

NATCHEZ CONVENTION PROMOTION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Commissioners Present: Jennie Guido, John Grady Burns, Donna Sessions Sheila Duffy-Lehrman (online), Fred Marsalis (online)

Commissioners Absent: Robbie Cade Furdge

Staff: Lynsey Gilbert, Roscoe Barnes, Mallory Meng

Guests: Lauren Huff (Natchez Chamber of Commerce), Ryan Richardson (NCC), Monica Cross (Silas Simmons), Tim Mask, Ray Hydrick & Jessie Calvert (Advance Travel & Tourism)

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Jennie Guido called the meeting to order and welcomed at 1:05pm. John Grady Burns called roll for commissioner attendance and quorum.

APPROVE MINUTES

John Grady Burns motioned, seconded by Donna Sessions, to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes from February 18, 2026, and special call meeting February 27, 2026, as presented. Full reports may be requested from Visit Natchez.

The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Donna Sessions motioned, seconded by John Grady Burns, to accept the financials and payment docket as presented by Silas Simmons.

The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Lauren Huff appeared before the board on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. Due to a date change and late application submission, the Bicycle Classic was given \$2,000 instead of the requested \$5,000. After discussion, Donna Sessions motioned, seconded by Sheila Duffy-Lehrman, to approve an additional \$1,000, for a total of \$ 3,000, out of the NAME fund.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

John Grady Burns motioned, seconded by Donna Sessions, to approve the Natchez Food and Wine Festival marketing request in the amount of \$5,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

John Grady Burns motioned, seconded by Fred Marsalis, to approve the Natchez Garden Club Homeowners Association marketing request for \$2,000 towards printing the All Tours for All Seasons brochure.

The motion passed with 4 yays, 0 nays and 1 recusal by Donna Sessions.

Donna Sessions motioned, seconded by John Grady Burns, to approve the MS School Nutrition Association convention support marketing request in the amount of \$2,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Tim Mask presented his slide deck “Visit Natchez- Marketing Strategy and Organizational Alignment.”

In the absence of Jessica Cauthen, Ray Hydrick & Jessie Calvert presented our marketing report as well as introduced themselves to the commission as one of our tenured partners.

ADJOURN

Without objection, Jennie Guido adjourned the meeting at 4:06pm.

Attest:

Jennie Guido, Chairwoman

John Grady Burns, Secretary/Treasurer