



Vernon Parish Tourism Commission

MINUTES

March 21, 2023

VERNON PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION VISITOR'S CENTER

Mission Statement (Written 2005)

Mission Statement: To promote all facets of Tourism to the parish and state level.

CALL TO ORDER: The Vernon Parish Tourism Commission Board meeting for March 21 , 2023, was called to order at 8:35 AM by the Chairman, Diane Barney.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Present were Commissioners Diane Barney, Tara Rindahl, Pat Martinez, Betty Westerchil, Bettye Davis and John Guy. Also present were John Crook Executive Director, and Angela Broyard Executive Assistant.

PLEDGE: Diane Barney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: Tara Rindahl gave the Invocation.

MINUTES: Minutes from February 28, 2023 meeting were read.
Motion to accept made by Diane Barney
Motion Made by Pat Martinez
Seconded by John Guy
All approved, so moved

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: February 2023 Financial Statement as presented by the Vernon Parish Police Jury was reviewed.
Motion to accept made by Diane Barney
Motion Made by Tara Rindahl
Seconded by John Guy
All approved, so moved

DIRECTORS REPORT:

John Crook gave an update on the West Louisiana Museum. Painting of the upstairs room will begin, new carpet and lighting to this room will also be completed. Windows are being made to replace broken windows. Dias Bldg. still has Hurricane damage that is needing repair.

John Crook stated that the grass removal will begin, weather permitting to for the Junior League Garden Proposal.

John stated that Vernon Parish Tourism Commission is soliciting vendors. (Arts & Crafts, Commercial Arts & Crafts, Food, and Informational booths. Information and applications can be found at www.vernonparish.org/events

John stated that the Vernon Parish Tourism Commission has applied for And received a \$10,000 Grant for Louisiana Attractions Support Grant for Enhancement and Marketing.

John Crook advised that WWL Channel 4 Great Day Louisiana was in Leesville March 8, 9, & 10 to film a segment that will be aired in New Orleans to promote Tourisms "One Tank Trips" that will highlight several attractions, restaurants and sites in Vernon Parish to promote Tourism to the City and surrounding areas. Several sites were visited and filmed. Thanks to Brenda's Kitchen, Hazels Tea Parlor, Coure Coffee Allen Acres for their Southern Hospitality. Crew also visited Wolf Rock Cave and were met by Forest Rangers, as well as a visit to Talbert-Pierson Cemetery to visit the grave houses located there, the West Louisiana Museum and Leesville's Main Street. The air date will be announced.

John Crook stated the Watch Party for the Movie 65 which had segments filmed in Kisatchie National Forest viewed March 14th had a great turn out. Approximately 130 patrons attended this event. Thanks to Jim Caldwell Public Affairs, Recreation Heritage Staff Officer for his assistance with getting this project to Vernon Parish and supporting the community.

By the request of the Vernon Parish Police Jury, John Crook is planning a meeting with Senator Mike Reese and Louisiana Lieutenant Governor William H. Nungesser to discuss the turnover of Vernon Lake Park to the State of Louisiana.

Motion to accept the Director's Report for February 2023 as presented was made by Diane Barney.

Motion made by Pat Martinez

Seconded by John Guy

All Approved; So Moved.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business:
Motion to adjourn made by Diane Barney
Motion made by Tara Rindahl
Seconded by John Guy
All approved, so moved.

Vernon Parish Tourism Commission Action Items from March 21, 2023:

ACTION #1: Motion to accept the Minutes for January 2023 as presented was made by Diane Barney. Motion made by Pat Martinez. Seconded by John Guy. All Approved; So moved.

ACTION #2: Motion to accept January 2023 Financial Statement, was made by Diane Barney. Motion made by Tara Rindahl. Seconded by John Guy. All approved, so moved.

ACTION #3: Motion to accept Directors Report made by Diane Barney. Motion made by Pat Martinez. Seconded by John Guy. All approved; so moved.

ACTION#5: Motion to adjourn meeting made by Diane Barney. Motion made by Tara Rindahl. Seconded by John Guy. All approved, so moved.

Respectfully Submitted:

John R. Crook
Executive Director

Angela Broyard
Executive Assistant