



ST. TAMMANY PARISH TOURIST & CONVENTION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JUNE 23, 2020

The **Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting** was on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at the Southern Hotel in Covington, Louisiana. Chairman Mark Myers called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. **The Invocation** was given by Marlaine Peachey. A roll call then took place.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- Alex Carollo
- Katie Diemont
- Bonnie Eades
- Patti Elish
- Mark Myers
- Marlaine Peachey
- T. J. Smith, Jr.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

A quorum was present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Patti Elish made **A MOTION** to approve the April 28, 2020 Budget Public Hearing Minutes and April 28, 2020 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Bonnie Eades seconded, and the **The Motion** carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Devan Richoux presented the Treasurer’s Report for April 2020 and May 2020. Marlaine Peachey made **A MOTION** to file the Treasurer’s Reports for audit as presented. Alex Carollo seconded, and **The Motion** carried.

STAFF REPORT

-Donna O’Daniels, President & CEO, Tanya Leader, Vice President of Sales and Christina Cooper, Vice President of Communications presented the staff report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF COVID-19 AS RELATES TO EMPLOYEE VACATION POLICY AND PAID TIME OFF

Donna explained that there is an internal policy that if an employee has not used vacation time by their date of hire anniversary, they will lose all of the days, except for 10 that are rolled over into the next allotment. She wanted to receive approval from the board, to perhaps push the expiration time to the end of the year. She also said that regarding PTO, the state’s policy is if an employee tests positive for COVID-19 and has to quarantine for two weeks, they do not have to use their PTO days for that period of time. Following brief discussion, Patti Elish made **A MOTION** to waive the forfeiture of vacation days as per policy and allow staff their vacation days through the end of the year. Alex Carollo seconded, and **The Motion** carried unanimously. Patti Elish made **A MOTION** to allow two weeks of paid time off should a staff member test positive for COVID-19. T. J. Smith seconded, and **The Motion** carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF NEW COMMISSION SECRETARY/TREASURER

Due to demands on her time, Bonnie Eades would like to be relieved of her position as Commission Secretary/Treasurer. Marlaine Peachey made **A MOTION** to name Patty Ellis to replace Bonnie as Secretary/Treasurer. Bonnie Eades seconded and **The Motion** carried unanimously.

AUXILIARY AGENDA

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Marlaine said Light Up the Lake will take place on the Mandeville lakefront on July 4th. You can watch the fireworks from your car or leave your car as long as there is social distancing.
- Bonnie Eades said it might be a good idea to ask for a few minutes on an agenda to present to the councils videos pertaining to their particular areas. T. J. Smith said he would assist.
- Patti Elish said staff is doing an amazing job during this trying period and that public officials should know what we are doing for the parish.

GUEST COMMENTS

- Jan Lantrip thanked the Tourist Commission for all they have done to promote her business, and other businesses like hers. They have had people from Mississippi and Texas call and visit, She said that due to the resources and information provided to her, and tireless promotion from the Tourist Commission, their comeback is better than their setback.
- Stephanie O'Rourke said that for her hotel, Sleep Inn Slidell, the information found on the Tourist Commission website was invaluable to the front desk people. They are starting to see business pick up a bit but are still cautious.
- Bill McHugh said the St. Tammany Farmer earned Newspaper of the Year honors in its division in the Louisiana Press Association Better Newspaper Competition for 2020.
- Byron Almquist said Canoe & Trail Adventures has been extremely busy. He thinks that with the pandemic and the stay at home order, now lifted, people now want to get out of the house and enjoy the outdoors.
- Valerie Waeltz said that dance season for the Harbor Center begins tomorrow, on June 24th. The August 20th reopening of the Lobby Lounge is moving into the Grand Hall to accommodate social distancing.
- Margie Lewis said softball season will start soon at Pelican Park. They are hosting a car show on July 11th. They are having a kid's care day care for Ochsner employees.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 2:00 PM at the Harbor Center in Slidell.

ADJOURN

T. J. Smith made A MOTION to adjourn and Bonnie Eades seconded. The Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

S | Rae Shipley

Rae Shipley
Recording Secretary

S | Mark A. Myers

Mark A. Myers
Chairman