

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 3RD DAY OF JULY, 2025

The Caddo Parish Long Range Planning Committee met in legal session on the above date at 12:00 noon, in the Government Plaza Chambers, with the following members were present constituting a quorum: Commissioners Cothran, Epperson, Lazarus, and Thomas (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Kracman (2).

Mr. G. Young gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions nor Citizens Comments, so the Committee moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discuss fee schedule for 2026 budget*

Administrator Bryant advised that the fees have not been updated in over twenty years and need to be reassessed. Adjustments are needed to generate revenue for new facilities and maintain existing programs.

There were discussions regarding the new Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park. The rental fee for the exhibit space is \$2,500, which is an average fee compared to other nature centers. The fee covers after-hours access, staffing, setup, takedown, and cleaning. During normal operating hours, individuals can pay an admission fee to enter the facility.

The \$2,500 rental fee is for private events after hours, not for general admission during operating hours. Groups can visit during normal hours by paying the admission fee, but capacity limits may apply. Reservations are recommended for large groups to ensure access and proper staffing.

The photograph permit fee is primarily for professional photographers who frequently use the park. Controls may be needed to manage the number of people taking pictures at the same time, especially during special events like prom. The goal is to allow photography while preventing damage to the grounds and overcrowding.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that the proposed fee scheduled be recommended to the full body for consideration. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Gage-Watts and Kracman being absent (2).*

- *Discuss establishing a long-term project tracking system*

The discussion focused on establishing a long-term project tracking system for the Commission. The aim is to consolidate current and future projects, fostering teamwork and achieving specific targets. Commissioners are encouraged to submit potential long-term projects by the end of August or early September for the 2026 budget process.

At this time, the DVD malfunctioned, so there was no additional audio.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *that this discussion be continued at the next Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Gage-Watts and Kracman being absent (2).*

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned
2:32 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk