



Vernon Parish Tourism Commission

MINUTES

November 19, 2024, VERNON PARISH TOURISM'S VISITORS 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 November 19, 2024, was called to order at 8:30 AM by the Chairman, Diane Barney.

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

PLEDGE: Diane Barney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: Tara Rindahl gave the Invocation.

MINUTES: Diane Barney presented the minutes for October 2024.

Motion to accept the Minutes for October, 2024 was made by John Guy.

Seconded by Betty Westerchil.

All Approved; So Moved.

GUEST: **CHUCK CANNON** - PAO Ft. Johnson updated current events going on at Ft. Johnson. Chuck stated that the Ft. Johnson Color Guard will be in the Simpson and Leesville Christmas parades. He stated that the Red Cross Comfort Care has a Lab named Daisy who is available for functions.

Chuck stated that if anyone needs assistance with events from Ft. Johnson, a minimum of 8 weeks advance notice will be needed for support.

AVON KNOWLTON – with the Louisiana Armed Forces Alliance office, now located on the first floor of the Historic Courthouse in Leesville. They are opened Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Their office helps the economic impact of Ft. Johnson, the Leesville community, and businesses to help grow the economy and improve the quality of life for Ft. Johnson soldiers.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Financial statement for October 2024 was not available from the Vernon Parish Police Jury at time of meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: John stated that the filming of the Vernon Parish Commercial which will be filmed by Channel 4 WWL in New Orleans will begin in February 2025.

He stated that the Moonshine Festival will be held March 8, 2025, at the Leesville Fairgrounds.

John informed the board that Main Street and Volunteer Vernon will be Decorating 3rd Street in downtown Leesville this Christmas season. Local businesses are invited to participate in this event.

John stated that plans are being made for an event to be held the first Weekend in May by Local Organizations.

Motion to accept the Director's Report for November 2024 was made by Pat Martinez
Seconded by John Guy
All Approved; So Moved.

OLD BUSINESS: John Crook said that the renovations at the West Louisiana Museum are continuing.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business:

Motion to adjourn made by
John Guy
Seconded by Pat Martinez
All approved, so moved.

Vernon Parish Tourism Commission Action Items from October 15, 2024:

ACTION #1: Motion to accept October 2024 Minutes was made by John Guy Seconded by Betty Westerchil. The motion passed.

ACTION #2: Pat Martinez made a motion to accept the Directors Report
John Guy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ACTION #3: Pat Martinez made a motion to accept the Directors Report. Bettye Davis seconded the motion.
The motion passed.

ACTION #4: John Guy made a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Pat Martinez seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

John R. Crook
Executive Director

Angela Broyard
Executive Assistant