

Louisiana's Cajun Bayou Tourism
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Members Present:

Jeremy Punch, Chair
Marguerite Knight Erwin, Vice Chair
Monique Crochet, Secretary/Treasurer
Donnell Zeringue
Kyle Williams
Joshua Falgoust
Greg Gaubert

Members Absent:

Zina Sampey
Kristine Strickland

Staff Present:

Timothy P. Bush, President & CEO
Bree Plaisance, Office Manager

Public Present:

Archie Chaisson

Approval of Agenda:

Action Item #1: M. Knight Erwin moved to approve the agenda as presented; D. Zeringue seconded the motion. Motion passed (7-0).

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Action Item #2: M. Crochet moved to approve the minutes as presented; J. Falgoust seconded the motion. Motion passed (7-0).

Public Acknowledgments/Comment:

Mr. Punch introduced Lafourche Parish President, Archie Chaisson. Mr. Chaisson spoke about his meeting with Timothy and their plan to partner in the future on several things such as the pavilion and signage in the parish. Mrs. Knight-Erwin asked Mr. Chaisson about the parish revenue and the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Chaisson stated that our royalty revenue is way down so he will have to look in other departments to spread out spending. He reassured that next year still looks to be a good financial year even with this setback. He also stated that when it comes to COVID he and his team need to better manage the waves because the waves will come especially with school starting and holidays.

Financial Report:

Ms. Crochet presented the July financial report. She noted that total income for the month of July was \$60,983.01. She also stated that revenue was \$60,739.13 and other income of \$243.88 was from interest earned. Revenue exceeded expense by \$20,954.41 for the month.

Action Item #3: K. Williams moved to approve the financial report as presented; D. Zeringue seconded the motion. Motion passed (7-0).

President and CEO's Report

Mr. Bush presented a revised 2020 budget for approval. He noted that some of the changes were needed to address line items that were over budget. He also spoke about Lafourche Parish moving up one spot in the Top 20 Parish Economic Impact Ranking from 18 to 17 in the ranking.

Mr. Bush went over our hotel forecast for the rest of the year noting that several hotel properties will be housing workers through the end of the year and this will limited the parish's number of available hotel rooms for leisure travelers. Mr. Bush stated that marketing will focusing more on day-trippers by promoting restaurants and attractions through the end of the year.

Action Item #4: J. Falgoust moved to approve the revised budget as presented; K. Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed (7-0).

Chair's Report

Mr. Punch mentioned that the board will need to go into executive session during the September board meeting and encouraged members to attend to ensure a quorum. He also mentioned that the projects by Nicholls and Friends of Bayou Lafourche have been delayed by DOT but will begin construction soon.

Committee Reports:

None

General Discussion:

Mr. Falgoust asked if there would be any grant money opened up for the festivals that haven't cancelled yet. It was discussed that the bureau could focus our advertising on the specific festivals to help out. Mr. Bush mentioned that the advertising should include how the festivals intend to follow protocol to keep everyone safe during the pandemic.

Mr. Williams updated the board on new attractions and accommodations coming to Golden Meadow.

Adjournment:

Action Item #5: M. Crochet moved to adjourn the meeting; J. Falgoust seconded the motion. Motion passed (7-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Minutes were approved on _____.

The undersigned confirms the accuracy and proper approval of minutes

Monique McCreary
Board Secretary/Treasurer