



Washington Parish Tourism

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Louisiana's Toe of Adventures

Minutes of the Washington Parish Tourism Commission
Board of Commissioners
June 20, 2025 10:00am
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
Edna Kennedy (late arrival)	Mark Irvine
Ella Bickham	Lorraine Hall
Krystal Peterson	
Tonya Sharp	
Cynthia August	
Others: Patty Alford, Director of Tourism	
Chamber of Commerce: Kim McNeese Watermelon Festival: Jerome Warren and other committee members Heritage Hill Farm: Ann Satterlee GaglianoGroup: Nick Gagliano	

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

Cynthia August made a motion to entertain public participants first in the next order of business, second by Tonya Sharp, no discussion from the public, the motion carried unanimously.

Ann Saterlee, owner and manger of the Heritage Hill Farm, shared the history, brochures, and information on her short-term rental property.

Nick Gagliano, from the Gagliano Group, made a brief presentation to the Commission, including the newly designed Washington Parish Tourism Brochure. He acknowledged the work of the Commission and its office and made some recommendations into continued improvement for The Tourism Commission.

Jerome Warren, President of the Washington Parish Watermelon Festival, shared highlights of the upcoming festival July 11-13, with a parade the morning of July 12 at 9 am. It was also noted that the Watermelon Festival was the monthly "Toe"Riffic Spotlight for the month of July.

Commissioner Edna Kennedy shared on the RV rally she attended and the state and parish promotional items she distributed, noting that some have since booked in the Bogue Chitto State Park.

The financial statements were reviewed for May 2025.

The checking account balance \$ 50,156.52 according to the bank statement dated 05/30/2025

Summary of account from 05/01/2025 to 05/31/2025 follows:

Date	Credits	Debits	Amount
5/30/2025	28,291.56	CD	
5/30/2025	12.67	Interest	
5/5/25		MP Accounting	105.00
5/07/25		Ray Watson Properties, LLC	1100.00
5/13/25		Southeast Business Supply	70.47
5/14/25		Hancock Bank	1373.52
5/17/25		Washington Parish Gov	1755.45
5/09/25		Geaux Techie	375.00
5/07/25		Washington Parish Free Fair	5000.00
5/28/25		Washington Parish Balloon Festival	3500.00
5/16/25		Ellen Bruford- EB Digital	7100.00
5/09/25		Country Roads	3930.00
05/09/25		LFB Designs	4150.28
5/07/25		Washington Parish Free Fair	5000.00
05/28/25		Ray Watson Properties, LLC	13200.00
5/27/25		Pens.com	1394.08
5/27/25		Washington Parish Gov	1742.71
05/01/25		WST	47.25
05/16/25		Town of Franklinton	75.17
05/21/25		NEC Fin	175.92

The May 2025 statement was approved with a motion from Edna Kennedy, a second from Cynthia August, 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.

Next in new business, the Office Manager's Report was presented and approved with a motion form Edna Kennedy, a second from Cynthia August, no public participation, the motion carried unanimously.

A motion form Cynthia August, and a second from Krystal Peterson to approve requested advertisements and sponsorships including the Love the Coaster - Bike Festival and the Washington Parish Magazine.No public input, the motion carried unanimously.

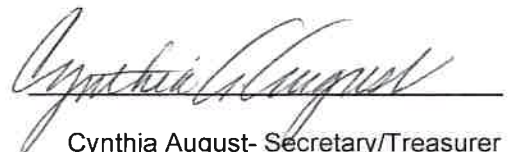
Under other concerns: From a recommendation from the previous Gagliano Group presentation, Krystal Peterson made a motion to change the title of Patty Alford from Office Manager to Executive Director, seconded by Tonya Sharp, no discussion from the public, the motion carried unanimously.

Cynthia August made a motion to allow the Gagliano Group to create a new professional logo, seconded by Krystal Peterson, no discussion from the public, the motion carried unanimously. The Gagliano Group also agreed to create the ad for the Washington Parish Magazine to accompany the recent brochure as to start some continuity between ads.

Krystal Peterson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cynthia August, no public discussion, the motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2025 at 10:00 am.



Mark Irvine- President



Cynthia August- Secretary/Treasurer

Approved 7/18/2025