

ST. LANDRY PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MINUTES  
January 9, 2019

St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission met on Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 5:30PM, in Opelousas at the St. Landry Parish Visitor Information Center.

Present

Mary Doucet  
Yvonne Normand, Secretary  
Wil Giron, Treasurer  
Suzanne LaHaye, President  
John Slaughter  
Herman Fuselier\* Executive Director  
Sarah Wise\* Marketing Director  
Mary Hawkins\* Communications Manager

Not Present

Kelly Pitre, Vice President  
Ginger Lecompte

Guest Present

Martha Aubert, Barbara Jesclard, La. Orphan Train Museum

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
<u>Call to Order</u>	President Suzanne LaHaye called the January meeting to order.	The minutes for the December monthly meeting were approved unanimously later by email.  *Note – Public comment was called for and none was heard.  (Motion is not necessary, only acceptance as presented)	Concluded.
<u>Financial Report</u>  General Fund  St. Landry Parish Special Projects Account  Visitor Center Debt Service	Parish Occupancy tax for the month of November totaled \$44,850.74. The current balance in the General Fund, following payment of bills, totaled \$168,809.71.  Washington State Bank Account balance stands at \$194,266.72.  Current balance \$707,500.00.	A motion was made by Mary Doucet to accept the financial report as presented. Wil Giron second. Unanimously approved.  John Slaughter requested that staff meet with new Mayor of Washington to discuss delinquent billboard payments.	Concluded.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
<p><b><u>Staff Reports</u></b></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>Marc Pastorek, member of Cajun Prairie Restoration Society and owner of Meadow Maker, requested a controlled burn of the prairie along the Service Road and parking area to remove invasive, non-native plants in that area. Work would be done pro bono.</p> <p>Wise reported new St. Landry Parish Visitor Guide is going to print.</p> <p>Hawkins noted an increase in Facebook posts and is set to debut weekly post of live music in the parish. Suggested additions to the parish's Wiki page.</p>	<p>John Slaughter motioned after providing proof of insurance, Pastorek proceed with the burn. Mary Doucet second.</p> <p>Members also urged roof leak in handicapped bathroom should be identified and fixed.</p> <p>Guide should be available at next meeting for commissioners to approve.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<p><b><u>Unfinished Business</u></b></p> <p>SLPTC advertising grants</p> <p>SLPTC appointments</p> <p>Cypress tree replants</p>	<p>Sarah Wise suggested increase awareness of grants to area events and attractions.</p> <p>Commissioners reminded to re-apply for seats, which expire Feb. 19. Applicants can address the SLP Council at its Feb. 20 meeting, when reappointments will be approved.</p> <p>Acted on landscaper Greg Brandl's request to replant small cypress trees that could interfere with others at SLP Visitors Center.</p>	<p>John Slaughter made a motion that Brandl be permitted to replant 70-80 cypress trees for an amount not to exceed \$3,000. Wil Giron second.</p>	<p>Concluded.</p>
<p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <p>Zydeco Capital Jam</p> <p>Music, conversation series</p>	<p>Executive director Herman Fuselier proposed a zydeco music jam session on the second Saturday of each month at the SLP Visitor Center. Throughout Acadiana, there are no jams for zydeco, which was born in St. Landry Parish.</p> <p>Executive director Herman Fuselier proposed a monthly music and conversation series featuring local musicians at the SLP Visitor Center. The first, one-hour show would be a Tribute to Amede Ardoin, an event marking the one-year anniversary of his statue unveiling at the SLP Visitor Center. Commissioners discussed musician compensations as the SLPTC cannot charge visitors for admission.</p>	<p>Commission members advised Fuselier to proceed with the first jam, set for 1-3 p.m. Feb. 9 at the SLP Visitor Center.</p> <p>Commission members advised Fuselier to proceed with the first event at 2 p.m. March 9 at the SLP Visitor Center. Mary Doucet suggested a circulating a tip jar to compensate musicians. Members also suggested looking into grants or sponsors, along with fundraising opportunities for musicians' healthcare and burial needs.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>

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<u>Grant Application</u>	Louisiana Orphan Train Museum Martha Aubert and Barbara Jesclard presented requested for \$900 to print new brochures.	Yvonne Normand moved to increase the amount to \$1,200. Wil Giron second. Unanimously approved. John Slaughter suggested layout improvements for the brochure.	Concluded
<u>Meeting Adjourned</u>	<u>Next Meeting Wednesday Feb. 13, 2019 at Visitor Information Center at 5:30PM.</u>	Mary Doucet moved that with no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned. Yvonne Normand second. Unanimously approved.	Concluded