

ST. LANDRY PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION
MONTHLY MINUTES
December 12, 2018

St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission met on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 5:30PM, in Opelousas at the St. Landry Parish Visitor Information Center.

Present

Mary Doucet
Wil Giron, Treasurer
Suzanne LaHaye, President
Kelly Pitre, Vice President
John Slaughter
Celeste Gomez* Ex. Director
Sarah Wise* Marketing Director
Mary Hawkins* Communications Manager

Not Present

Ginger Lecompte
Yvonne Normand, Secretary

Guest Present

Herman Fuselier, incoming Executive Director

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
<u>Call to Order</u>	President Suzanne LaHaye called the December meeting to order. Newly employed staff, Herman Fuselier and Mary Hawkins were welcomed and introduced to all.	The minutes for the November monthly meeting and the November Special meeting were both accepted as presented. Approved unanimously. *Note – Public comment was called for and none was heard. (Motion is not necessary, only acceptance as presented)	Concluded.
Financial Report General Fund St. Landry Parish Special Projects Account Visitor Center Debt Service	Parish Occupancy tax for the month of October totaled \$16,723.08. The current balance in the General Fund, following payment of bills, totaled \$163,437.41 Washington State Bank Account balance stands at \$194,217.23. Current balance \$707,500.00.	A motion was made by John Slaughter accept the financial report as presented. Mary Doucet seconded. Unanimously approved. Mr. Slaughter moved that both Celeste Gomez & Herman Fuselier meet with the CPA during this transition period. Seconded by Mary Doucet.	Concluded.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
<u>Staff Reports</u> Celeste Gomez Executive Director Sarah Wise Marketing Director Mary Hawkins Communication Manager	<p>Reports had been emailed prior to meeting for review.</p> <p>A request by Marc Pastorek, member of Cajun Prairie Restoration Society and owner of Meadow Maker, has asked that a controlled burn of the prairie area along the Service Road and parking area be considered. He feels it would help with the invasive non-native plants in that area; If authorized, it would be done in Jan/Feb depending on weather. Question of liability, etc was raised and will be answered.</p> <p>Sarah took over newsletter with vacancy of Communications Manager, while continuing to work on 2019 Visitor Guide and website listings. Media Schedule will be shared at next month's meeting.</p> <p>With only three days in her new position, Mary has identified areas that needed her immediate attention, especially dealing with our Social Media efforts and website and has already seen great results.</p>	<p>John Slaughter asked that Greg Brandl be allowed to determine removal and placement of cypress trees that have volunteered at the Center. Celeste/Herman will meet with Greg to discuss and obtain an estimate for this additional work.</p> <p>Sarah was asked to create a report giving an overview of Advertising Grant to be presented at next meeting.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<u>Unfinished Business</u> 2019 Budgets for approval	<p>Celeste pointed out the adjustments made to the proposed budget that was initially presented at the November meeting, including those for 2019 salaries. Upon review of where various expenses had been categorized previously and recommendation of CPA, some entries specifically dealing with Office Supplies and Visitor Center (operation & maintenance) were recategorized.</p>	<p>Wil Giron moved that the 2019 budgets for the SLPTC General Account and SLPTC Special Projects Account be accepted Kelly Pitre seconded. Unanimously approved.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<u>New Business</u> Hotel Motel Occupancy Tax Ordinance	<p>Celeste learned on Monday that the SLP Sales Tax office will not be taking over the collection responsibilities in January 2019 as planned. Issues with the program currently being used has halted the transition. At the earliest it would be March 2019, as changes occur at start of next quarter. Celeste was provided a draft of agreement by Chris Granger, who is working with SLP School Board attorney. Edits were provided and this step in the process could continue in preparation for March take over.</p>	<p>Consideration of this item premature and will be placed on agenda at later date.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>

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Central St. Landry Economic Development District (CSLEDD) Gateway Project	<p>A recent article describing the efforts in place by CSLEDD and the proposed Gateway Project was included in packets for informational purposes.</p> <p>Tourist Commission had been invited to participate in recent discussions by firms retained to conduct feasibility study.</p>	No action required at this time	Concluded.
SLP Tourist Commission Appointments	<p>Terms for seated Commissioners will expire on February 19, 2019. The SLP Council will advertise for applicants at its January committee meeting, with consideration at its full meeting on February 20, 2019. All Commissioners are eligible for re-appointment, as there are no term limits in place.</p> <p>Celeste Gomez will submit a letter to the Council.</p>	No action required at this time	Pending
<u>Grant Application</u>	None for consideration		
<u>Meeting Adjourned</u>	<u>Next Meeting Wednesday January 9, 2019 at Visitor Information Center at 5:30PM.</u>	Wil Giron moved that with no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mary Doucet. Unanimously approved.	Concluded.