Sign in Kaplan. Bourque Signs can move the sign for approximately \$600. Since they are the company that installed the sign and would be responsible if the sign was damaged during the move, a motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Kathie Terpening, and unanimously carried to have Bourque Signs relocate the sign and the cost would come out of the VPTC budget.

A request to segment a portion of the Cajun Corridor Scenic Byway was submitted by David Dronet of Erath. The Dronet family would like to segment from Hwy. 339 to St. Elmo Rd., which is a little over 1 mile and enough space for other billboards to be erected. The proposed billboard will be a large billboard on their property, higher than the Dollar General sign located next door and will not be electronic. Although some Town Council members are in favor, the Dronet family has not officially gone before the Erath Town Council. Mayor LeBlanc is not in favor of segmenting the byway. After a discussion that the purpose of the scenic byway is to keep it as natural and scenic as possible and what other areas on the byway could request a segmentation, a motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Sandra Reaux, and unanimously carried to deny the segmentation of the Cajun Corridor Scenic Byway.

Alison Miller requested that VPTC rejoin the Louisiana Association of Conventions and Visitor Bureaus for the reduced rate of \$175 per year. LACVB is a state tourism organization and the information and networking obtained from the meetings are valuable. A motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to approve rejoining LACVB. Alison Miller will check with LACVB to see if the fee is on a yearly basis or if we join now, do we have to rejoin in January.

Alison Miller informed the Commission of the two CDs that are maturing. A motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to have Alison Miller find the best rate and term available and renew the CDs.

Alison Miller informed the Commission of the several conferences that will be occurring in July and August – The Louisiana Byways Statewide Conference, MissLou Agri-Tourism Conference (held in Vermilion Parish) and the Lt. Governor's Travel Summit. A motion was made by Kathie Terpening, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to allow Alison Miller to attend the conferences if she chooses to do so.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 4:00 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission.

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

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:



Alison Miller, VPTC Secretary