



**Minutes of the Ascension Parish Tourism Commission
Special Board Meeting
Via Video Conference
May 12, 2020**

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Craig Walling

Present: Mike Bonfanti, Rae Milano, Al Schof, Craig Walling, Gasper Chifici and Jeanne St. Germain

Absent: Karen Hatcher

Also Present: Tracy Browning, and Michael Calabro

Agenda Item #2 Public Sign in Period

No Sign-In's

Agenda Item #3 Approval Agenda

A motion was made to add 6a) Ascension United and approve the agenda.

Motion by Rae Milano

Second by Mike Bonfanti

(0) NAYS

Motion passed

Agenda Item # 4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reviewed the current Financial Statements including the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet with the Board. The Executive Director reported occupancy tax down by 38% for March, 2020 over March, 2019 thus year to date is 13% down. Six hotels took advantage of the deferral of occupancy tax to be paid by July 20, 2020. A motion was made to approve the current 2020 Financials.

Motion by Al Schof

Second by Jeanne St. Germain

(0) NAYS

Motion passed

Agenda Item #5 Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the Special Board Meeting on April 7, 2020 were reviewed by the Board and a motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion by Mike Bonfanti

Second by Rae Milano

(0) NAYS

Motion passed

Agenda Item #6 Cooperative Marketing Grant Resolution

The Executive Director explained the 2020-2021 Cooperative Marketing Program offered through the Louisiana Office of Tourism and the application for advertising reimbursement for \$19,965. A motion was made to approve a resolution authorizing Tracy Browning, Executive Director to sign contractual obligations on behalf of Ascension Parish Tourism Commission.

Motion by Jeanne St. Germain

Second by Mike Bonfanti

(0) NAYS

Motion passed



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Agenda Item #6a Ascension United

The Executive Director explained the collaborative group, Ascension United, including Ascension Parish Tourism Commission, Ascension Economic Development, Ascension Chamber of Commerce and Donaldsonville Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the collaboration is to promote open business in Ascension Parish during COVID-19. Ascension United facebook page and website will be created and possibly printing yard signs for open businesses. After discussion, a motion was made to approve \$1000 towards developing the website and printing cost. A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement will be drafted by the Executive Director.

Motion by Rae Milano

Second by Mike Bonfanti

(0) NAYS

Motion passed

Agenda Item # 7 Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported that driveways at the visitor center are being worked on and she is working with DOTD on an additional sign to be placed on Highway 70. The Executive Director also reported that Councilman Joel Robert called to offer a location at the Cajun Village for the visitor location.

Agenda Item #8 Board Chairman's Comments

The Chairman thanked everyone for assisting with the jambalaya lunch preparation and delivery during Tourism Week to hotel staff, Gonzales Police Department, City of Gonzales and Town of Sorrento.

Adjourn:

Motion by Rae Milano

Second by Al Schof

(0) NAYS

Motion passed



Craig Walling, Chairman



Michael Bonfanti, Secretary/Treasurer

Date 6-9-2020

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