

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission

Minutes of May 18, 2022

Members Present: Tammy Gordon, Bill Comeaux, Eric Adcock, Victoria Bourque, Karen Broussard, Cathy Burdette
Members Absent: Shalana Francis Angela LeBlanc (sick), Henri Deshotels (sick)
Others Present: Alison Miller, Abbeville Councilman Brady Broussard, Ray Trahan with Louisiana Acadie

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

The Commissioners reviewed the Agenda. There were no additions or changes.

Alison Miller and the rest of the Commission congratulated Victoria Bourque on being hired as the new VEDA Project Administrator. The Commission is looking forward to working together to grow Vermilion Parish.

A motion was made by Bill Comeaux, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 16, 2022, as written.

Alison Miller provided the Commission with the financial information. Since the beginning of 2022, sales tax revenue has been in the positive and it is expected to be in the positive next month due to large baseball tournaments being held in Abbeville. A motion was made by Karen Broussard, seconded by Bill Comeaux, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented.

Ray Trahan spoke to the Commission about the Grand Reveil Acadien, its history, the plans for 2020 that had to be canceled and what opportunities the parish has as hosting the Opening Day for the Grand Reveil Acadien on October 1. Councilman Broussard spoke on plans that he had discussed with Alison Miller and Charlene Beckett which includes food, music, reunions, French tables, etc. The Commission provided thoughts on what events and activities they would like to see take place. All Commissioners present felt that this event could be very positive for the Parish. Alison Miller, Councilman Broussard, Madeline DeHart and Charlene Beckett will meet soon to discuss the event and make definitive plans. Mrs. Miller will keep the Commission informed on plans.

Alison Miller provided the Commission with an advertising opportunity in the French guidebook, *Petit Futé*. There are two size options to consider and the cost can be covered by the LA Tourism Revival Grant. A motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to purchase a ½ page ad for \$1,600.

Alison Miller informed the Commission that part-time worker, Amy Winch, gave her two-week notice earlier in May. A few options for a replacement were discussed. The Commission suggested that Alison Miller contact SLCC and UL Lafayette's Hospitality and Tourism Departments to seek an intern who may be interested in working during the morning hours. It was suggested that the worker be bi-lingual.

Eric Adcock updated the Commission on the status of the Abbeville Walking Tour and the discussions held at the recent Community and Culture meeting that was also attended by Alison Miller. Commissioners in attendance are interested in the walking tour and agreed that Mr. Adcock keep gathering information. Bill Comeaux stated that the walking tour is a great idea and something the Commission can build upon to get people moving throughout the parish. Councilman Broussard suggested including items of interests such as the downtown architecture and that Mayor-elect White is interested in this project as well.

On behalf of the Vermilion Historical Society, Eric Adcock informed the Commission on the display of Native American artifacts that belong to the VHS. The artifacts have been on display at the Kaplan Library but will be brought to the Abbeville Cultural Center to be on permanent display. Alison Miller will make room for the artifacts in one of the VHS display cases.

Bill Comeaux invited the Commission to the Acadian Museum in Erath. Mr. Comeaux is the volunteer who opens the museum on Saturdays from 10:00 am to noon and would like for us to stop by.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 3:30 pm at Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bill Comeaux, seconded by Victoria Bourque, and unanimously carried to adjourn.

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:



Alison Miller, VPTC Secretary