



Chairman Mark A. Myers called the **Regular Board of Commissioners** meeting to order on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott, 101 Northpark Boulevard, Covington, LA. An Invocation was then delivered.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Alex Carollo
Katherine Diemont
Patti Elish
Mark Myers
Marlaine Peachey
Thomas J. (T.J.) Smith, Jr.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Bonnie Eades

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

A quorum was present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Marlaine Peachey, and seconded by Patti Elish, to approve the April 27, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes. **The Motion** carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Patti Elish presented the Treasurer’s Report for April 2021 and May 2021. Marlaine Peachey made **A MOTION** to file the Treasurer’s Report for audit as presented. Alex Corollo seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

STAFF REPORT

•Donna O’Daniels, President and CEO, Tanya Leader, Vice President of Sales, and Christina Cooper, Vice President of Communications, Marketing and PR, presented the Staff Activities Report.

OLD BUSINESS

STRATEGIC PLANNING

•Donna presented the proposed Strategic Plan 2021 through 2025, compiled by Young Strategies, and based on the 86 community, civic and travel leaders who participated in the planning process, and the input of board, partners and staff. After further discussion, Patti Elish made **A MOTION** to adopt the Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025. Katherine Diemont seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

FISCAL AGENT CONTRACT

▪ At the board meeting held on April 28, the only fiscal agent bid received, from Hancock Whitney, was presented. Everything was generally the same as it has been for the past three years of their contract, except that we would now be charged a service fee. The Board felt that the Commission should not be charged a fee. It was suggested that staff reach out to two or three of the larger local banks. A bid was received from Gulf Coast Bank which charged no service fees. Following discussion, Patti Elish made **A MOTION** to enter into a contract with Gulf Coast Bank. Marlaine Peachey seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF AUDIT – JOHN MURRAY, C.P.A.

•The Commissioners were given copies of the audit for the shortened fiscal year, seven months ended December 31, 2020, which was conducted by the accounting firm LaPorte. John Murray, CPA, stated it was another “clean” audit for the Tourist Commission, with no violations or deficiencies in management and internal control, and the organization was

in full compliance with state and local budget laws. Marlaine Peachey made **A MOTION** to accept the audit and Patti Ellish seconded. **The Motion** carried.

RESOLUTION TO SURPLUS 2007 AND 2015 DODGE GRAND CARAVANS

Alex Carollo made **A MOTION** for Chairman Mark Myers to read **A Resolution** (attached) to declare as surplus a 2007 Dodge Grand Caravan and a 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan owned by the Tourist Commission. Marlaine Peachey seconded and **The Motion** carried. The vehicles are beyond their useful life and no longer fit to drive. The vehicles will be advertised for sale in the official journal. Following discussion, Alex Carollo made **A MOTION** to adopt the resolution. Katherine Diemont seconded, and after a roll call vote, **The Motion** was passed unanimously.

AUXILIARY AGENDA - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Alex Carollo said the City of Slidell was happy to again be hosting events. Heritage Fest is on Saturday, July 3rd in Heritage Park. On July 4th the Olde Town Merchants Association is holding their Independence Day concert and fireworks show. Keep Slidell Beautiful is having their fundraising event, Christmas in July, in the Slidell Auditorium.
- Katie Diemont said that hotels in Slidell have been very busy. This past weekend they saw a large number of visitors from Texas and Florida.
- Mark Myers said the Lobby Lounge is doing very well. The shows are in the grand hall and everything is spaced nicely. The Crawfish CookOff benefitting the Hospice Foundation will be returning on April 23, 2022.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Byron Almquist of Canoe and Trail Adventures said they can resume their day tours on Cane Bayou, with a heavy emphasis on education. They are renting canoes and kayaks at Chimes Restaurant and rented 100 units in a day.
- Kathy Lowrey said the Harbor Center expects to award the architectural contract at Thursday's Board meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at 2:00 PM, at the Harbor Center in Slidell.

ADJOURN

Alex Carollo made **A MOTION** to adjourn and Katie Diemont seconded. **The Motion** carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

S / Rae Shipley

Rae Shipley
Recording Secretary

S / Mark A. Myers

Mark A. Myers
Chairman