



ST. TAMMANY PARISH TOURIST & CONVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019

Chairman Mark A. Myers called the **Regular Board of Commissioners** meeting to order on Monday, August 26, 2019, at 2:07 p.m. at the Harbor Center located at 100 Harbor Center Boulevard, Slidell, Louisiana.

Mr. Myers welcomed newly-appointed commissioner, Alex Carollo, to the board. Mr. Carollo is Director of the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs for the City of Slidell.

T. J. Smith, Jr. delivered the Invocation.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Alex Carollo
Katherine Diemont
Patti Ellish
Mark Myers
Marlaine Peachey
T. J. Smith, Jr.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Bonnie Eades

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

A quorum was present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Patti Ellish, and seconded by T. J. Smith, Jr., to approve the June 25, 2019 Regular Board Meeting minutes. **The Motion** carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Devan Richoux presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2019 and July 2019. T. J. Smith, Jr., 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 presented the staff report and Donna announced that the Vice President of Visitor Services, Yolanda Paz, is retiring after 22 years with the Tourist Commission. She has worked in the hospitality industry for decades and will truly be missed.

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR FUNDS BY ST. TAMMANY CORPORATION FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

► Chris Masingill said his organization was approached by a company based in Texas, Hat Trick Consultants, about developing a 150,000 square foot events facility that could accommodate up to 8,000 seats in Slidell. A feasibility study will cost \$50,000 and his organization has committed \$25,000. CLECO committed \$10,000, and they are asking the Tourist Commission to contribute \$10,000. Mr. Masingill said they will include the Tourist Commission, Harbor Center and Castine Center in the process. Following discussion, Patti Ellish made **A MOTION** to approve funding in the amount of \$10,000 to St. Tammany Corporation for a feasibility study for the new venue being proposed. T. J. Smith, Jr. seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

NEW BUSINESS

► **COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE**

- The Commissioners were provided copies of the Compliance Questionnaire. The questionnaire is a form given to our

auditors each year when we turn our records over to them for audit, and states that the Tourist Commission is in compliance with all state statutes as required.

► HARBOR CENTER MEETING ROOM ADDITIONS

- Kathy Lowrey displayed a graphic depicting the addition of meeting space that will add almost 6,000 square feet to the building's current 45,000 square feet. Their Board has voted to move forward with a marketing analysis.

► DISCUSSION OF DAMAGE TO FISHERIES RESULTING FROM OPENING OF BONNET CARRÉ SPILLWAY AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON TOURISM

Richard Fisher of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association planned to attend the commission meeting but was unable to do so at the last minute. The lengthy opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway has created a situation for charter-for-fishing boat captains that is causing financial loss. Business is down nearly 20% and some may have to shut down. They are requesting a letter of support from the St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission asking that any relief package granted by the U.S. Department of Commerce include commercial charter-for-hire fishing guides. Following discussion, Alex Carollo made A MOTION to approve the letter. Marlaine Peachey seconded, and The Motion carried.

► AUXILIARY AGENDA

- None

► COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Marlaine Peachey said she recently attended the LMA Convention where she had a booth and was able to make a lot of contacts.

- Alex Carollo said he is glad to be on the board and is ready to serve.

- Bill McHugh said if you are interested in high school football, be sure to pick up a copy of the St. Tammany Farmer this week, as it will be their annual high school football edition.

► GUEST COMMENTS

- Kathy Foley said they will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of Pelican Park on September 21st and it will also be the grand opening of "The Groves." The public is invited to the dedication ceremony. She thanked the Tourist Commission for partnering with them for the Senior Olympics Pickleball State Tournament, which will be held on September 28th and 29th, with over 140 senior players competing, from all parts of Louisiana and Mississippi.

- Valerie Waeltz said the H.E.R.P. show broke records with over 5,000 people going through. They are signed-up for next year. The Gulf Coast Sportsmen & Outdoor Expo, held September 13th through 15th, was very successful. Real Heroes of Safe Harbor and will take place on September 21st. On September 26th, the Lobby Lounge Concert Series features Katie Boeck. The popular Food Truck Festival is back and will be on September 28th. They have 10 or 11 food trucks signed up. Admission is free.

-Brian Schneider said the Bayou Lacombe Museum is now open and invited the board and guests. He thanked Tourist Commission staff for visiting the venue and for promoting it to visitors.

ADJOURNMENT

T. J. Smith made A MOTION to adjourn and Marlaine Peachey seconded. The Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 29 2019, at 2:00 PM, at the Tourist Commission office at 68099 Highway 59, Mandeville, Louisiana.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

S / Rae Shipley

Rae Shipley
Recording Secretary

S / Mark A. Myers

Mark A. Myers
Chairman