

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission Minutes of November 15, 2023

Members Present: Karen Broussard, Tammy Gordon, Cathy Burdette, Bill Comeaux, Victoria Bourque, Lindsay Watson
Members Absent: Angela LeBlanc, Henri Deshotels (sick), Chris Bessard (work)
Others Present: Alison Miller

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

The Commissioners reviewed the agenda. There were no additions and the meeting proceeded. There were no guests in attendance.

A motion was made by Bill Comeaux, seconded by Cathy Burdette, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Wednesday, September 20, 2023, as written.

The Commission reviewed the financial statements and information presented. Alison Miller informed the Commission that sales tax collections were slightly higher when compared to 2022. Mrs. Miller also provided an update on working with AirBnB and the parish sales tax department to have all short term rentals in compliance with collection and remitting the 2% occupancy tax. **A motion was made by Karen Broussard, seconded by Lindsay Watson, 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 activities and meetings she has participated in.

A motion was made by Victoria Bourque, seconded by Karen Broussard, 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 Karen Broussard, and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session.** Alison Miller received an outstanding review from the Commission. Due to 2024 budget revenue anticipated being low, Mrs. Miller will not be able to receive a cost-of-living increase.

Alison Miller presented to the Commission the Proposed 2024 Proposed Budget compiled by the Budget Committee. **A motion was made by Tammy Gordon, seconded by Bill Comeaux, and unanimously carried to adopt the proposed 2024 Budget.**

Commission meeting dates were discussed. Since a few Commissioners can not make the 3:30pm meeting time, Commissioners agreed to move the meeting time to 5:30pm. Because of previous after-work obligations on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Alison Miller asked to move the meeting date to the third Thursday of every other month. Commissioners in attendance agreed to move the date and time of the meetings. Alison Miller will send the Commission the 2024 meeting dates to place on their calendars.

This is Commissioner Karen Broussard's last meeting since she has served for 6 years. She has given the name of a possible Kaplan Commissioner. Henri Deshotels will be stepping down from the Commission at the end of the year. A new Abbeville Commissioner will need to be found.

Victoria Bourque stated that the LA Cattle Festival dates will remain on the first full weekend in October. Alison Miller will inform the 2025 Grand Reveil Acadien organizers since the date will coincide with the Opening Date for the GRA.

Alison Miller thanked the Commissioners for their continued support and look forward to working with them in 2024.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 5:30 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:



Alison Miller, VPTC Secretary