



Chairman Mark A. Myers called the **Regular Board of Commissioners** meeting to order on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. at the St. Tammany Parish Tourist and Convention Commission, 68099 Highway 59, Mandeville, Louisiana.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Robert Cook, Jr.  
Bonnie Eades  
Patti Elish  
Mark Myers  
Marlaine Peachey  
T. J. Smith, Jr.

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED**

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

*A quorum was present*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A MOTION** was made by Marlaine Peachey, and seconded by Patti Elish, to approve the February 26, 2019 Regular Board Meeting minutes. **The Motion** carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Bonnie Eades presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2019 and March 2019. T.J. Smith 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, President and CEO, Tanya Leader, Vice President of Sales, and Christina Cooper, Vice President of Communications, gave the departmental reports.

**OLD BUSINESS**

▶ **LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

The commissioners were reminded that the Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Reports for calendar year 2018 are due May 15.

▶ **LOUISIANA GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS TRAINING COURSE**

The commissioners were also reminded that they need to take the one-hour online ethics training course each year. We will also need a copy of the completion of training certificate.

▶ **PREVENTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING COURSE**

The commissioners were reminded they need to take this course. One is for supervisors and the other is for non-supervisors. Commissioners must take the non-supervisor course, but board officers must take both. The Administration office will also need a certificate of completion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

▶ **ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR FY JUNE 1, 2019 – MAY 31, 2020 (RESOLUTION)**

- A Resolution to adopt the budget for fiscal year June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020 was presented and read by Chairman Mark Myers. T.J. Smith made **A MOTION** to adopt the budget for year ending May 31, 2020. Marlaine Peachey seconded and **The Motion** carried unanimously with six yeas, no nays and no absences.

► DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION RE HB 57

- The Tourist Commission received a letter from the Sheriff's Department asking our board to pass a Resolution opposing legislation that would shift the collection of local hotel/motel occupancy taxes from the St. Tammany Sheriff's Department tax collection division to the Louisiana Department of Revenue. Following discussion the board's decision was to take no action.

► AUXILIARY AGENDA

- Bonnie Eades spoke about House Bill 542 that would increase the per gallon tax on gasoline, diesel and other fuels and levies an excise tax on electric and hybrid vehicles. A percentage of the surplus funds would go toward improving the state's aging infrastructure. She feels it is important to support the bill.

► COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Marlane Peachey said the Port Marigny project passed, but they took out the hotel.  
- Mark Myers said the Hospice Foundation's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Crawfish Cook-off took place on April 27 at Fritchie Park. 43,500 pounds of crawfish were prepared. He inquired about the board vacancy for the Lodging Association seat. Katy Diemont's nomination has been sent to the Parish Council to be voted on at their June 6 meeting.

► GUEST COMMENTS

- Kathy Lowrey said the Harbor Center has been busy. They are bringing in national touring acts to the Lobby Lounge that would normally not be heard in St. Tammany. Senator Hewitt has some legislation to raise the room tax from \$1 per night to \$2 per night. It has the support of the Northshore Lodging Association.  
- Bill McHugh asked about Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser awarding a no-bid contract to a concessionaire at the Cane Bayou launch at Highway 190. Donna replied that it is a public/private agreement he has with Shannon and Jeff Bordelon of Bayou Adventure, who can then sublease it to other contractors who want to do the same thing, and there were at least two bids.  
- Kathy Foley said the park recently hosted a crawfish boil for 400 people. They have rhythmic gymnastics and a soccer cup happening this weekend. A Lacrosse tournament was held recently and she counted cars from nine states in the parking lot. This fall Pelican Park will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
- Adam Turni said they are supporting the short-term rental bills in the legislature. They take business from the hotels and other venues that collect taxes. There are currently over 100 short-term rentals in the parish.

ADJOURNMENT

Bonnie Eades made A MOTION to adjourn and Marlane Peachey seconded. The Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 2:00 PM, at the Tourist Commission Office in Mandeville.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

*S/ Rae Shipley*

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Rae Shipley  
Recording Secretary

*S/ Mark A. Myers*

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Mark A. Myers  
Chairman