

Acadia Parish Tourist Commission Meeting

May 19, 2023, at 9 a.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners held at 401 Tower Rd, Crowley, LA 70526

Board Members Present:

Valerie Myers (Chairman/City of Crowley)	Luke Dupre' (Town of Iota) wk
Suzette Leonards (Vice Chair/ City of Rayne)	Bart Wild (Member at Large A)
Harold Fonte (Church Point)	Josh Spell (Member at Large C)
Renae Stanford (Member at Large B) (via phone)	Nora Benoit (Village of Morse)
Keith Henry (Village of Mermentau)	

Board Members Not Present:

Emily Mire (Village of Estherwood)	Michele Veillon (Rayne Chamber)Out of town
Megan Malmay (Secretary Treasurer/Acadia Chamber)Wk	

Call to Order Valerie Myers called meeting to order with roll call, noting there is a quorum.

1 Prayer

2 Pledge of Allegiance

Previous Meeting Minutes: Luke Dupre made motion to accept the previous month's minutes as presented. Seconded by Nora Benoit. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Renae Stanford reviewed the March P&L; hotel revenue was \$20,004.37; the balance sheet total for checking/savings as of May 5th was \$448,038.78. Accounts receivable showed (\$26,220.53) this amount is from the Revival Fund that needs to be spent this year. There's an additional \$50k in deferred revenue to be spent in the next two years from the revival fund. Total current assets were \$474,649.71. Luke Dupre made a motion to accept the financials as presented. Second by Keith Henry. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Loewer commented that she had been corresponding with multiple concerned entities regarding solar panels along the Zydeco Cajun Prairie Byway and how to best protect the Byway. Leonards raised concerns of a possible conflict with economic development and requested copy of email sent out.

Chairwoman: Valerie Myers stated our next board meeting will be on June 8 at 9am.

Directors Report: Loewer sent in advance and highlighted some things of the topics. Also noted were reports from Graham Group for online advertising and search engine marketing.

Old Business: Bart Wild presented an engagement letter to contract with Becker and Hebert for legal services needed. Keith Henry made a motion to accept and sign the Becker and Hebert engagement letter. Second by Harold Fonte. Motion carried. Renae Stanford presented report from the Finance Committee concerning meeting with Michael Sellito with Royal Road Wealth Partners. The recommendation was that \$150,000 be invested with 25% each in a money market, 6-month, 9 month and 12 month CDs. Josh Spell presented the motion. Second by Keith Henry. Motion carried.

New Business: New Business: Harold Fonte made a recommendation to amend the bylaws as follows: “The executive committee shall be composed of (1) the elected officers referenced in Article IV(A); (2) the immediate past President of the Commission; and (3) one additional member of the Commission chosen by the Commission by majority vote. Before coming to a vote, further discussion ensued. Loewer informed that the Acadia Parish Chamber chooses a Member at Large in addition to the former president to round out the Exec. Committee. The commission agreed this was a good practice and Luke Dupre made the motion to amend the previous motion to read: “The executive committee shall be composed of (1) the elected officers referenced in Article IV(A); (2) the immediate past President of the Commission; and (3) one Member At Large Commissioner to be chosen by the Commission by majority vote.” Renaë Stanford second. Motion passed. It was agreed by consensus to wait until June meeting to select the At Large Member for the Executive Committee. Luke Dupre read a resolution to add the new definition of “Overnight Camping Facilities” to the bylaws. Suzette Leonards second. Motion passed.

Committees Reports: Harold Fonte, Chair of the Marketing Committee, reviewed projects that are being worked on including the Attractions Passport project. Bart Wild, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, reported that after the agreement with Becker & Hebert law firm is signed he will schedule a meeting to start moving forward. Luke Dupre reported that the Taxation Committee met. Dupre was chosen as Committee Chair and Renaë Stanford as Vice Chair. The Commission will be notifying RV parks of the new version of the definition of “overnight camping facilities.”

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

Nancy Loewer
Executive Director

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