

ST. MARTIN PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 2026

The St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission met at 4:32 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11th, 2026. The meeting was held at St. Martin Parish Tourism Office, 601 East Bridge Street, Breaux Bridge.

The meeting was called to order by Tourism Executive Director Laci Laperouse.

The following members were present: Christine Friedman, Tonia Peltier, Marel Thibodeaux, Karlos Knott (arrived at 4:34 p.m.), Fred Foti Jr., Carole Lancon, and Greg Domingue. Also present were Assistant Director Megan LeBlanc and Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival Association President Mr. Mark Bernard.

A motion was made by Carole Lancon, and seconded by Greg Domingue, to approve the minutes of the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026.

This motion, having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Christin Friedman, Tonia Peltier, Marel Thibodeaux, Carole Lancon, Fred Foti Jr., and Greg Domingue.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT AT VOTING: Karlos Knott

And the motion was declared adopted this 11th day of February 2026.

A motion was made by Greg Domingue and seconded by Marel Thibodeaux to approve the Tourism Monthly Report for the month of January 2026.

This motion, having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Christine Friedman, Tonia Peltier, Marel Thibodeaux, Fred Foti, Carole Lancon, and Greg Domingue

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT AT VOTING: Karlos Knott

And the motion was declared adopted this 11th day of February 2026.

After a detailed discussion ensued among Commissioners and the Executive Director, Laci Laperouse, regarding the request received by St. Bernard Catholic Church for Tunes on the Teche, the following assistance was approved:

- Sponsorship of \$250.00 per event for a total of \$750.00 to be paid to the vendor for promotional marketing.
- Social Media Boosts (The tourism office will take care of this)
- Events Page (local and State Tourism Office-Tourism Office will take care of this)
- Submission of the event to the radio/news media community calendars

A motion was made by Greg Domingue and seconded by Fred Foti Jr. to approve the above-mentioned request.

This motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Christine Friedman, Tonia Peltier, Marel Thibodeaux, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Carole Lancon, and Greg Domingue

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 11th day of February 2026.

Mr. Mark Bernard, President of the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival Association, addressed the Commission regarding the festival's request for \$15,000 in sponsorship funding. He provided an overview of the event and explained that the increase in requests reflects rising operational and production costs associated with hosting the festival. He answered questions from the Commission and expressed appreciation for the Commission's continued support of the event.

After a detailed discussion ensued among Commissioners and the Executive Director, Laci Laperouse, regarding the request received by the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival Association for the 2026 Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival, the following assistance was approved:

- Sponsorship of \$15,000.00.
- Social Media Boosts (The tourism office will take care of this)
- Events Page (local and State Tourism Office-Tourism Office will take care of this)
- Submission of the event to the radio/news media community calendars

A motion was made by Fred Foti Jr. and seconded by Marel Thibodeaux to approve the above-mentioned request.

This motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Christine Friedman, Tonia Peltier, Marel Thibodeaux, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Carole Lancon, and Greg Domingue

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 11th day of February 2026.

After a detailed discussion ensued among Commissioners and the Executive Director, Laci Laperouse, regarding the request received by the Parks Cracklin Cook off Festival Association for the Parks Cracklin Cook off Festival, the following assistance was approved:

- Sponsorship of \$4,000.00.
- Social Media Boosts (The tourism office will take care of this)
- Events Page (local and State Tourism Office-Tourism Office will take care of this)
- Submission of the event to the radio/news media community calendars

A motion was made by Carole Lancon and seconded by Christine Friedman to approve the above-mentioned request.

This motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Christine Friedman, Tonia Peltier, Marel Thibodeaux, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Carole Lancon, and Greg Domingue

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 11th day of February 2026.

After a detailed discussion ensued among Commissioners and the Executive Director, Laci Laperouse, regarding the request received by the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church for the Parks Family Fest, the following assistance was approved:

- Sponsorship of \$500.00 to be paid to the vendor for promotional marketing.
- Social Media Boosts (The tourism office will take care of this)

- Events Page (local and State Tourism Office-Tourism Office will take care of this)
- Submission of the event to the radio/news media community calendars

A motion was made by Greg Domingue and seconded by Tonia Peltier to approve the above-mentioned request.

This motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Christine Friedman, Tonia Peltier, Marel Thibodeaux, Fred Foti Jr., Karlos Knott, Carole Lancon, and Greg Domingue

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 11th day of February 2026.

Following the presentation of all sponsorship requests, the Executive Director and Commissioners engaged in discussion regarding the current meeting time. The Board discussed the possibility of amending the existing ordinance to change the scheduled meeting time. No formal action was taken at this time.

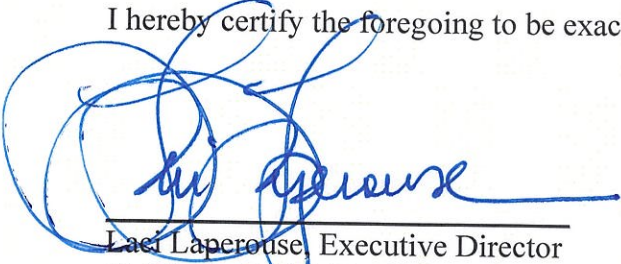
Prior to adjournment, Executive Director Laci Laperouse reminded the Commission about the one-hour Ethics and Sexual Harassment training they must complete before the end of the year, and that they must complete the Financial Disclosure forms before May. The links for the training and financial disclosure forms will be emailed to them. She also informed the Commissioners that the Tourism Team will present the 2025 annual report at the upcoming St. Martin Parish Council Committee meeting and that all are welcome to attend. The meeting is on February 24th, 2026, at the St. Martin Parish Government Annex Office, located in St. Martinville.

Executive Director Laci Laperouse invited comments or discussions from the board members. There were no comments or discussions.

With no further business, Executive Director Laci Laperouse announced that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11th, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at Atelier de la Nature, 1050 Andrew Gautreaux Road, Arnaudville.

A motion was made by Fred Foti Jr, and seconded by Greg Domingue, that the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission Meeting does hereby adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be exact and true:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laci Laperouse', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Laci Laperouse, Executive Director
St. Martin Parish Tourism
