

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission Minutes of November 9, 2022

Members Present: Karen Broussard, Tammy Gordon, Angela LeBlanc, Cathy Burdette, Bill Comeaux, Henri Deshotels, Victoria Bourque

Members Absent: Eric Adcock

Others Present: Alison Miller; Charlene Beckett, Abbeville Main Street; Allie Horton, City of Abbeville Digital Media Assistant

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, Wreath Contest, Cajun Christmas Celebration and other events taking place in downtown Abbeville.

A motion was made by Henri Deshotels, seconded by Bill Comeaux, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Wednesday, September 21, 2022 as written.

The Commission reviewed the financial statements and information presented. Alison Miller informed the Commission that sales tax collections for September were down due to housing hurricane evacuees in the fall of 2021 and we did not house any this year. **A motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Angela LeBlanc, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented.**

Alison Miller provided the Commission with an update on tourism figures and activities and meetings she has participated in.

A motion was made by Karen Broussard, seconded by Tammy Gordon, 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 Tammy Gordon, seconded by Angela LeBlanc, and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session.** Alison Miller received an outstanding review from the Commission and will receive a cost of living pay increase for 2023 to account for inflation.

Alison Miller presented to the Commission the Proposed 2023 Budget compiled by the Budget Committee. **A motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Bill Comeaux, and unanimously carried to adopt the proposed 2023 Budget.**

The Vermilion Parish Police Jury has appointed Lindsay Watson to the Commission to represent Maurice. Mrs. Miller has sent Mrs. Watson a welcome packet. Eric Adcock will be stepping down from the Commission at the end of the year due to an increased work schedule but still would like to be involved in helping with tourism. A new Abbeville Commissioner will need to be found. Alison Miller provided the Commission with a list of possible Commissioners. The people on the list are active in the community and 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 last year's Christmas Stroll brought close to 800 people into the Center, Alison Miller requested the Commission consider being a stamp spot for the Abbeville Christmas Stroll on Thursday, December 1. The cost is \$200 and can be split with the Abbeville Cultural and Historical Alliance. **A motion was made by Angela LeBlanc, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to participate in the Christmas Stroll.**

The 2023 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 2023 meeting dates to review and place on their calendars.

Alison Miller informed the Commission that the Grand Reveil Acadien was very successful and had an estimated 1,000 total attendance. She will be submitting invoices to Louisiana Acadie for reimbursement.

Victoria Bourque provided information on Palmetto Island's Halloween events which were well attended. She also gave information on Cow Island Live which will take place the weekend of November 18.

Bill Comeaux invited all in attendance to Erath's Christmas Celebration and Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 3.

Tammy Gordon informed the Commission on events happening in Delcambre: December 3 will be the Seafood and Farmers' Market and Toy Drive and the Project Graduation Gumbo Cook-off and Delcambre Boat Parade will be on December 10. Mrs. Gordon also spoke about the Delcambre Trunk-or-Treat which had over 1,000 kids attending.

Alison Miller thanked the Commissioners for their support in 2022 and look forward to working with them in 2023.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 3:30 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission office.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bill Comeaux, seconded by Karen Broussard, 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