

ST. MARTIN PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

The St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission met at 4:47 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. The meeting was held at Old Castillo Bed and Breakfast, 220 Evangeline Boulevard, St. Martinville, Louisiana.

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

The following members were present: Carole Lancon, Christine Meche, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Marel Thibodeaux, and Tonia Peltier. The following members were absent: Laura Huval (excused).

A motion was made by Fred Foti, Jr. and seconded by Carole Lancon to approve the minutes of the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Laura Huval (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 16th day of March 2022.

A motion was made by Christine Meche and seconded by Tonia Peltier to approve the Tourism Monthly Report for the month of February 2022.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Laura Huval (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 16th day of March 2022.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse introduced Peggy Hulin, Owner/Innkeeper of the Old Castillo Bed and Breakfast. Ms. Hulin is also a past member of the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission, serving since its inception until July 2021. Ms. Hulin has been in business for thirty-five (35) years, with the bed and breakfast also serving as a restaurant for seventeen (17) of those years. Ms. Hulin regretfully advised that she is now only open for special events, stating that COVID hurt the bed and breakfast when travel was halted. Another dilemma Ms. Hulin faces is finding workers. Ms. Hulin gave a brief historical background of the building which was erected 1835-1840 as an Inn. It welcomed guest that traveled via steamboat down Bayou Teche and was the center for social activities. It was then purchased in 1899 by the Sisters of Mercy and was used as a private school. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 by United States Department of the Interior. Ms. Hulin reminisced about many famous people and memories that once graced the bed and breakfast. The Commissioner thanked Ms. Hulin for her hospitality and her many years of service to our community and parish.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse welcomed Parish President Chester Cedars. President Cedars addressed the commissioners by first praising them on a great year. President Cedars stated their active roles play a vital part in our tourism industry and commended them for the changes in policies and procedures made in the past year especially in the assistance to organizations. A discussion regarding certain line items on the assistance form were reviewed and considered to remove line item 9. "Additional Request or information."

A motion was made by Carole Lancon and seconded by Fred Foti, Jr. to remove line item 9. "Additional Request or information."

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Laura Huval (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 16th day of March 2022.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the additional requests received by the Acadian Memorial Foundation for the

honorarium of the guest speaker, at the Acadian Memorial Heritage Festival event. It was determined that private endeavors cannot be used with public funding and therefore the request was denied.

A motion was made by Marel Thibodeaux and seconded by Carole Lancon to deny the above-mentioned requests.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Laura Huval (excused).

And the request was declared denied this 16th day of March 2022.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the requests received by Parks Cracklin Cookoff Association for the 46th Annual Parks Cracklin Cookoff Festival. The following assistance was approved:

- 200 posters (design and print)
- 2 **reusable** Banners and/or snipes (design and print)
- Social Media Boosts (Tourism office will take care of this)
- Events Page (local and State Tourism Office-Tourism office will take care of this)
- Submitting event to radio/news media community calendar

A motion was made by Fred Foti, Jr. and seconded by Tonia Peltier to approve the above mentioned requests.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Laura Huval (excused).

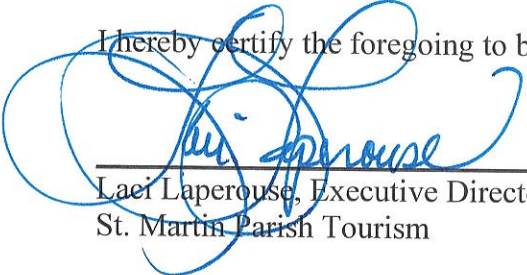
And the motion was declared adopted this 16th day of March 2022.

It was announced the next meeting will be Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at Maison Stephanie, at 4:30 p.m.

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

After adjournment, Ms. Hulin gave a tour of the Old Castillo Bed and Breakfast.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be exact and true:



Laei Laperouse, Executive Director
St. Martin Parish Tourism