



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

President Ella Bickham called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Commissioner Edna Kennedy.
Roll call: (quorum present)

Commissioner Present	Commissioner Absent
Lorraine Hall	Cynthia August
Ella Bickham	
Krystal Peterson	
Tonya Sharp	
Edna Kennedy	
Kim Windham	
Others: Patty Alford, Director of Tourism	
Gagliano Group: Nick Gagliano EB Digital- Ellen Buford Berry Creek Cabins- Jacob Weese D'ann Davis- Director, WP Economic	

The Spotlight was *The Berry Creek Cabins*. Jacob Weese, presented details and information about the Berry Creek Cabins, as well as future events and how to book this local attraction.
D'ann Davis, Washington Parish Economic Director, gave a personal introduction as well as hope and encouragement for upcoming ideas for the growth of Washington Parish.

Edna Kennedy made a motion to dispense the reading of the November 2025 minutes due to the fact that minutes were emailed to members of the Commission prior to the meeting and to accept the minutes, second by Krystal Peterson, the motion carried.

The financial statements were reviewed for November 2025.

The checking account balance **\$ 92,967.19** according to the bank statement dated 11/30/2025. Summary of account from **11/01/2025-11/30/2025** follows:

Date	Credits	Debits	Amount
11/12/2025	2108.08	Wash Par Occupancy Tax	
11/18/2025	614.94	Wash Par Occupancy Tax	
11/26/2025	663.14	Wash Par Occupancy Tax	
11/28/2025	23.09	Interests	
11/05/2025		Hancock Whitney	3454.99
11/13/2025		Southeast Business Supply	62.73
11/05/2025		MP Accounting	165.00
11/05/2025		Hancock Whitney	738.19
11/04/2025		Patricia Alford	290.78
11/24/2025		Gagliano Group	2030.00
11/04/2025		WST	56.15
11/17/2025		Town of Franklinton	75.48
11/21/2025		NEC Financial	175.92

The November Financial report was approved with a motion from Lorraine Hall, second by Kim Windham, the motion carried, no public input.

The motion to enter into a new lease with Kay Orman for the property at 1041 Main Street, Franklinton, for relocation of the Tourism Commission Office was made by Edna Kennedy, second by Lorraine Hall, the motion carried unanimously, no public input. (all commissioners were emailed the lease prior, as well as the lease reviewed by Matt Garver, attorney)

The Buildings/Budget Committee presented a 2026 Executive Director's Job Description and Salary to become effective January 2026. The motion to accept the new description and salary was motioned by Kim Windham, second from Krystal Peterson, the motion carried unanimously, no public input.

With a change in salary and change in funds needed to address the move of the Tourism Office, a revision to the 2025-26 budget was made by MP Accounting. The budget was reviewed, the motion to accept the revisions in the new budget came from Lorraine Hall, second by Krystal Peterson, the motion carried unanimously, no public input. (Budget attached)

Next in new business, the Executive Director's Report was presented. A motion to accept the report came from Kim Windham, second by Krystal Peterson, no public discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Noted in the Executive Report was a sponsorship to the Washington Parish Balloon Festival for \$2000.00 for 2026.

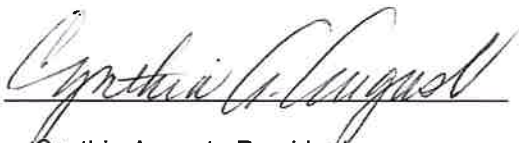
The meeting then turned to the election of 2026 officers. President Ella Bickham addressed the Commissioners reminding that she only moved up to fulfill the position after the resignation of Mark Irving. Edna Kennedy nominated Ella Bickham, but she declined the nomination, and there was no second. Ella Bickham, then nominated the longest and only original commissioner still active, Cynthia August for the position of President, Lorraine Hall seconds the motion, the motion carried, no public input.

Edna Kennedy next nominated Ella Bickham for Vice-President, seconded by Lorraine Hall, the motion carried, no public input.

Edna Kennedy was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer but declined. Edna Kennedy next nominated Tonya Sharp for secretary/treasurer. The motion was seconded by Krystal Peterson, the motion carried, no public input.

Nick Gagliano from the Gagliano Group presented statistics from the December filming of Action 17 news with over 11,000 reaches. He shared Italian Christmas treats with the Commission to help promote his reign as Marshall of the Tangipahoa Italian Festival.

Krystal Peterson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tonya Sharp, no public discussion, the motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2026 at 10:00 am, still at 1950 Washington Street. The Commissions then traveled to Five & 2 in Pine, for the annual Christmas dinner.



Cynthia August, President

1/16/2025



~~Tonya Sharp~~ - Secretary/Treasurer

Ella R. Bickham Vice President