

**ST. MARTIN PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023**

The St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission met at 4:35 p.m. on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. The meeting was held at Buck & Johnny's, 100 Berard Street, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.

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

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

A motion was made by Christine Friedman and seconded by Carole Lancon to approve the minutes of the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

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

YEAS: Carole Lancon, Christine Friedman, Karlos Knott, and Tonia Peltier.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Fred Foti, Jr. (excused), Laura Huval (excused) and Marel Thibodeaux (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 9th day of August 2023.

A motion was made by Tonia Peltier and seconded by Karlos Knott to approve the Tourism Monthly Report for the month of July 2023.

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

YEAS: Carole Lancon, Christine Friedman, Karlos Knott, and Tonia Peltier.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Fred Foti, Jr. (excused), Laura Huval (excused) and Marel Thibodeaux (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 9th day of August 2023.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse and Commissioners welcomed Ms. Rhonda Branch, Managing Partner, and General Manager of Buck & Johnny's. Ms. Branch provided the history of the building, vision and namesake of the late Mr. David Buck and the late Mr. Johnny Raymond. The building was once Domingue Motors with The Glassroom being the then showroom. The bar

area, referred to as the Filling Station, was in fact where vehicles were serviced. Ms. Branch stated the restaurant opened in 2010, and then eventually took on Zydeco Breakfast in 2016. Buck & Johnny's is now offering live music Thursday – Saturday, and live concert series at The Classroom. Executive Director Laci Laperouse, Assistant Director Megan LeBlanc and Commissioners thanked Ms. Branch for her time and hosting the meeting location.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse mentioned the assistance request submitted by K Squared Creative Co. regarding the Stories with Santa event(s), and noted this is a for profit event therefore the commission will not be able to provide monetary donations/sponsorship but would assist in social media shares, and adding to local and state events calendars.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the requests received by Teche Center for the Arts for the Dance Away 5k event. The following assistance was approved:

- Four (4) reusable banners
- Social Media Boosts
- Local and State calendar of events
- Submitting to radio/news media community calendar.

A motion was made by Christine Friedman 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 Friedman, Karlos Knott, and Tonia Peltier.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Fred Foti, Jr. (excused), Laura Huval (excused) and Marel Thibodeaux (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 9th day of August 2023.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the requests received by Atelier de la Nature for the Halloween Art & Nature Festival. The following assistance was approved:

- \$750.00 monetary donation which you can use towards graphic design fee, posters, flyers, banners, etc.
- Social Media Boosts

- Local and State calendar of events (website)
- Submitting event to radio/news media community calendar

A motion was made by Carole Lancon and seconded by Christine Friedman to approve the above-mentioned requests.

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

YEAS: Carole Lancon, Christine Friedman, Karlos Knott, and Tonia Peltier.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Fred Foti, Jr. (excused), Laura Huval (excused) and Marel Thibodeaux (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 9th day of August 2023.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the requests received by the St. Bernard Catholic Church for the Tunes on the Teche – 4th of July event. The following assistance was approved:

- Sponsorship of \$400.00 - These funds are to be used for reimbursement of promotional expenses (design, print, radio, etc.).

A motion was made by Tonia Peltier and seconded by Christine Friedman to approve the above-mentioned requests.

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

YEAS: Carole Lancon, Christine Friedman, Karlos Knott, and Tonia Peltier.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Fred Foti, Jr. (excused), Laura Huval (excused) and Marel Thibodeaux (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 9th day of August 2023.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse stated that after a decision at the last meeting was made for the TECHE Project – Shake Your Trail Feather event, the organization requested additional items such as banners. TECHE Project advised that the current banners they are using are no longer usable as they have worn over the years. After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the requests received by TECHE Project for the Shake Your Trail Feather event. The following additional assistance was approved:

- Six (6) reusable banners

A motion was made by Carole Lancon and seconded by Karlos Knott to approve the above-mentioned requests.

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

YEAS: Carole Lancon, Christine Friedman, Karlos Knott, and Tonia Peltier.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Fred Foti, Jr. (excused), Laura Huval (excused) and Marel Thibodeaux (excused).

And the motion was declared adopted this 9th day of August 2023.

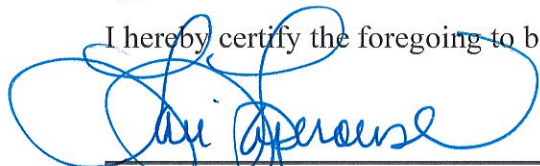
Executive Director Laci Laperouse provided the commissioners with an update of the future office of St. Martin Parish Tourism, stating that the St. Martin Parish Council adopted a resolution authorizing the Parish President to sign a contract with the lowest qualified bidder. Once the contract is executed work should begin within 10 days. Executive Director Laci Laperouse stated if everything stays on course, the project should be complete by the end of November 2023.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse informed the Commissioners that the mural project in the downtown area of St. Martinville may not be as easy as planned noting that Mr. Richard Lantier of the St. Martinville Historic District Commission has discussed this project with different property owners and has received mixed reviews and a list of concerns. Mr. Lantier also suggested this proposed mural project be placed on their next meeting agenda to determine if murals, in general, would be approved. Executive Director Laci Laperouse advised the Commissioners we will move our attention to the Breaux Bridge and Henderson area in the meantime.

Prior to adjournment, Executive Director Laci Laperouse announced that the next Tourism Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at Tante Marie's, 107 North Main Street, Breaux Bridge.

A motion was made by Christine Friedman 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