



Washington Parish Tourism

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Louisiana's Toe of Adventures

Minutes of the Washington Parish Tourism Commission
Board of Commissioners
July 18, 2025 10:14am
Franklinton, LA

Vice President Ella Bickham called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Cynthia August.

Roll call: (quorum present)

Commissioner Present	Commissioner Absent
Mark Irvine (late arrival)	Lorraine Hall
Ella Bickham	Edna Kennedy
Krystal Peterson	
Tonya Sharp	
Cynthia August	
Others: Patty Alford, Director of Tourism	
Chamber of Commerce: Kim McNeese Parish President Ryan Seal The Willows-Claudine & Keith Boos, Laiton Stewart Chamber- Kimberly Windham Krewe of Odysseus- Chris Bautista GaglianoGroup: Nick Gagliano EB Digital- Ellen Buford	

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

The financial statements were reviewed for June 2025.

The checking account balance \$ 117,809.78 according to the bank statement dated 06/30/2025

Summary of account from 06/01/2025 to 06/30/2025 follows:

Date	Credits	Debits	Amount
06/02/2025	63,750.00	LA Government	
06/30/2025	32,006.25	LA Government	
06/30/2025	23.52	Interest	
06/02/2025		WST	47.02
06/17/2025		Town Of Franklinton	75.11
06/23/2025		NEC Financial	175.92
06/02/2025		MP Accounting	105.00
06/20/2025		Franklinton Dixie Youth	1000.00
6/18/2025		Franklinton Christmas Festival	1100.00
6/11/2025		4Imprint	14,083.45
06/09/2025		Southeast Business	51.82
06/04/2025		Hancock Bank	4397.90
06/06/2025		Era Leader	34.65
06/10/2025		Era Leader	231.92
6/10/2025		The Gagliano Group	2425.00
06/20/2025		Patty Alford	381.90
6/20/2025		NOBRA	1000.00
06/24/2025		Washington Parish Gov	3016.82

The June 2025 statement was approved with a motion from Cynthia August, a second from Krystal Peterson, no public discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

In old business, the first item on the agenda was the Occupancy Tax update -Office Manager, 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 2025.

Next in new business, the Executive Director's Report was presented and approved with a motion from Cynthia August, a second from Mark Irvine, no public participation, the motion carried unanimously.

Nick Gagliano from the Gagliano Group presented a new logo. After Commission discussion and input from the public members present, the new logo was selected from four with a motion from Krystal Peterson, second from Cynthia August, the motion carried unanimously, no public input.

Chris Bautista, representing the Krewe of Odysseus, gave a preview of the new Mardi Gras parade to run the Friday night before Fat Tuesday in the town of Franklinton. He asked for a \$1000 sponsorship. Ella Bickham suggested that no decision on this matter be made until the Finance Committee could meet and look at the funds and make new decisions since all Excess Funds had been expended. Mark Irvine asked to be replaced on the Finance Committee, Tonya Sharp replaced him. The new committee (Ella Bickham, Cynthia August, Tonya Sharp) along with Executive Director Patty Alford and Nick Gagliano scheduled the next meeting for July 25 at 9:00 am.

The "Toe" Riffic Spotlight for the month, The Willows Wedding Venue, was represented by Keith and Claudine Boos, and Laiton Stewart. They shared about the events, hosting activities, and previous and future growth of their destination for events.

Under other concerns: Mark Irvine expressed an interest in a parish flag.

Cynthia August made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Irvine, no public discussion, the motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2025 at 10:00 am. (meeting rescheduled to August 22, 2025)



Ella Bickham President


Cynthia August- Secretary/Treasurer

Approved 08/22/2025