

Sabine Parish Tourist Commission
MINUTES
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
2:00 pm
Via Teleconference

Board Members Present:

Daniel Bennett
Martha Henderson
Edith Palmer
Bobbie Jackson
Bonnie Fox-Miles
Lance Rivers
Lauren Moore

Not Present:

Public Present:

Staff Present:

Linda Curtis-Sparks
Wanda Rivers
Marjorie Hogan

Wanda Rivers presented and read the Resolution of the Board of Directors of Sabine Parish Tourist Commission ratifying decision to hold meeting of the Board of Directors via teleconference.

Action #1: Bonnie Fox-Miles made a motion to approve resolution to hold meeting via teleconference. Edith Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Daniel Bennett, President, called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission to order.

Daniel Bennett, President, asked for a Calling of the Roll. Members in attendance via teleconference were Daniel Bennett, Martha Henderson, Lance Rivers, Edith Palmer, Bobbie Jackson, Bonnie Fox-Miles, Lauren Moore, and Linda Curtis-Sparks. Also, in attendance were Sabine Parish Tourist Commission staff, Wanda Rivers and Marjorie Hogan.

Action #2: Martha Henderson made a motion to approve the May 2020 agenda of the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission Board meeting. Bobbie Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Action #3: Edith Palmer made a motion to approve the March 2020 minutes. Bobbie Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Linda Curtis-Sparks addressed items of concern such as loss of income from occupancy due to accommodation closures, decrease in overnight stays and cancellations of events and tournaments. Income from occupancy tax will be significantly lower for the next six months as the area attempts to recover. Our area is looking better than most due to the lake and draw to outdoor activities.

Linda Curtis-Sparks mentioned the receipt of \$31,880.97 from the State's Enterprise Fund.

Edith Palmer asked for clarification of \$1500 credit into miscellaneous account in April Financials. This amount was payment from Sabine River Authority for renewal of flag contract.

Action #4: Edith Palmer made a motion to approve the March and April 2020 financials of the SPTC. Martha Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Linda Curtis-Sparks requested approval of resolution from Board of Directors of Sabine Parish Tourist Commission granting authority to the President and Director to incur debt on behalf of the Commission and act on behalf of the Commission as needed for transition of business.

Action #5: Martha Henderson made a motion to approve the resolution. Bobbie Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Linda Curtis-Sparks made a request for authority for director to sign contract with contractor for \$82,000 historical grant. She will interview with 3 contractors and speak to area mayors regarding spending of this grant money.

Action #6: Martha Henderson made a motion to approve the authorization for director to sign contract regarding grant. Bobbie Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Sparks stated that the Occupancy Tax for March 2020 was below last year due closure of accommodations amid COVID-19.

Ms. Sparks also discussed work done by staff for LTA portal and LTA's 3-year marketing plan. The staff also sent out four emails to accommodations keeping them informed about COVID-19 pandemic, state, and local proclamations. Another email will go out tomorrow.

Mrs. Sparks discussed the importance of Resilient Louisiana Committee and the information she has learned from the many calls and meetings. She said realtors are seeing increase in calls for home/property sales.

Mrs. Sparks mentioned importance of passing of HB292 which would have a positive effect on Occupancy tax for tourist commission. An email was sent to board members to contact their Legislators for support.

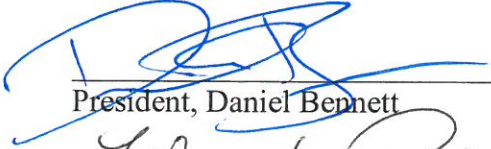
Martha Henderson asked about the upcoming festivals. Linda Curtis-Sparks advised the committee is working on a report which should be complete by June 30th and festivals should have answers then. Large crowd gatherings are still an issue.

Action #7: Lance Rivers made a motion to accept the May 2020 Director's Report which also included the following:

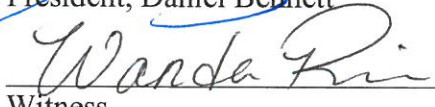
1. Occupancy Tax for March 2020
2. \$82,000 historical grant
3. El Camino signage
4. LTA 3-year marketing plan
5. Cancellations for Toledo Bend due to Covid-19
6. \$31,880.97 received from Enterprise Fund
7. Appointment to LA. Governor's Resilient Louisiana Task Force

8. Meetings attended: La. Convention and Visitors Bureau (LACVB) met weekly with Lt. Governor and LOT staff by Zoom. 4/15/20, 4/22/20, 4/29/20 & 5/6/20, El Camino Real – by Zoom. No Man’s Land on May 14th, and several calls with state tourism leaders and U.S. Congressmen & Senators on recovery funding for CVBs. Lauren Moore seconded the motion. Motion carries

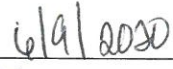
Action #8: Martha Henderson made a motion to adjourn. Edith Palmer seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.



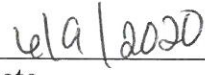
President, Daniel Bennett



Witness



Date



Date