

# Acadia Parish Tourist Commission Meeting Minutes

for June 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners is held at  
401 Tower Road  
Crowley, Louisiana 70526

## **Board Members Present:** .....

Suzette Leonards (Chairman/City of Rayne)

Keith Henry (Vice Chairman/Village of Mermentau)

Marietta Leonards (Secretary/Rayne Chamber/at Large “B”)

Chellie Godeaux (Treasurer/Town of Estherwood)

Valerie Myers (City of Crowley)

Harold Fonte (Town of Church Point)

Nora Benoit (Village of Morse)

Bart Wild (at Large “A”)

Carey Lawson (Acadia Parish Chamber/at Large “C”)

Chelsey Hopkins (C.P.C.D/at Large “D”) by Teams

## **Board Members Not Present:** .....

Luke Dupré (Town of Iota)

### **Call to Order:** Suzette Leonards

Called the meeting to order with roll call, noting there is a quorum.

**1 Prayer**

**2 Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Carey Lawson made a motion to accept the April minutes as presented.

Second by Bart Wild. Motion carried.

### **Financial Report:** Wendy Harrington

She spoke to the board regarding the financials reports and the new procedures we are implementing with QuickBooks. Example: We create a simple invoice in QB for each customer paying Occupancy Tax. Attaching a scan copy of their Occupancy Tax form and check which we receive via mail with each payment to each invoice in QB, so everything will be together in the QB system. We are doing the same for each vendor for every bill we receive. These changes will help our CPA have everything in the QB system together/attached for easier access. This way they will not have to dig in a box for hard copies when they have questions.

After researching the “Enterprise Fund” with the LA Department of Treasury. We can ask for an increase in funds after the last 6-month update is submitted at the end of June 2025. Not sure we will get an increase, but we can ask.

We are continually cutting items with the Graham-Group, which I feel Chere will be able to do in-house, instead of outsourcing.

Also, we have not had any large profits from our Charls Schwab account. I have asked Nicole Broussard (new board member July 2025), to help me check into possibly moving this money into LAMP.

We sent letters to all customers paying their Occupancy Tax, thanking them, as well as a picture of their “Spotlight” and a sheet to update their information for our website. We are sending certified letters to those who are not paying their Occupancy Tax with the same information, however we will only run one “Spotlight” on their business if they do not start paying, as well as work on legal action in Jan 2026, once the new laws go into effect.

### **New Business:**

Keith Henry made a motion to hire Chere Ledoux for the full-time position of social media/communication specialist/website at \$50,000 annual salary, plus insurance. Start date for her position is July 1, 2025. Insurance will go into effect September 1, 2025.

We will reevaluate this position in November 2025, to see how we can cover the cost for 2026.

Valerie Myers second the motion. Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

Keith Henry made a motion to adopt the property exchange ordinance. This will be the final step to finally have the property exchange completed. Valerie Myers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Municipality Reports:**

Harold Fonté Shared information on the

**“Le Grand Réveil Acadien Events Church Point” on October 18, 2025**

**9am. to 2pm. - Artisans’ Market - Le Vieux Dépôt - Main St. at Rue Iry Lejeune.**

An open-air market proudly showing off the talent of our local people, focusing on handmade locally grown or sourced items showcasing our culture.

**10am. to 2pm - Open House - Le Vieux Presbytère Museum - 205 Rue Iry Lejeune.**

**10am to 11am - French Speaking on the Porch - Both beginners and native speakers welcomed.**

**Noon to 2pm - Live Cajun music**

**4 p.m. - La Messe en Français - Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church - Church Blvd. at Bienvenu St.**

**Saturday, October 18, 2025, Starting at 10 am THROUGH Sunday, October 19, 2025, Ending at 2 am**

**Food and Drink, Music and Dancing - Cajun Country Lounge & Dance Hall - 9708 Church Point Hwy.**

He also shared the “French table at Le Vieux Presbytere” - 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month

Chellie Godeaux shared information on the

**“Estherwood Park Fest” on September 13, 2025, starting at 9 AM. More to come!**

**Chairman:** Suzette Leonards

Stated the next board meeting will be on July 10, 2025, at 9:00 am here at the Acadia Parish Visitors Center Office. She Thanked Carey Lawson for serving on our board and always helping the communities of Acadia Parish.

### **Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Wendy Walker Harrington, Executive Director**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Suzette Leonards, Chairman**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_