

**ST. MARTIN PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

The St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission met at 4:32 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The meeting was held at Randol's Cajun Seafood Restaurant, 325 West Mills Avenue, Breaux Bridge.

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

The following members were present: Carole Lancon, Fred Foti Jr., Marel Thibodeaux, Tonia Peltier (Arrived at 4:50 pm), and Karlos Knott. The following members were absent: Christine Friedman (excused).

A motion was made by Carole Lancon, and seconded by Fred Foti Jr., to approve the minutes of the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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

YEAS: Fred Foti Jr., Marel Thibodeaux, Karlos Knott, and Carole Lancon.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT AT VOTING: Tonia Peltier.

ABSENT: Christine Friedman (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

A motion was made by Marel Thibodeaux and seconded by Karlos Knott to approve the Tourism Monthly Report for the month of May 2025.

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

YEAS: Fred Foti Jr., Marel Thibodeaux, Karlos Knott, and Carole Lancon.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT AT VOTING: Tonia Peltier.

ABSENT: Christine Friedman (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse and Commissioners welcomed guest speakers/artists, Jess Newton and Sarah Melancon. Jess Newton and Sarah Melancon presented information on *The Stations of the Cross Basin Project*, a unique public art and spiritual tourism initiative located at Prayer Cove—a peaceful, boat-accessible site in the Atchafalaya Basin just south of I-10. The project will feature a series of artistically designed stations, all of which have now been sponsored, including two sponsored by St. Martin Parish Tourism. The artists shared their creative process, including the materials they plan to use and how the stations will be installed. They also discussed plans to do live paintings at various attractions throughout the parish to raise awareness and promote the project as part of a broader spiritual tourism experience. Completion is anticipated by April 2026.

After a detailed discussion ensued among Commissioners and the Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the request for assistance received by Kelly Caillier for the Welcome to Breaux Bridge Mural on the exterior side wall of the building located at 715 South Main Street, Breaux Bridge, the commissioners denied the request. Because the request came in after the mural was completed, and the Tourism Department was not involved with the project from the beginning, the board ultimately decided that it's not something we're able to sponsor, especially as it wasn't budgeted for. The Commission did agree to include the mural on our mural trail in both the visitor guide and on the website to help promote it.

A motion was made by Carole Lancon and seconded by Fred Foti Jr. to deny the above-mentioned request.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Christine Friedman (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

After a detailed discussion ensued among Commissioners and the Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the request for assistance received by the T.E.C.H.E Project for the Shake your Trail Feather Paddle Parade, the following assistance was approved:

- Sponsorship of \$500.00 to be used towards promotional materials, advertisement, and/or entertainment for said event.
- Social Media Boosts
- Events Page (local and state Tourism Office)
- Submission of the event to the radio/news media community calendars

A motion was made by Fred Foti Jr. and seconded by Marel Thibodeaux to approve the above mentioned request.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Christine Friedman (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

Executive Director Laci informed the commission that a request for assistance from the Ledet Legacy Foundation, LLC had been submitted after the meeting agenda had already been posted. She explained that for the request to be considered during this meeting, a motion would need to be made to extend the agenda.

A motion was made by Carole Lancon and seconded by Tonia Peltier to extend the agenda.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Christine Friedman (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

After a detailed discussion ensued among Commissioners and the Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the request for assistance received by the Ledet Legacy Foundation, LLC for a Historical Project and a bust of Mr. Wilbert Ledet Jr.'s late parents at the historic landmark, highlighting their contributions to the Promiseland community, the request was denied. The Commissioners did approve:

- Promote events hosted by the Ledet Legacy Foundation, LLC on the St. Martin Parish Tourism Website Events Page as well as the State Tourism's Events Page.
- Submission of the event to the radio/news media community calendars

A motion was made by Tonia Peltier and seconded by Carole Lancon to deny the above mentioned request, and approve the continued efforts from the Tourism office to promote events submitted by the Ledet Legacy Foundation, LLC.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Christine Friedman (excused).

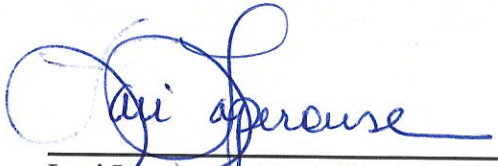
And the motion was declared adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

Prior to adjournment, Executive Director Laci Laperouse provided several tourism updates to the commissioners. She noted that the board has a current vacancy and, following the last meeting's vote, had reached out to Drake LeBlanc to fill the position. However, since he does not reside in St. Martin Parish as required, the board agreed to move forward with another recommendation. She also updated the commissioners on the mural defacement issue, reporting that a demand letter was sent to Chris Erwin of Erwin Coffee for payment of damages. As no response has been received, the next step is to file a civil suit in Breaux Bridge City Court. Laci discussed the Atchafalaya Basin Trace Project, a proposed 187-mile multi-use trail aimed at increasing access and visibility to the Atchafalaya Basin, and encouraged commissioners to share the public feedback QR code via social media and community channels. Additional updates included the Occupancy Tax report, the 2025–2026 Media/Marketing Plan, and the remaining budget in the Events Promotions line item.

With no further business, Executive Director Laci Laperouse announced the next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 9th, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., at St. Martin Parish Tourism Office, 601 East Bridge Street, Breaux Bridge.

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

I hereby certify the foregoing to be exact and true:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laci Laperouse", is written over a horizontal line.

Laci Laperouse, Executive Director  
St. Martin Parish Tourism