

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission

Minutes of July 20, 2016

Alison Miller performed a roll call:

Members Present: Ron Darby, Kathie Terpening, Shannon Neveaux, Terry Lancon, Sandra Reaux

Members Absent: Betty Girouard, Marlene Theriot, Odile Segrest, Judy LeBlanc

Others Present: Alison Miller, Charlene Beckett, Ferric Montgomery, Bryan (child in attendance with Ms. Montgomery)

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

The Commissioners reviewed the agenda. There were no changes or additions to the agenda. A motion was made by Ron Darby, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Charlene Beckett informed the Commission about a letter Mayor Piazza received regarding the North American Francophone Cities Network. This network is dedicated to the preservation of French history and culture in North America and is in the process of developing a website. Charlene Beckett and Alison Miller will compile information on Vermilion Parish's French ties and submit the information to this organization by the deadline of August 1, 2016. Ferric Montgomery did not have any comments.

A motion was made by Kathie Terpening, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of May 18, 2016 as written.

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

Alison Miller provided the Commission with the updated Marketing Partnership Proposal, the cover letter to present to municipalities and other businesses to help fund and a proof of one of the new ads that she has been working on. Ron Darby suggested that Alison Miller contact Linda Duhon to be put on the next Vermilion Parish Police Jury meeting. Ron Darby suggested that the Commission simply request funds and not specify that the Commission would put the funds in marketing.

Alison Miller informed the Commission that the final BP Gulf Tourism and Seafood Promotion Grant will be ending on July 31, 2016. There are a few ads and projects that we have not received the invoices for. Once they are received, Alison Miller will prepare the final report and documentation to send to BP for our reimbursement check.

Alison Miller presented the Commission with an update on the activities and meetings attended on behalf of the Tourist Commission.
Project Front Yard, Vermilion Parish: an informational meeting was held at Abbeville City Hall and the types of projects were discussed. Since not all towns were present, the next step is to contact the Mayors of each town to garner their support and for them to appoint a contact person from their town. Once that step has taken place and all are on board, a Facebook page and signage will be created. Several Commissioners gave suggestions and input on this initiative.

Waitr Delivery Service in Abbeville: an initial meeting between Alison Miller, Anne Falgout (VEDA) and Julius Meaux (Waitr) was held to discuss the possibility of Waitr Delivery Service coming into Abbeville. Alison Miller provided the Commission with the particulars of the service, the costs and the lists of restaurants that could possibly participate. There is a maximum delivery radius, which means that most of the restaurants would be in Abbeville. Anne and Alison will be meeting again with Julius Meaux in August.

Cajun Food Tours, Vermilion Parish: Alison Miller and Lynn Guillory (Chamber of Commerce) met with Marie Ducote with Cajun Food Tours to discuss how a Vermilion Parish food tour could be developed. Alison provided Marie with a list of restaurants. Marie will visit these establishments as a "mystery diner" to check the service, quality, etc. Together, they developed a letter to send to the restaurants about the program. In the fall, Alison, Lynn and Marie will meet again and possibly visit 6-8 restaurants about the Tour.

The Commission felt that all of these were worthy projects and that the Tourist Commission should be involved to help move the projects along. Alison Miller will keep the Commission informed about new developments with these three projects.

A motion was made by Ron Darby, seconded by Terry Lancon, and unanimously carried to pay for a meal for journalists Kelsey Chauvin but not her room since accommodation charges would not be able to fit in the remaining line item balance.

Ron Darby informed the Commission that he has recently been asked to serve on the Section 8 Housing Board as the Vermilion Parish representative. Because of this, he will be stepping down as a Vermilion Parish Tourist Commissioner and Ferric Montgomery has been appointed to fill his position. The Commissioners welcomed Ms. Montgomery to the Commission. Ron Darby also invited the Commission to attend the Council on Aging's "Meet and Greet" on Friday, July 22 at 10:00 am.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 4:00 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission.

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

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:

Kathie Terpening, VPTC Secretary