Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission
March 17, 2026

1. **PLEDGE**

2. **REVIEW AGENDA**

3. **GUEST COMMENTS**

4. **MINUTES**

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
   a. Bills to be Paid
   b. Balance Sheet/Profit & Loss
   c. Budget
   d. Sales Tax Yearly Comparison

6. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**
   a. LOT Cooperative Marketing Grant
   b. Building Update
   c. Executive Director Position

7. **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**
   a.
   b.
   c.

8. **NEXT MEETING – May 19, 2026 at 5:00pm**

9. **ADJOURN**

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission
Minutes of March 17, 2026

Members Present: Cathy Burdette, John Boudoin, Chris Bessard, Bill Comeaux, Sandra Hebert
Members Absent: Victoria Sagrera, Lindsay Watson
Others Present: Alison Miller, Charlene Beckett – Abbeville Main Street, Claire Broussard – Vermilion Chamber

The meeting was called to order and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commission reviewed the agenda. There were no additions and the meeting proceeded.

Charlene Beckett informed the Commission about the Vermilion Arts Council's Artwalk and the Student Art Expo, plus the Sicilian Celebration taking place on Saturday and Sounds on the Square concert on Thursday. Mrs. Beckett also talked about the Main Street Grant for branding Abbeville and the Cajun Caravan Airstream Group that visited Vermilion Parish.

Claire Broussard introduced herself. She mentioned the Cajun Caravan Airstream Group stayed at the Abbeville RV Park.

A motion was made by Bill Comeaux, seconded by Cathy Burdette, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of Tuesday, January 20, 2026, as written.

The Commission reviewed the financial statements and bills to be paid. Alison Miller is continuing to work with the School Board's Sales Tax Department to make sure all accommodations are remitting their 2% occupancy tax. **A motion was made by Sandra Hebert, seconded by Bill Comeaux, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented.**

Alison Miller informed the Board on possible Commissioners to fill the vacancies for Delcambre and Gueydan. This is Bill Comeaux's last meeting and Lindsay Watson will be going off the Commission in May.

Alison Miller informed the Commission that the Office of Tourism will open the Cooperative Marketing Program Grant soon. The grant is on a first-come, first-serve basis and it is a 50/50 match. Once the grant details are made available, Mrs. Miller will inform the Commission and present a marketing plan for the funds. **A motion was made by Cathy Burdette, seconded by John Boudoin, and unanimously carried to have Alison Miller apply for the CMP Grant and sign the grant paperwork on behalf of the Commission.**

Alison Miller informed the Commission on the outcome of the Abbeville City Council meeting where the Cultural Center building was discussed. The Council voted unanimously to keep the Cultural Center in the current building; however the Police Jury would like the City to purchase the Cultural Center building and the old Hibernia building. The City has some concerns about the condition of the old Hibernia building and will hire an independent inspector to inspect the building and present the information to the City Council. Discussions will be held between the City of Abbeville and the Police Jury.

The interviews for the Executive Director were conducted on March 12 and 13. The interview committee, three Tourist Commissioners and one member of the Abbeville Cultural Alliance Board, recommended Julie Babineaux for the position. Alison Miller provided the Commission with a review of Ms. Babineaux's qualifications and experience which includes tourism and working at UL Lafayette's Hillard Art Museum. **A motion was made by Bill Comeaux, seconded by Sandra Hebert, and unanimously carried to offer the position to Julie Babineaux. Mrs. Miller is also authorized to negotiate the salary and benefits on behalf of the Commission.**

Bill Comeaux thanked the Commission and said he enjoyed his time serving. He wished he could remain, but will contact someone who expressed interest in serving. Mr. Comeaux also informed the Commission that the Acadian Museum in Erath may have an individual who is interested in purchasing the building allowing the museum to remain in Erath.

The next meeting of the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 5:00 pm.

There being no further business, **a motion was made by John Boudoin, seconded Bill Comeaux, and unanimously carried to adjourn.**

Minutes taken and respectively submitted by:

Alison Miller

Alison Miller, VPTC Secretary