

**ST. MARTIN PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2024**

The St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission met at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. The meeting was held at the Duchamp Opera House, 200 South Main Street, St. Martinville, Louisiana.

The meeting was called to order by Tourism Executive Director Laci Laperouse.

The following members were present: Carole Lancon, Christine Friedman, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Marel Thibodeaux, Yvette Landry, and Tonia Peltier (arrived at 4:45 pm). The following members were absent: None.

Also present: Assistant Director Megan LeBlanc.

A motion was made by Christine Friedman and seconded by Fred Foti Jr. to approve the minutes of the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024.

This motion having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Carole Lancon, Christine Friedman, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Marel Thibodeaux and Yvette Landry.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT AT VOTING: Tonia Peltier.

ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 13th day of March 2024.

A motion was made by Carole Lancon and seconded by Marel Thibodeaux to approve the Tourism Monthly Report for the month of February 2024.

This motion having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Carole Lancon, Christine Friedman, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Marel Thibodeaux and Yvette Landry.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT AT VOTING: Tonia Peltier

ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 13th day of March 2024.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse and Commissioners welcomed Mike and Keisha LeBlanc, Owners of the Duchamp Opera House. Mr. LeBlanc shared with us his upbringing, including details about where he was born and raised, and educational history. He gave us the history of the Opera House and the Carriage House Suite, and his plans to have more short-term rental property upstairs. The Opera House was built in 1830 and is the oldest surviving opera house in the country and one of the oldest buildings in the south.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse informed the Commissioners that they need to complete Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training before December 31<sup>st</sup> and reminded them that they must complete and file their Financial Disclosure Report before May 31<sup>st</sup> for the prior year. Other updates and topics discussed were Wanderlust Rentals, Evangeline Expeditions, Soko Music – Stories and Songs, and the new Music Series.

Prior to adjournment, Executive Director Laci Laperouse discussed the 2024 Louisiana Culinary Trails event which will be held in Denver, Colorado on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. After a detailed discussion amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding chef recommendations, it was decided that Karlos Knott of Bayou Teche Brewery and Cajun Saucer should be this year's choice.

A motion was made by Yvette Landry and seconded by Fred Foti Jr. to approve the above-mentioned chef recommendation.

This motion having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Carole Lancon, Christine Friedman, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Marel Thibodeaux,  
Tonia Peltier and Yvette Landry.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

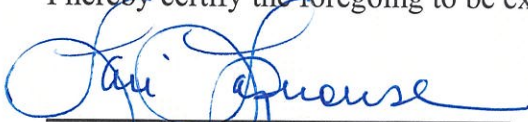
ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 13th day of March 2024.

With no further business, Executive Director Laci Laperouse announced the next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 17th, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., located at the St. Martin Parish Tourism Office, Breaux Bridge Complex, 601 East Bridge Street, Breaux Bridge.

A motion was made by Fred Foti Jr. and seconded by Carole Lancon that the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission Meeting does hereby adjourn. Motion was unanimously approved.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be exact and true:



Laci Laperouse, Executive Director  
St. Martin Parish Tourism