

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

The St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission met at 4:34 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11th, 2026. The meeting was held at Atelier de la Nature, 1050 Andrew Gautreaux Road, Arnaudville.

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

The following members were present: Christine Friedman, Tonia Peltier, Karlos Knott, Fred Foit Jr (arrived late at 4:36), Carole Lancon, and Greg Domingue. Also present was Assistant Director Megan LeBlanc. The following members were absent: Marel Thibodeaux (excused).

A motion was made by Carole Lancon, and seconded by Karlos Knott, to approve the minutes of the St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, February 11th, 2026.

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

YEAS: Christine Friedman, Tonia Peltier, Carole Lancon, Karlos Knott, and Greg Domingue.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Marel Thibodeaux (excused)

ABSENT AT VOTING: Fred Foti Jr.

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

A motion was made by Greg Domingue and seconded by Tonia Peltier to approve the Tourism Monthly Report for the month of February 2026.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Marel Thibodeaux (excused)

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

Executive Director Laci Laperouse and Commissioners welcomed guest speakers, Brandon and Aurore Ballengee, owners of Atelier de la Nature. The Ballengees presented an overview of their 30-acre nature preserve and its programming. They highlighted a range of educational offerings, including hands-on monthly programs that blend science, food, art, and culture to foster a deeper understanding of the natural environment, as well as STEAM-based initiatives available both on-site and in schools, along with professional development opportunities. They also shared plans for “Radio on the Prairie,” an upcoming LPFM station dedicated to preserving and promoting Acadiana’s music, foodways, language, and cultural heritage.

Additionally, they discussed their annual events, including the Halloween Art and Nature Festival and the spring Fête de la Nature Bioblitz and Crawfish Boil, which engage the public in identifying local species alongside scientists. The Ballengees also noted ongoing grant efforts, including a proposed project to create sculptures from recyclable materials to be placed near recycling sites throughout the parish to encourage community participation in recycling initiatives.

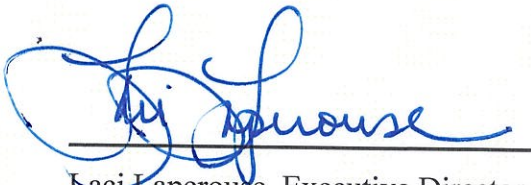
Prior to adjournment, Executive Director Laci Laperouse provided several updates to the Commission. She discussed the department’s exploration of Placer.ai, a location intelligence and foot traffic analytics platform, as well as similar services, outlining potential costs and explaining how such data could enhance the Tourism Department’s marketing and decision-making efforts. Ms. Laperouse also reported that the Spoonbill sculptures have been delivered to the office and noted that potential installation locations will be discussed at a future meeting. In addition, she shared progress updates on the Loupe Theory video production project and the Compass Media visitors' guide, informing the Commission that filming and photography will be ongoing throughout the parish over the next several months.

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, April 8th, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the St. Martin Parish Tourism Office, 601 East Bridge Street, Breaux Bridge.

A motion was made by Fred Foti Jr, and seconded by Carole Lancon, 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.

Laci Laperouse, Executive Director
St. Martin Parish Tourism