

**ST. MARTIN PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2024**

The St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission met at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18th, 2024. The meeting was held at the St. Martin Parish Tourism Office, Breaux Bridge Complex, 601 East Bridge Street, Breaux Bridge.

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

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

Also present: Parish President Pete Delcambre and Assistant Director Megan LeBlanc.

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, August 7th, 2024.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Yvette Landry, and Christine Friedman.

And the motion was declared adopted this 18th day of September 2024.

A motion was made by Karlos Knott and seconded by Tonia Peltier to approve the Tourism Monthly Report for the month of August 2024.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Yvette Landry, and Christine Friedman

And the motion was declared adopted this 18th day of September 2024.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse and Commissioners welcomed Parish President Pete Delcambre. President Delcambre discussed with the commissioners the upcoming Millage

Renewal and its importance. President Delcambre clarified that this is a continuation of existing taxes, with no increase or changes. He provided information on how the funds would support essential projects across the parish, while also outlining the potential impact if the renewal is not approved. He also made himself available to discuss the renewal one-on-one with anyone who may need further clarification and encouraged the commissioners to help share information with others about the renewal and its importance. Executive Director Laci Laperouse and commissioners thanked President Delcambre for his presentation and attendance.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the request received by the Atchafalaya Basin Festival Organization for the Atchafalaya Basin Festival, the following assistance was approved:

- Sponsorship of \$2,000.00 – Gold
- Social Media Boosts (The tourism office will take care of this)
- Events Page (St. Martin Parish Tourism, Louisiana Office of Tourism, Lafayette Travel, Country Roads, Tour Louisiana)
- Radio Advertisement

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

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Yvette Landry, and Christine Friedman

And the motion was declared adopted this 18th day of September 2024.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the request received by the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church for the St. Francis of Assisi Fall Festival, the following assistance was approved:

- Sponsorship of \$300.00 to go towards promotional materials such as flyers, banners, and posters.
- Social Media Boosts (The tourism office will take care of this)
- Events Page (St. Martin Parish Tourism, Louisiana Office of Tourism, Lafayette Travel, Country Roads, Tour Louisiana)

- Radio Advertisement

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

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Yvette Landry, and Christine Friedman

And the motion was declared adopted this 18th day of September 2024.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the request received by Civic Club de Pont Breaux for the Breaux Bridge City Wide Garage Sale, the following assistance was approved:

- \$500 Sponsorship to be used towards promotional materials such as flyers, posters and banners.
- Social Media Boosts (The tourism office will take care of this)
- Event Calendars
- Radio Advertisement

A motion was made by Tonia Peltier and seconded by Karlos Knott, to approve the above-mentioned request.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Yvette Landry, and Christine Friedman

And the motion was declared adopted this 18th day of September 2024.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the request received by Breaux Bridge Area Chamber of Commerce for the Breaux Bridge Pumpkin Patch, the following assistance was approved:

- \$250 Sponsorship to be used for promotional materials such as flyers, posters and banners.
- Social Media Boosts (The tourism office will take care of this)

- Event Calendars
- Radio Advertisement

A motion was made by Tonia Peltier and seconded by Karlos Knott, to approve the above-mentioned request.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Yvette Landry, and Christine Friedman

And the motion was declared adopted this 18th day of September 2024.

After a detailed discussion ensued amongst Commissioners and Executive Director Laci Laperouse regarding the request received by Krewe de Pont for the Krewz de Pont Car Show, the Commissioners voted to table this request until the next Tourism Meeting on October 9th, 2024, to give the organization more time to get their 501c status.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Yvette Landry, and Christine Friedman

And the motion was declared adopted this 18th day of September 2024.

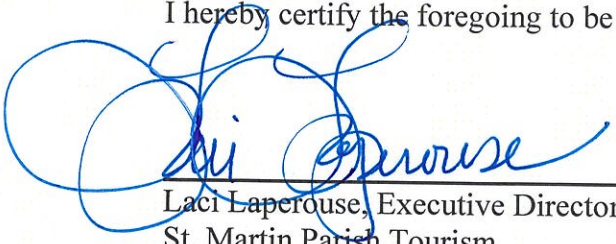
Prior to adjournment, Executive Director Laci Laperouse discussed upcoming projects such as the rebranding of Mange St. Martin campaign, Collaboration with Gerald Gruenig, Roseate Spoonbill sculptures, possible 2025 Fam Tour, and podcast.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse invited comments or discussion from the board members. The board members did not have anything to report.

With no further business, Executive Director Laci Laperouse announced the next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 9th, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., located at St. Martin Parish Tourism Office, Breaux Bridge Complex, 601 East Bridge Street, Breaux Bridge.

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.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be exact and true:



Laci Laperouse, Executive Director
St. Martin Parish Tourism