

ST. LANDRY PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MINUTES  
April 11, 2018

St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission met on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 3:00PM, in Opelousas at the St. Landry Parish Visitor Center.

<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>	<u>Guest Present</u>	<u>Guest Continued</u>
Mary Doucet	Wil Giron	Claudette Simon, Sunset Merchants	Beverly H. Reynolds, Drainage Board Dist. 14
Suzanne LaHaye	Ginger Lecompte	Chief Nolan Gobert, Barbara	Howard Jolivet, Drainage Board Dist. 14
Yvonne Normand	Kelly Pitre	Harold Schoeffler, Acadiana Sierra Club	Muhammad Iqbal, 167 Truck Stop
John Slaughter		Dave Dixon, Acadiana Sierra Club	
Caitlin Bussey*		Bill Rodier, SLED	
Celeste Gomez*		Hugh Guidry, Quality Portable Building	
Sarah Wise*		Farice M. Daigle Sr, Drainage Board Dist. 14	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
<u>Call to Order</u>	Chairman Suzanne LaHaye called the April meeting to order.  It was moved that the Grant applications be considered first on the agenda.	The minutes for the February meeting were accepted as presented. (No meeting in March 2018). Approved unanimously.	Concluded.
<u>Financial Report</u> General Fund  St. Landry Parish Special Projects Account  Visitor Center Debt Service	Parish Occupancy tax for the month of January totaled \$22,516.25 and February totaled \$35,446.86. The current balance in the General Fund, following payment of bills, is \$192,368.78.  Washington State Bank Account balance stands at \$56,439.59. This reflects an additional bond payment in the amount of \$97,500 (75% of payment #25)  Current balance \$707,500.00.	A motion was made by Mary Doucet to accept the financial report and to pay the bills. Yvonne Normand seconded. Unanimously approved. (Motion is not necessary, only acceptance as presented)  *Note – Public comment was called for and none was heard.	Concluded.
<u>Staff Reports</u> Sarah Wise Marketing Director	Complete report provided in packets. .		
Caitlin Bussey Communications Manager	Complete report provided in packets.		
Celeste Gomez Executive Director	Report provided in packets. Acadiana Day at the Capitol on May 1 was announced with Suzanne LaHaye wishing to attend.		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
<p><b><u>Unfinished Business</u></b> Amede Ardoin Statue Unveiling Recap</p>	<p>Still receiving visitors coming specifically to see the statue. The Baton Rouge Area Foundation provided a letter indicating St Landry Parish Tourist Commission as owners of statue. Insurance on statue is now in place. Brochure in production.</p>	<p>No Action Needed.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<p><b><u>New Business</u></b> Drainage at Exit 23</p>	<p>Neighboring business and property owners and Drainage District 14 members were invited to hear presentation by Harold Schoeffler and Dave Dixon, with the Acadiana Sierra Club. They have authored and proposed an Acadiana Regional Flood Management Plan and have solicited the help of Congressman Clay Higgins in seeing that the recommendations be implemented. These measures would in turn have a positive effect on us here at Exit 23 and the backup that occurred in August 2016. The presentation in its entirety can be found on <a href="http://www.kpel965.com">www.kpel965.com</a> Suggested that a letter of support be written to Congressman Higgins.</p>	<p>No Action Taken.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<p><b><u>Grant Application</u></b> Sunset Billboard</p>	<p>Sunset merchants secured a billboard on I-49 southbound about a mile before Exit 11 in November 2017. The merchants paid for the initial vinyl \$350 and a monthly fee of \$400. The grant request for \$1600 was to cover half of the monthly fee for 8 months (Mar. – Oct.). [NOTE: application was received and to be presented at March meeting which was canceled due to lack of quorum]. If funded Tourist Commission logo would be added on future vinyl.</p>	<p>Motion by John Slaughter to award the Sunset billboard project \$125 per month starting with March 2018 and until further notice. Seconded by Yvonne Normand.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<p>Attakapas Opelousas Prairie Tribe (Three Moon) Festival</p>	<p>Chief Nolan and event committee member Amy Cormier presented a request for advertising funds for the 2018 festival slated for July 28, 2018. This will be the fifth year for the festival.</p>	<p>Motion by Mary Doucet to award the Attakapas Opelousas Prairie Tribe (Three Moon) Festival \$1500. Seconded by Yvonne Normand.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<p><b><u>Meeting Adjourned</u></b></p>	<p>Next Meeting Wednesday May 9, 2018 at SLP Visitor Center in Opelousas. 5:30PM</p>	<p>Mary Doucet moved that with no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Yvonne Normand. Unanimously approved.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>