

The **Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting** was on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at the Harbor Center in Slidell, Louisiana. Chairman Mark Myers called the meeting to order at 2:00 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*

**OTHERS PRESENT**

- Donna O’Daniels, CEO and President
- Devan Richoux, CPA, V.P., Finance & Administration
- Rae Shipley, Assistant to CEO
- Tanya Leader, Vice President, Sales
- Zondra White Jones, Senior Sales Manager
- Christina Cooper, V.P., Marketing and P.R
- Anna Strider, Manager of Marketing & Public Relations
- Sarah Hill, Communications Assistant
- Roberta Carrow-Jackson, Digital Media Specialist

- Thomas Huval, Commission Counsel
- Byron Almquist, Canoe & Trail Adventures
- Cliff Bergeron, A Taste of the Town
- Bill McHugh, St. Tammany Farmer/Advocate
- Kathy Lowrey, Harbor Center
- Valerie Waeltz, Harbor Center

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Patti Elish made **A MOTION** to approve the June 23, 2020 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Alex Carollo seconded, and the **The Motion** carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Patti Elish presented the Treasurer’s Report for June 2020 and July 2020. Marlaine Peachey made **A MOTION** to file the Treasurer’s Reports for audit as presented. Alex Carollo seconded, and **The Motion** carried. In response to a question, Donna said the state appropriation is distributed five ways, with St. Tammany Corporation receiving 45%, the Tourist Commission receiving 25%, parish government receives 12% and the Harbor Center and Recreation District 1 each receive 9 percent.

**STAFF REPORT**

-Donna O’Daniels said she is very proud of staff for their resilience and talent. She said they were focused on finding creative ways to help our businesses during the pandemic and keep the public informed about them. Tanya Leader, Vice President of Sales, and Christina Cooper, Vice President of Communications gave their departmental activity reports.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE**

- The Commissioners were provided copies of the Compliance Questionnaire and Devan Richoux asked them to look at the information on the board listing to make certain their personal information is correct. The questionnaire is a form given to our auditors each year when we turn our records over to them for audit, and it states that the Tourist Commission is in

compliance with all state statutes as required.

AUXILIARY AGENDA

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- T. J. Smith said he wanted to recognize the leadership at the Tourist Commission. He said in spite of adversity, he senses a spirit of excitement, excellence and enthusiasm and taxpayers should thank them for continuing to do a job well done.
- Alex Carollo said although Slidell is having to cancel some events, others are going to be held and they are trying to do so in a smart way. The city has its Slidell Mural Project and there are eight of them in various locations in Olde Towne.
- Patti Elish said staff is doing an amazing job considering we are in uncharted territory.
- Marlaine Peachey thanked the commission for the flowers and happy retirement wishes. She said although she is now retired from the City of Mandeville she will "still be around."

GUEST COMMENTS

- Byron Almquist said Canoe & Trail Adventures has been extremely busy. They started renting canoes last year and are continuing to do so this year, and are approaching over 5,000 in rentals. The renters are people from Mississippi, Alabama, yoga groups, baseball teams, etc.
- Valerie Waeltz and Kathy Lowrey said that the Harbor Center has been working with the State Fire Marshall on getting approval to host events and do so safely in the pandemic. The Gun & Knife Show is back and will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The Gulf Coast Sportsmen & Outdoor Expo is also back and will be held October 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>. The H.E.R.P. Exotic Reptile and Pet Show will be held October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Cliff Bergeron said Covington was going to have the Taste of Covington event in April, which did not happen due to the pandemic, but is happy to say it is back on track for the month of October. The Grand Tasting is scheduled for Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bogue Falaya Park Pavilion. Seating will be limited.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 2:00 PM at a location to be determined.

ADJOURN

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

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