

RIVER PARISHES

TOURIST COMMISSION

MINUTES

August 20, 2020, 10 am

Commission: Garrett Monti (Chairman), Tracy Smith, Ricardo Smith, Elizabeth Joseph (Vice-Chair), Evin Stein, Paul Aucoin, Camella Landry (Secretary/Treasurer), Robert Taylor

I. Call to Order / Roll Call GM/Y TS/Y RS EJ/Y ES/Y PA/Y CL/Y RT/Y

II. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance __PA__ _GM__

III. Agenda – *Action*

APPROVE M RT 2 PA (6-0)
GM/Y TS EJ/Y ES/Y PA/Y CL/Y RT/Y

IV. Public Comment START __10:08AM__ END __10:38AM__

Joy Banner – representing Whitney Plantation as director of communications, has not received any communication from the staff at the Bureau for four months and public information that has been requested has not been received; Rozella Walters (email); Gary Watson (email)

V. Minutes

- July 2020 – *Action*

APPROVE M TS 2 ES (7-0)
GM/Y TS/Y EJ/Y ES/Y PA/Y CL/Y RT/Y

VI. Financial

- July 2020 – *Action*

APPROVE M ES 2 PA (7-0)
GM/Y TS/Y EJ/Y ES/Y PA/Y CL/Y RT/Y

- Ordinance 20-01 – Occupancy Tax Adjustment (Comm. Stein) – *Action*

APPROVE M ES 2 TS (6-1)
GM/N TS/Y EJ/Y ES/Y PA/Y CL/Y RT/Y

- Resolution 20-24 – Auditor Annual Engagement – *Action*

APPROVE M PA 2 RT (7-0)
GM/Y TS/Y EJ/Y ES/Y PA/Y CL/Y RT/Y

- Resolution 20-17 – ShopLocalUSA Sponsorship – *Tabled 6-18-20*

No action taken.

Buddy Boe

From: Rozella Walters <rozellatwalters@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:21 AM
To: Info; kbrass@legis.la.gov; Buddy Boe; garrett@cleaningresource.com
Subject: Comment

Hello,

I am a St. James resident and I know nothing about this.

My Godchild is the St. John school board attorney and she knows nothing about a tax.

The News Examanier is where I get my information from this was not advertised.

St.James Parish said they did not appoint anyone to the tourist commission this year at this point.

Only one of Timmy's old reps has been confirmed to the edc, not to the tourist commission.

Shame on you. this is like stealing.

Buddy Boe

From: Andre Watkins
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Buddy Boe; Garrett Monti
Subject: Public Comments 8/20/2020 Board Meeting

Sent to Phone 504.256.6315 at 10:08AM

This is Joy Banner. I want to make a public comment.

Buddy Boe

From: Gary Watson <gary@garywatsonllc.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Info
Subject: Public Comment - Confessions of the River Parishes Tourist Commission

Confessions of the River Parishes Tourist Commission.

We are of sound mind and able to read, comprehend. If we need clarity we follow the constitution or bylaws are weak and our statue is poorly written. **Slavery was legal in Louisiana and provided for by statue.**

Confession #1.

Last night 8/19 the SJP council took up a resolution to reappoint Mr. Paul Aucoin to the EDC, a prerequisite to serving on our tourist commission, that member now has to be re-appointed to the tourist commission and ratified by the council, and take an oath of office, before taking any actions on the tourist commission. The exact same process is required by the home rule charter for Commissioner Camalla Landry.

From the SJP home rule charter, regarding the EDC, (a)The board shall be composed of 18 members. Each parish councilmember shall nominate two members of the board, and the parish president shall nominate four members of the board. All nominations for membership on the board shall be approved by resolution of the council passed by a majority vote.(b)The terms of all members of the board shall be concurrent with that of the members of the council.

Confession #2.

According to the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, Article VI, Local Government, Part II, "The legislature, by general or by local or special law, may authorize the imposition of additional sales and use taxes by local governmental subdivisions or school boards, if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon in an election held for that purpose."

I repeat, if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon in an election held for that purpose. No exceptions or reasons for exemption have been provided by the legislature, so we must uphold the constitution.

3 times, No exceptions or reasons for exemption have been provided by the legislature so we must uphold the constitution.

Slavery was legal in Louisiana and provided for by statue.

Gary C. Watson
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