



Chairman Thomas J. Smith, Jr. called the **Regular Board of Commissioners** meeting to order on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. at the St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission office, 68099 Highway 59, Mandeville, Louisiana. Mr. Smith delivered the Invocation.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Robert Cook  
Sharon Lo Drucker  
Bonnie Eades  
Marlaine Peachey  
T. J. Smith, Jr.

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED**

Mark Myers

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

*A quorum was present*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A MOTION** was made by Marlaine Peachey, and seconded by Bonnie Eades, to approve the October 30, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes as written. **The Motion** carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Devan Richoux presented the Treasurer's Report for October and November, 2018. Sharon Drucker made **A MOTION** to file the Treasurer's Report for audit as presented. Marlaine Peachey seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

**STAFF REPORT**

- Donna O'Daniels welcomed Devan Richoux as the new Vice President of Finance and Administration, replacing Mary Anne Harrison who has retired after 23 years. She said Devan comes to us from LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors, and has conducted our annual audits for the past five years or so.  
- Tanya Leader, Vice President of Sales, and Renee Kientz, Vice President of Communications and Marketing presented their department reports.

**OLD BUSINESS**

► **ADOPTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICY MANUAL (RESOLUTION) (TABLED AT 4-26-2018, 6-26-2018 AND 8-28-2018 MEETINGS)**

-Requested changes were made to the manual per discussion at the June 26, 2018 meeting. Several recommendations under "Lines of Authority" were highlighted and presented. Following lengthy discussion, Bonnie Eades made **A MOTION** to table approval, with a fourth highlighted section to be added, under Section III, that includes policy for reporting sexual or other harassment that is consistent with the content of the employees' Ethics, Policies and Procedures Sexual harassment policy, until the February 26, 2019 Commission meeting. Robert Cook seconded, and **The Motion** carried, with Sharon Drucker opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

► **ADOPTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

-The Commissioners were given copies of the "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace" policy. Four amendments were requested. Sharon Drucker made **A MOTION** to adopt the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Policy as amended. Marlaine Peachey seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

► **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

-Proposed dates for 2019 Commission meetings, which start at 2:00 PM, are:

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Northshore Harbor Center, Slidell

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 (Includes Budget Public Hearing)	Tourist Commission Office, Mandeville
Tuesday, June 25, 2019	Tourist Commission Office, Mandeville
Tuesday, August 27, 2019	Northshore Harbor Center, Slidell
Tuesday, October 29, 2019	Tourist Commission Office, Mandeville
Tuesday, December 17, 2019	Tourist Commission Office, Mandeville

Robert Cook made **A MOTION** to establish the proposed dates as the meeting schedule for 2019. Sharon Drucker seconded and **The Motion** carried.

► **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

-Sharon Drucker made **A MOTION** to nominate Mark Myers as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Bonnie Eades seconded, and **The Motion** carried. Marlene Peachey made **A MOTION** to close nominations; Robert Cook seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

-Sharon Drucker made **A MOTION** to nominate Marlaine Peachey as Vice Chair. Robert Cook seconded, and **The Motion** carried. Sharon Drucker made **A MOTION** to close nominations; Bonnie Eades seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

-Marlaine Peachey made **A MOTION** to nominate Bonnie Eades as Secretary/Treasurer. Robert Cook seconded, and **The Motion** carried. Robert Cook made **A MOTION** to close nominations; Marlaine Peachey seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

Chairman T. J. Smith asked the Board for a vote to confirm acceptance of each nomination by acclamation and the nominations carried.

**AUXILIARY AGENDA**

-None

► **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

-Bonnie Eades said it has been great serving on this commission and she looks forward to learning more in the coming year as she serves as Secretary/Treasurer.

-Robert Cook said he appreciates learning about the tourism industry and wished the incoming officers all the best.

-Marlaine Peachey said she is planning a conference in Lafayette for mayors' assistants. They, like us, only have one hotel where they can conduct everything in one place. She hopes we continue to pursue such a facility here.

-Sharon Drucker said she is proud that the board has accomplished quite a bit this year and did a good job of getting the message out. She said we need to pursue additional funding sources. As she goes off the board she asked the Commission to stay true to its mission and stay the course. She said it was a blessing to serve on the board for the past five years.

-T.J. Smith thanked Sharon for her service. He said the Northshore Regional Partnership board has expanded its membership beyond the original ten members and the Tourist Commission has been invited to participate. Chris Masingill and St. Tammany Corp. are putting together a report on where they want to take the Northshore. A spirit of cooperation is being fostered. Donna said the strategic planning that is being done by St. Tammany Corp. is going to be unveiled in early 2019, and they have definitely been paying attention to the importance of tourism as an economic engine in St. Tammany Parish.

► **GUEST COMMENTS**

-Jay Seastrunk, Mandeville resident, said he went to the Lieutenant Governor's office and learned we are funding a marketing analysis for the Fontainebleau State Park public/private partnership project. He said he thinks the project is a bad idea. He also said very few residents are aware of the project and feels as more people learn of it, the more resistance it will receive.

- Darrius Gray, President of the Northshore Lodging Association, said election of officers is on the agenda for their meeting being held tomorrow and there may be some changes.
- Adam Turni, General Manager of Homewood Suites Hotel in Covington, said he has worked at Hilton properties across Louisiana and Mississippi. He was recruited by Peachtree Hospitality Management which led him to the General Manager position he now holds. They will be renovating the property in 2019.
- Alia Casbornè, with the City of Mandeville Cultural Department, thanked the Tourist Commission and gave a special thanks for the contribution to their holiday decorations this year. They added a few evening events this year and received very positive comments.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Regular Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, at 2:00 PM, at the Northshore Harbor Center in Slidell

**ADJOURNMENT**

T. J. Smith thanked guests for attending and adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

*S / Rae Shipley*  
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Rae Shipley  
Recording Secretary

*S / Thomas J. Smith, Jr.*  
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Thomas J. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman