

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission Minutes of November 17, 2021

Members Present: Karen Broussard, Eric Adcock, Angela LeBlanc, Odile Segrest, Sandra Reaux, Bill Comeaux, Victoria Bourque

Members Absent: Shalana Francis, Tammy Gordon

Others Present: Alison Miller, Charlene Beckett with Abbeville Main Street, Judge Edwards with The Bluebird Project

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 with the Guest Comments.

Charlene Beckett provided the Commission with updates on The Christmas Stroll, "If Headstones Could Talk..." Living History Tour, the Nehemiah Project and other events taking place in downtown Abbeville. Eric Adcock inquired about the Christmas Parade and the lights in Comeaux Park. Main Street and VPTC were not included in the planning and had not received promotional information regarding these events. A brief discussion was held as to why all organizations are not being included in meetings. It was very concerning to the Commission that there appears to be a disconnect and what steps can be taken to work together. Both Charlene Beckett and Alison Miller said it could be several things such as us not being "top of mind" as far as promotion of the event, organizers planning these events quickly, etc. Victoria Bourque and Eric Adcock are willing to help set up meetings or whatever is needed to get all involved on the same page.

Judge Edwards informed the Commission on the Bluebird Project which was started by the Boy Scouts several years ago. This project builds bluebird houses and places them in areas that are natural bluebird habitats. Some houses have been placed in AA Comeaux Park, along Jacqueline Street, Hospital Drive and in Lafitte Park. As materials become available, more houses will be built and placed in the City and outlying areas. This is a great eco-tourism project and can add to our tourism efforts. The Commission agreed to help promote the project.

A motion was made by Eric Adcock, seconded by Odile Segrest, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Wednesday, September 15, 2021 as written.

The Commission reviewed the financial statements and information presented. A motion was made by Bill Comeaux, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented.

A motion was made by Bill Comeaux, seconded by Angela LeBlanc, and unanimously carried to go into Executive Session to perform the Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation. All non-Commissioners stepped out of the room. A motion was made by Sandra Reaux, seconded by Bill Comeaux, and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session. Alison Miller received an outstanding review from the Commission and will receive a slight pay increase for 2022.

Alison Miller provided the Commission with an update on activities, tourism figures and webinars she has participated in. The Commission asked Mrs. Miller to send them information on any upcoming regional and state meetings that they could attend with Mrs. Miller.

Alison Miller presented to the Commission the Proposed 2022 Budget compiled by the Budget Committee. The Commission reviewed the budget and asked a few questions regarding anticipated occupancy tax revenue, grant opportunities and tourism outlook. A motion was made by Bill Comeaux, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to adopt the proposed 2022 Budget as presented.

Sandra Reaux (Kaplan) and Odile Segrest (Abbeville) will be term-limiting before our next meeting and new Commissioners will need to be found. Alison Miller provided the Commission with a list of nine possible Commissioners. The people on the list are active in the community, most have participated in the Chamber Leadership program, do not pose a conflict of interests, etc. The Commission recommended that Mrs. Miller reach out to the individuals and see if they are interested.

Since tourism visitation inside the Center is still low, Alison Miller requested the Commission consider being a stamp spot for the Abbeville Christmas Stroll on Thursday, December 2. The cost is \$200 and can be split with the Abbeville Cultural and Historical Alliance. A motion was made by Angela LeBlanc, seconded by Eric Adcock, and unanimously carried to participate in the Christmas Stroll.

The 2022 Commission Meeting dates were discussed. Commissioners agreed to keep the meetings on the third Wednesday of every other month at 3:30pm since the majority could make the meetings and not conflict with other meetings or obligations. Alison Miller will send the Commission the 2022 meeting dates to review and place on their calendars.

Alison Miller thanked Sandra Reaux and Odile Segrest for the six years they have served on the Tourist Commission Board.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:30 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission office.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Odile Segrest, seconded by Angela LeBlanc, 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