

ST. LANDRY PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION
MONTHLY MINUTES
March 13, 2019

St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission met on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 5:30PM, in Opelousas at the St. Landry Parish Visitor Center.

Present

Mary Doucet
Yvonne Normand, Secretary
Wil Giron, Treasurer
John Slaughter
Ginger Lecompte (Acting president)
Herman Fuselier* Executive Director
Sarah Wise* Marketing Director
Mary Hawkins* Communications Manager

Not Present

Kelly Pitre, Vice President
Suzanne LaHaye, President

Guest Present

Nolan Gobert, Amy Cormer – Opel. Prairie Tribe Fest
Mayor Scott Fontenot, Connie Thibodeaux – City of Eunice

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
<u>Call to Order</u>	Acting president Ginger Lecompte called the March meeting to order. Suzanne LaHaye unable to attend.	The minutes for the February meeting were approved. (Motion is not necessary, only acceptance as presented)	Concluded.
<u>Grant applications</u>	Opelousas Prairie Tribe Festival Chief Nolan Gobert and Amy Cormier requested funding for the 6 th Annual Attakapas Opelousas Prairie Tribe Festival July 27 at Farmer’s Market Pavilion in Opelousas. Clovis Crawfish statue Mayor Scott Fontenot and Connie Thibodeaux of the City of Eunice requested funding for public sculpture commemorating renowned character in books by children’s author Mary Alice Fontenot.	Yvonne Normand moved that the festival be awarded \$1,500 and \$250 compliance award. Mary Doucet second. Unanimously approved. Wil Giron moved that \$3,000 be awarded to statue efforts. Mary Doucet second. Unanimously approved. Organizers urged to use grant as leverage in their fundraising efforts.	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 \$9,200.83. The current balance in the General Fund, following payment of bills, totaled \$206,441.51. Washington State Bank Account balance stands at \$113,729.39. Current balance \$707,500.00.	A motion was made by Wil Giron to accept the financial report as presented. Yvonne Normand second. Unanimously approved.	Concluded.

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<p><u>Staff Reports</u></p> <p>Herman Fuselier Executive Director</p> <p>Sarah Wise Marketing Director</p> <p>Mary Hawkins Communication Manager</p>	<p>Reports had been emailed prior to meeting for review.</p> <p>Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser and other working on pending state legislation for uniform definition of "hotel" regarding occupancy taxes. Casey Deshotels testing accordion kiosk for memory leaks. St. Landry Sounds debuted March 9 with 50 attending.</p> <p>2019 SLP Visitor Guides, English, are complete. Works on French guides continue.</p> <p>Website sessions, visitors, page views up by more than 20 percent. Zero bounce rate on web site.</p>	<p>No other action needed.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<p><u>Unfinished Business</u></p> <p>Commission appointments</p> <p>St. Landry Sounds update</p>	<p>SLP Council appointed all seven commissioners to another three-year term. Election of officers held.</p> <p>First St. Landry Sounds held March 9 with Lawrence Ardoin and friends. More than 50 in attendance. Media coverage in the Daily World and The Advocate.</p>	<p>New officers are Wil Giron, President; Yvonne Normand, Vice President; Mary Doucet, Treasurer; John Slaughter, Secretary.</p> <p>No other action taken.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<p><u>New Business</u></p> <p>Lafayette Parish book</p> <p>Kelly Pitre resignation</p> <p>SLPVC Landscaping</p>	<p>Herman Fuselier reported he is the author of forthcoming book on Lafayette Parish. Fuselier was contracted to write the book before becoming director.</p> <p>Presented letter from Kelly Pitre, who resigned due to new job and family obligation. Search begins for replacement, preferably from Eunice area.</p> <p>Travel counselor Claire White sought to address landscaping concerns. White unable to attend and will address at future meeting.</p>	<p>No other action needed.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p><u>Meeting Adjourned</u></p>	<p><u>Next Meeting Wednesday April 10, 2019 at Visitor Information Center at 5:30PM.</u></p>	<p>Yvonne Normand moved that with no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned. Wil Giron second. Unanimously approved.</p>	<p>Concluded</p>