

Sabine Parish Tourist Commission
MINUTES
Tuesday, August 14, 2018
12:00 pm

Board Members Present:	Not Present:	Public Present:	Staff Present:
Kyle Martinez Martha Henderson Bonnie Fox-Miles Edith Palmer Bobbie Jackson Geri Alford Daniel Bennett		Whitney Buckley	Linda Curtis-Sparks Wanda Rivers Whitney Hart

Kyle Martinez, President, called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission to order.

The prayer and pledge were led by Linda Curtis-Sparks.

Mrs. Sparks asked that item 3 under old business be moved to the end of the meeting for discussion.

Action #1: Bonnie Fox-Miles made a motion to move item 3 to the end of the meeting. Geri Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Action #2: Bonnie Fox-Miles made a motion to approve the August 2018 agenda of the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission Board meeting. Edith Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kyle Martinez welcomed Whitney Buckley to the meeting. Whitney is the new marketing manager at Interstate Building Materials.

Action #3: Edith Palmer made a motion to approve the July 2018 minutes. Geri Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Sparks presented the July 2018 financials. She explained to new board member Daniel Bennett that the budget would often show a negative balance due to the flow of funds rebated from state sales tax on room sales quarterly and because the largest percentage of marketing is placed January – April.

Action #4: Geri Alford made a motion to approve the July 2018 financials of the SPTC. Edith Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Sparks informed the board that the SPTC was one of a few tourist commissions in the state that collected a 3 cent occupancy tax instead of 4 cents. She has discussed with Rep. Howard, and will meet with Sen. Long in September, to consider presenting legislation in 2019 to increase to 4 cents.

She discussed the bid for the remodel of the back porch. There were 2 bids that were received to remodel the back porch into a storage area. The lowest bid was about twice what was expected and the project would

not be moving forward at this time. She will meet with the contractor to see what adjustments might be made to specifications to lower cost. This item will be brought back to the Board in September. Kyle Martinez stated that he would like to do a walk through with the contractor.

Mrs. Sparks discussed the agreement between the Town of Zwolle and the SPTC in regards to the Toledo Bend/Zwolle Museum that will be located at the train depot in Zwolle. In the agreement it states that the Town of Zwolle will be responsible for structural changes and maintenance to the building and the SPTC will be responsible for displays, museum items, interpretation, development costs, and possibly some lighting of displays.

Action #5: Bonnie Fox-Miles made a motion to accept the agreement. Edith Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Sparks asked the board to amend the budget for two fishing tournaments. The State of Louisiana agreed to assist in funding a Bassmaster event in 2019 and a Kayak National Televised Tournament in 2018.

Action #6: Edith Palmer made a motion to amend the budget to add the funds from the Louisiana Office of Tourism. Geri Alford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Sparks gave the board an update on the signage issue at the lake. DOTD will be traveling Hwy 191 and removing/tagging illegal signs in the near future. She presented to the board the PowerPoints that were presented on the Sabine Parish Wide Water Meeting on August 9th by the SPTC and Meyer & Associates and went into a discussion on the importance of water, sewer, and fire protection to the growth and development of the lake area.

Action #7: Edith Palmer made a motion to accept the August 2018 Director's Report which also included the following:

1. Toledo Bend/Zwolle Museum Activity for the Month
2. Litter Issues
3. Monthly Newsletter for Fishing and Tourism
4. Google Analytics
5. Retirement Encore Meeting for Retirement Development – Baton Rouge
6. 2018 Rural Tourism Conference
7. Parish Wide Water Issues

Bonnie Fox-Miles seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Action #8: Bonnie Fox-Miles made a motion to adjourn. Geri Alford seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

President, Kyle Martinez

Date

Witness

Date