

NATCHITOCHES PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Natchitoches Information Center – 781 Front Street
April 13, 2009
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Jay Sharplin, Terrel Delphin, Rick Seale, Robin Levya, Sissy Harris, Lori Woodard

Commissioners Absent: Theresa Gibson

Staff Present: Iris Harper, Denise O'Bannon

Mr. Sharplin called the meeting to order.

Ms. Harper called role and read the Mission Statement.

MINUTES: Mr. Sharplin noted everyone had a copy of the minutes from the January 30, 2008 meeting and asked for any corrections or changes and for a motion to approve. There were no meetings held in February and March.

MOTION: Sissy Harris made a motion to approve the minutes. Rick Seale second. Motion passed. No discussion.

FINANCIALS: General Ledgers as of January 31; February 28 and March 31, 2009 were reviewed.

MOTION: Motion to approve the financial reports for January and February made by Rick Seale; second by Lori Woodward. Motion passed. No further discussion.

Ms. Harper presented General Ledger as of March 31, 2009. Ms. Harper reviewed A/R, occupancy tax collections and monthly expenses. The Tourist Commission is still running slightly above 2008.

MOTION: Motion to approve the financial report for March 31, 2009 made by Terrell Delphin; second by Robin Leyva. Motion passed. No further discussion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Reviewed various partnerships, memberships and activities during the 1st quarter of 2009. Mr. Sharplin noted that tour groups have booked for Christmas Festival weekend. Media kits are now on flash drives imprinted with www.natchitoches.net. Natchitoches Tourism now has a page on Face Book.

Media value to date \$641,930.

Film crew in town from Travel Channel – Ghost Hunters filming at Magnolia Plantation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Sharplin requested that Ms. Harper contact an attorney to begin writing a contract in regards to the websites at Natchitoches.net to present to Neocom to protect the NPTC and the their financial involvement.

Mr. Sharplin also asked Ms. Harper to resolve the bonus/commission payments and how it will be paid. Goals will need to be set for staff.

NPTC will be the lead organization for the tri-centennial until their formal association is formed and all current events will have a 300th anniversary theme. Requests for funding have been made to the State.

Mr. Sharplin also mentioned the CF and possible including barricading 2nd Street on CF day and expanding vendors.

Mr. Sharplin discussed the Derry location as a Visitor Center. Ms. Harper noted that on-going funding had been discussed. Mr. Seale noted that opening this center had been tried and funding was a problem. Mr. Delphin stated that the CRNHA did not have the necessary partners.

Ms. Harper noted that majority of visitors exiting at Highway 119 are looking for bathroom facilities. This location does not have a public bathroom. Other discussion followed and Mr. Sharplin asked that all the partners come together to discuss the possibilities of getting this welcome center off the ground. Mr. Delphin and Ms. Harper will work on getting the partners together.

Ms. Harper reminded the commissioners to please get the Code of Ethics form back to the office.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Seale requested that the commissioners please contact our legislators in regards to funding for the state historic sites in 2010 state budget. Questions followed in regards to funding, ticket costs, donations, etc.

MEETING DATE: June 15, 2009 – 11:30 am – Natchitoches Information Center – 781 Front Street.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Terrel Delphin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Iris Harper.