

Acadia Parish Tourist Commission Meeting

May 12, 2022, at 9 a.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors held at APTC, 401 Tower Rd, Crowley, LA

Board Members Present:

Bart Wild (President/ Member at Large A)	Harold Fonte (Church Point)
Keith Henry (Village of Mermentau)	Nora Benoit (Village of Morse)
Suzette Leonards (V.P./ City of Rayne)	Mary Beth Miller (Town of Iota)
Valerie Myers (City of Crowley)	

By Phone

Jennifer Autin (Rayne Chamber)

Board Members Not Present:

Emily Mire (Village of Estherwood) work	Megan Duhon (Acadia Chamber) work
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Call to Order Bart Wild called meeting to order with roll call, noting there is a quorum.

1 Pledge of Allegiance

2 Prayer

Previous Meeting Minutes: Keith Henry made motion to accept the previous months minutes as presented. Seconded by Harold Fonte. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Keith Henry made motion to accept the previous months minutes as presented. Seconded by Nora Benoit. Motion carried.

Directors Report: Nancy Loewer noted: Graham Group is working on the website, YouTube channel, and the presentation for the Brand Reveal on May 24. Frog Festival Booth raffle is being prepared; additional donations need to be brought in today. OST will also have a presence in the booth. Please sign up if you can spare an hour or two. Destination Fam Tour & Brand Reveal- Invitations sent out and about 25 expected guests thus far. We will be doing follow-up phone calls. Just returned from Rural Tourism/Bayou Conf. Kelly and Lynn Hundley joined us. Just to share a bit about international travel...Australia is #1 visitor to LA, while Germany is second: it's important to be language friendly to our targeted audiences. Push for India and Italy. International travel is important because their stays are longer and likely to return. Reminder, National Main Street Conference. Mon.-Thurs, so I'll be out. No word back yet regarding Postage machine contract review by Glenn Howie. "It's in his stack." The two Tours held on April 27 & 28th went very well. Renae Stanford graciously offered to lead the tours (she is a certified tour operator). Corn & sunflowers planted, sprayed, and sprouting! Partners include Crowley Grain, Acadia Parish Farm Bureau, Leonards Family Farms, First National Bank, Acadia Parish Library, Keith Henry (?). Still looking for more sponsors. Will be designing signage and photo op to be place in the field.

Correspondence: Stevie Robinson/Missouri lady interested in Rose Wilder (Laura Ingalls Wilders' daughter) story of living in Crowley. Amy Mathiew/Daten, Ohio lady interested in the 50th Rayne Frog Festival; she seen our ad in Cooking with Pauladeen and a visitor from Belgium.

Committee Report: Harold Fonte stated a meeting will be held as needed.

Old Business: Bart Wild stated the grants for festivals/events has been tabled for more discussion.

New Business: Bart Wild noted we have 3 resumes for the member-at-large B position and Mary Beth Miller announced she is stepping down once a replacement is chosen for town of Iota.

There being no further business to come before the Commission meeting adjourn.

Nancy Loewer
Executive Director

/aam