

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission

Minutes of January 20, 2016

Members Present: Beverly Baker, Betty Girouard, Kathie Terpening, Marlene Theriot, Ron Darby, Shannon Neveaux, Terry Lancon, Sandra Reaux, Odile Segrest

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Alison Miller, Charlene Beckett, Joseph Hebert

The meeting was called to order and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Beverly Baker welcomed all in attendance at the meeting. New commissioner, Odile Segrest, introduced herself to the Commission and stated that she looked forward to serving. Ron Darby congratulated Mrs. Segrest and welcomed her to the Commission.

Charlene Beckett provided the Commission with an update on upcoming events that will be taking place in downtown Abbeville and invited the Commission to attend the events. Joseph "CoJo" Hebert congratulated the Commission on the great job they are doing promoting the parish.

A motion was made by Terry Lancon, seconded by Shannon Neveaux, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Thursday, November 18, 2015 as written.

A motion was made by Ron Darby, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented.

A brief discussion was held regarding the election of 2016 Officers. It was suggested that all current officers remain in place for 2016. Beverly Baker asked to not be the 2016 Chairman. A motion was made by Ron Darby, seconded by Kathie Terpening, and unanimously carried to open the floor for nominations for Chairman. Shannon Neveaux was nominated. No other nominations were made. A motion was made by Ron Darby, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried to close the nominations for Chairman. Shannon Neveaux accepted the position of 2016 VPTC Chairman. A motion was made by Ron Darby, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried to keep Betty Girouard as Vice-Chairman; Kathie Terpening as Secretary; and Marlene Theriot as Treasurer. Betty Girouard, Kathie Terpening and Marlene Theriot all accepted the appointments. Beverly Baker will remain as Past Chairman on the Executive Committee.

Alison Miller informed the Commission about needing to upgrade Quick Books and Adobe Design programs on the newer laptop. A motion was made by Ron Darby, seconded by Marlene Theriot, and unanimously carried to purchase the upgrades for the laptop.

Alison Miller provided the Commission with information on Ethics Ruling No. 2011-167 which prohibits the Commission from promoting and marketing a tourism business that is primarily owned by a current Commissioner. Beverly Baker and her husband own Baker Farms, a parish rice manufacturer. Baker Farms is listed on the Tourist Commission's web site and is listed in the Visitors Guide and Culinary Trails brochure. Since the Tourist Commission receives no financial benefit from Baker Farms, the Commission was not clear if this issue fell under Ethics Ruling No. 2011-167. A motion was made by Shannon Neveaux, seconded by Ron Darby, and unanimously carried to have Alison Miller contact Paul Morsei III for clarification on Ethics Ruling No. 2011-167 and to seek an Attorney General's Opinion if Mr. Moresi felt that we should receive an opinion.

Alison Miller reminded the Commission of the 2015 Financial Disclosure Forms that will need to be filled out and mailed in before May 15, 2016. Mrs. Miller will have those forms available at the March meeting.

The Commission asked Alison Miller for an update on Vermilion Oaks Golf Course and Event Center. Mrs. Miller provided an update on the new owners, the restaurant which is open to the public and improvements to the facility. Mrs. Miller also updated the Commission on other tourism news and openings.

Ron Darby asked for an update on former part-time employee, Leah Richard. Ms. Richard has accepted a full-time, copy writing position with Russo Advertising in Lafayette. Mr. Darby asked if the Tourist Commission needed volunteer help. At this point, volunteer help is not needed. Mrs. Miller will let the Commission know when she feels volunteer help is needed and they will contact the necessary agency.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 4:00 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission.

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

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:

Kathie Terpening, VPTC Secretary