



*Washington Parish Tourism*

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*Louisiana's Toe of Adventures*

Minutes of the Washington Parish Tourism Commission  
Board of Commissioners  
September 19, 2025 10:00am  
Franklinton, LA

Vice President Ella Bickham called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Parish President, Ryan Seal.

Roll call: (quorum present)

Commissioner Present	Commissioner Absent
Lorraine Hall	1 vacant seat
Ella Bickham	
Krystal Peterson	
Tonya Sharp	
Cynthia August	
Edna Kennedy	
Others: Patty Alford, Director of Tourism	
Parish President: Ryan Seal Gagliano Group: Nick Gagliano EB Digital- Ellen Buford NORBA- Toby Cortez	

The September Spotlight was the NOBRA Mountain Bike Festival. Toby Cortez presented details and information about the upcoming Love the Coaster Festival and the mountain bike trails inside the Bogue Chitto State Park.

Krystal Peterson made a motion to dispense the reading of the August 2025 minutes due to the fact that minutes were emailed to members of the Commission prior to the meeting and to approve the August 2025 minutes, the motion was seconded by Cynthia August. No public discussion, vote passed unanimously.

The financial statements were reviewed for August 2025.

The checking account balance \$ **93,261.75** according to the bank statement dated 08/31/2025

Summary of account from **08/01/2025-08/31/2025** follows:

Date	Credits	Debits	Amount
08/29/2025	24.58	Interests	
08/29/2025		Southeast Business Supply	62.25
08/14/2025		Hancock Bank	377.10
08/25/2025		Patricia Alford	223.78
08/28/2025		Brazeale, Sachse, Wilson	474.20
08/29/2025		Washington Parish Government	2520.67
08/01/2025		WST	88.39
08/18/2025		Town of Franklinton	75.26
08/21/2025		NEC FIN	175.92

The August 2025 statement was approved with a motion from Edna Kennedy, a second from Lorraine Hall, no public discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

In old business, the first item on the agenda was the Occupancy Tax update -Director, Patty Alford gave an update from recent inquiries of the new Occupancy tax with the new collection to begin July1, 2025. Expected deposits to begin in the month of August 202, but as to date, no deposit had been made. It was noted for the Commission to attempt to get someone from the Washington Parish Sheriff's tax department Leza Henry or Jamie Butts to attend the meeting in November for an update.

Next in new business, the Executive Director's Report was presented. A motion to accept the report came from Cynthia August, second by Edna Kennedy, no public discussion, the motion carried. Within the Executive Director's Report, a motion to allow the Commission to draft a letter of support for the Washington Parish Fair Playground came from Edna Kennedy, second from Tonya Sharp, no public discussion, the motion carried.

Nick Gagliano from the Gagliano Group presented the Country Roads ad, State Park brochure ad, Christmas Brochure ad, as well as outlined an Action News 17 interview prior to the Washington Parish Free Fair.

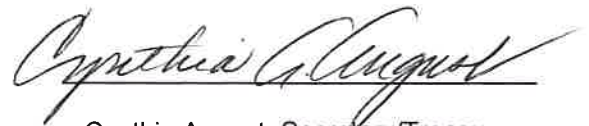
Krystal Peterson next made a motion for the Commission to enter in Executive Session for the discussion of current resumes on hand for the position of the open Commissioner seat according to Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R. S.) 42:16-42:17. Second from Cynthia August. No public discussion, the motion carried.

Cynthia August made a motion to adjourn the meeting from executive session, seconded by Lorraine Hall. The motion carried. Cynthia August then made a motion to enter back into regular meeting, seconded by Edna Kennedy, the motion carried. Cynthia August next made a motion to submit the 3 resumes to the Washington Parish Council for review with a high recommendation needed for representation from the Bogalusa area. The second came from Lorraine Hall, no public discussion, the motion carried.

Krystal Peterson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tonya Sharp, no public discussion, the motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2025 at 10:00 am. Noted there will not be a meeting on October



Ella Bickham President



Cynthia August- Secretary/Treasurer

11/21/2025