

Iberia Parish Tourist Commission
Board Minutes
February 28, 2023

Tammy Gordon called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Iberia Parish Tourist Commission to order at 10:39 A.M. at the Iberia Parish Tourist Commission Office located at 2513 Hwy. 14, New Iberia, LA, 70560.

Present:

Tammy Gordon
Germaine Comeaux
Phebe Hayes
Liz Bodin
Ronald Sovine
Nancy Buteau
Heidi Martin

Public:

No public present

Present, but not participating in formal action:

Mike Tarantino, Evelyn Ducote, staff

A motion by Liz Bodin, seconded by Heidi Martin to approve the January 2023 minutes. Motion carried.

Mike Tarantino reviewed finances. IPG-IPTC account transfers are complete. Everything is setup, IPTC is independent. Evelyn gave explanation of new Quickbooks monthly and year-to-date reports. A motion by Germaine Comeaux, seconded by Heidi Martin to approve the January finance report. Motion carried.

Discussed and considered a resolution authorizing the IPTC to join Parochial Employee Retirement System of Louisiana and further authorize Executive Director to sign all documents. A motion by Heidi Martin, seconded by Liz Bodin to approve Ordinance No. 02-28-2023-01. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report:

- Mike Tarantino gave projected Shadows-on-the-Teche reopening date May 6, and Books Along the Teche Literary Festival promotional recap.
- Promoting 10th anniversary of the Delcambre Seafood & Farmers Market.
- Met with Mayor Brad Clifton to plan promotions and graphic design.
- Visitor Center walk-ins up since Dec. & Jan. Waiting on quote to fix sign.
- Met with LCVC Director Ben Berthelot to discuss ways that IPCVB can work with Lafayette to increase region-wide visitation.

- Mike attended LACVB February meeting. Discussed combination of LACVB & LTA.

Germaine Comeaux:

- Bayou Teche Museum gala was successful with 400 attendees. Special exhibit will be up for a few months.
- Shadows Plein Art Competition will be March 11-18 with 25 national artists participating.
- Shadows will be hosting events for the Books Along the Teche Literary Festival March 31 - April 2.
- Pat Kahle's last day as director of Shadows is June 30, and her replacement John Warner Smith will begin March 1.

Phebe Hayes:

- Waiting on funds to create a database of all enslaved individuals through The Iberia African American Historical Society. Working on Queen Mother Moore marker installation.

Liz Bodin:

- Investor of the month is Dixie Electric.
- Mike was asked to serve on the SLCC advisory board where he also mentioned the Acadian Odyssey Monument project as a new asset.
- Mayor Freddie DeCourt and the City of New Iberia are working on an anti-violence campaign, Pepperplex improvements and a boat slip in the historic district.

Nancy Buteaux:

- Acadian Odyssey Monument dedication on April 27 at 10 AM. Working on vendors and attendees.

Heidi Martin:

- Iberia Chamber of Commerce banquet will be April 20 at Cade Community Center.
- Chamber is revising "work ready initiative" which will work with SLCC to develop courses for Iberia Parish focused workforce.
- Leadership Iberia is accepting applicants.
- Berry Queens have been rebranding. Will be able to do more outreach opportunities.

Ronald Sovine:

- Jeanerette is acquiring a Rain Tree grocery store and should be open early 2024.
- The new Jeanerette Creole Fest will be held at Albania Mansion. Creole Fest will donate all profits back to the Jeanerette Historic District. Visit their Facebook page for details.

Tammy Gordon:

- 10th anniversary of the Delcambre Seafood & Farmers Market and 1st market of the year on March 4.

- Paint Delcambre event for Shadows Plein Air will be March 12. Plate lunches will be sold.

Motion to adjourn made by Heidi Martin, seconded by Ronald Sovine. Motion carried.