La. Tourist Group Trying To Save Trees

ABBEVILLE — The Louisiana Tourist Commission passed a resolution here recently suggesting a public campaign to prevent the removal of part of the famed Packenham Oaks as a site for a proposed parking lot.

The action came at the group’s quarterly meeting held here Wednesday.

Packenham Oaks, originally known as the “de la Ronde Live Oaks,” are located in St. Bernard Parish. Harnett T. Kane, New Orleans, chairman of the commission historical marker program, said the attraction is composed of a double alley of 120 major and 14 smaller trees which date from 1792.

The land, leased by the police jury from a railroad company, was cited by Kane as a valuable tourist attraction which should be preserved.

Kane, a student and author of Louisiana history, called the oaks the “greatest single landmark and a major tourist attraction of south Louisiana.” Consulting landscape architects say $20,000 would be necessary to rehabilitate and save the attraction.

The resolution “urges that the police jury, the owners of the land, the various landmark, cultural, civic and patriotic groups lose no time in launching a series of conferences to bring about steps to avoid this threatened tragedy.”

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