



MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
DESOTO PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION
115 N. Washington Ave.
Mansfield, LA
March 17, 2026
2:00

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by President, Margaret Dickerson
- II. **Roll Call:** Present were Margaret Dickerson, Pam Rodgers, Shirley Payne, Donna Cagle, John Russell, Ron Jackson, and James Walker. Guests were Michael Norton and Jackie McKinney
- III. **Prayer & Pledge:** Margaret Dickerson led the pledge and prayer.
- IV. **Approval of February 2026 Agenda:** Motion by Pam Rodgers to approve March 2026 amended agenda. 2nd Shirley Payne. Motion Passed.
- V. **Public Comment Period:** Parish Administrator Michael Norton gave an update on the electronic sign and Jackie McKinney reviewed the progress on the 10th annual Balloons Over DeSoto coming in July.
- VI. **Approval of January 2026 Minutes:** Motion by John Russell to approve February minutes. 2nd by Pam Rodgers. Motion Passed.
- VII. **Approval of January 2026 Financials:** Cited budget-to-actual comparisons. Motion by James Walker to approve February 2026 Financial Report. 2nd by Ron Jackson. Motion Passed.
- VIII. **Old Business:**
No old business
- IX. **New Business:**
 - a. Balloons Over DeSoto—request for funding. Motion made by Ron Jackson to approve funding request for Balloons Over DeSoto. 2nd by Shirley Payne. Motion Passed.
 - b. Crowd Control Barricades – request for funding. Motion by John Russell to approve funding request. 2nd by Shirley Payne with Mr. James Walker abstaining. Motion Passed.
 - c. Electronic Sign – 8mm or 12mm. Motion by Ron Jackson to approve purchase of 12mm electronic sign. 2nd by James Walker. Motion passed.
 - d. River City Fest/Car Show – request for funding. Motion made by John Russell to approve funding request for River City Fest/Car Show. 2nd by Pam Rodgers. Motion passed.
 - e. Executive Director position. Motion by John Russell to advertise for Executive Director position. Advertisements will begin on 3/23/26 and end on 4/17/26 with hiring to be completed by 5/1/26. 2nd by Pam Rodgers. Motion passed
 - f. America250 – request for funding. Motion made by John Russell to print 300 tickets for April 23rd event at Clista Calhoun Center. 2nd by Pam Rodgers. Motion passed.
 - g. DeSoto Fire District One – request for funding. Motion made by Donna Cagle to purchase 7 remote firing modules for Warren Memorial Fireworks Show and the remaining monies going to this year’s fireworks with the understanding there would no more funding for this year’s fireworks. 2nd by John Russell. Motion passed.
- X. **Director’s Report- Feb/March (vote)**
 - a. Occupancy Report
 - b. Upcoming events and meetings.Motion by James Walker to approve Director’s Report. 2nd by Shirley Payne. Motion passed.

- XI. Next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 2:00pm
- XII. Motion by James Walker to adjourn. 2nd by Ron Jackson. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned.