

ST. MARTIN PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023

The St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission met at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The meeting was held at McGee's Louisiana Swamp Tours & Adventures, 1337 Henderson Levee Road, Henderson, Louisiana.

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

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

A motion was made by Fred Foti, Jr. and seconded by Christine Friedman to approve the minutes of the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

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

YEAS: Christine Friedman, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Luran Huval, and Tonia Peltier.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Carole Lancon (excused) and Marel Thibodeaux (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 17th day of May 2023.

A motion was made by Laura Huval and seconded by Karlos Knott to approve the Tourism Monthly Report for the month of April 2023.

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

YEAS: Christine Friedman, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Luran Huval, and Tonia Peltier.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Carole Lancon (excused) and Marel Thibodeaux (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 17th day of May 2023.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse welcomed Ms. Katrina Collette, Office Manager of McGee's Louisiana Swamp Tours & Adventures. Ms. Collette provided everyone with the history

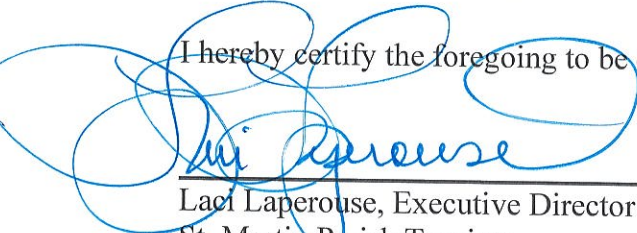
of McGee's, which began in 1932 by Mr. Claude McGee. In 2016, Atchafalaya Swamp Base purchased McGee's and it now also serves as the adventure trek to Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. Each year the Swamp Base offers a camping and paddling adventure for youth in the Atchafalaya Basin. Ms. Collette informed that McGee's also provides locals and guests swamp tours three (3) times a day, seven (7) days a week. Executive Director Laci Laperouse thanked Ms. Katrina Collette for hosting today's meeting.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse provided updates to the Tourism and SMEDA office renovations, noting the hopeful move-in time will be by late October 2023. Ms. Laperouse also talked about the amazing success and feedback received from the Gator By The Bay Festival. Finally, Ms. Laperouse advised that the St. Martin Parish School Board has contracted with a company to identify short term rental properties and notifying the owners of the parish occupancy tax they should be collecting.

Prior to adjournment, Executive Director Laci Laperouse reminded commissioners of next meeting date and location which will be held Wednesday, June 14, 2023 – 4:30 p.m., at Bonne Terre Louisiana Vacation Rentals, 1109 B Lawless Tauzin Drive, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.

A motion was made by Fred Foti, Jr. and seconded by Tonia Peltier 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