

Iberia Parish Tourist Commission
Board Minutes
January 17, 2023

Tammy Gordon called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Iberia Parish Tourist Commission to order at 10:33 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 Buteaux

Absent:

Heidi Martin

Public:

No public present

Present, but not participating in formal action:

Mike Tarantino, staff

A motion by Germaine Comeaux, seconded by Liz Bodin to approve the January 17 agenda. Motion carried.

A motion by Liz Bodin, seconded by Ronald Sovine to approve the December 2022 minutes. Motion carried.

Mike Tarantino reviewed finances. Noted next month will switch to QuickBooks reporting. A motion by Ronald Sovine, seconded by Germaine Comeaux to approve the December finance report. Motion carried.

Discussed and considered the 2023 slate of officers for election of officers to the board.

- Germaine Comeaux nominated Tammy Gordon to Chairman of the Board, seconded by Liz Bodin. Motion carried.
- Germaine Comeaux nominated Phebe Hayes to Vice Chairman, seconded by Liz Bodin. Motion carried.
- Tammy Gordon nominated Nancy Buteaux to Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Liz Bodin. Motion carried.

Nominations were closed. There being no other candidates nominated for each position the slate of officers were elected by consensus.

Executive Director's Report:

- Mike Tarantino reported things are going well. Transition is complete. Phones have arrived and will be installed the day of the meeting. Computers are setup and running.
- Gave new board members recap of IPCVB/IDF CEA and transition.
- Bloggers have reached out to visit Tabasco.
- Hosting LOT Regional Meeting and Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser has been invited.
- Working with the City of New Iberia on Louisiana Main Street Quarterly Meeting.
- Had a zoom discussion with National Trust and other parish officials about Shadows reopening. Should be April 1, 2023 and they have appointed a new interim director.

Liz Bodin:

- Mike Tarantino assisted with IDF stats.
- Monthly retail sales report that Dec. 2022 the parish had just under \$120 million which is \$9 million more compared to 2021. Good indicators of people shopping locally.
- Drilling permits are up.
- Acadiana Regional Airport reports 3359 operations in Dec. 2022. Military traffic is starting to come back now.

Ronald Sovine:

- Jeanerette Museum is doing well. Building tractor shed to protect sugar cane equipment
- There will be a new restaurant and grocery store in Jeanerette. Bistro was bought and being renovated into a sandwich shop and deli.

Nancy Buteaux:

- Acadian Odyssey Monument is officially installed. There will be a dedication on April 27 around 9-10 AM. Details are being finalized. Dignitaries from Canada will attend.
- New fire station on schedule to open in June 2023.

Germaine Comeaux:

- Read Shadows-on-the-Teche director Pat Kahle's retirement email. New interim director has been hired.
- Plein Air Art Competition dates are March 11-18.
- Books Along the Teche Literary Festival schedule has been published.
- Bayou Teche Museum gala will be on Feb. 9, 6:30 PM at the Sliman Theater.
- Kathleen Blanco exhibit won't be installed until renovations are finished.
- Prelude to Spring Feb. 26.

Phebe Hayes:

- Waiting to hear result on letter of intent to bring in resident historian.
- Funds are available to create a database of all enslaved individuals through The Iberia African American Historical Society. Would like to hire 1-2 researchers for the project.

Tammy Gordon:

- March 4, 2023 will be the 10th anniversary of the Delcambre Seafood & Farmers Market and 1st market of the year. Times extended from 9 AM-3 PM. Will have 2 different bands and a dedication at 1 PM. Tuna carving in the afternoon.
- 9 markets in total in 2023 as well as the Plein Air Delcambre Day.
- Check Delcambre Direct Seafood for incoming/upcoming boats and where to buy them.
- Jan. 25 Acadiana Seafood Hub ground breaking. Will now be close to port/market so vendors will be able to have assistance with packaging, etc.

Motion to adjourn made by Ronald Sovine, seconded by Nancy Buteaux. Motion carried.