

MINUTES

Evansville Tourism Commission Thursday, October 9, 2025 At Creekside Place, 102 Maple St.

1. Call to order at 6:45pm.
2. Roll call: Abbey Barnes, Shawn Dunphy, Brandi Vanfossen, Sue Berg (chair). Excused: Jim Brooks, Lindsey Kennedy. Unexcused: Ben Corridon. Also present: Colette Spranger.
3. Motion to approve the agenda made by Shawn Dunphy, seconded by Abbey Barnes. Motion carried.
4. Motion to waive the reading of the minutes from August 14, 2025, and approve them as printed was made by Abbey Barnes, seconded by Brandi Vanfossen. Motion carried.
5. Citizen appearances: None.
6. Tourism Commission updates: None.
7. Old Business
 - a. Mural #3: Artist Jim Richter sent an update reporting difficulties with weather and scheduling conflicts in completing the “Rex Theater” mural. He now hopes to finalize the mural by the end of October, weather permitting.
 - b. Mural #1: The five portraits need a new home. Sue Berg reported that the Grange Building was sold and the new owners declined to allow the portraits to be placed on the building. Installation is on hold pending a new location. Tony Wyse was making inquiries with other building owners and Lindsey Yoder from Sign Art Studio also is exploring an option with a local building.
 - c. Website update: Discussion focused on increasing traffic to the website, and the need to expand content and imagery.
 - d. Lamp post banners: Abbey Barnes reported that the banners arrived. One banner had an error and the vendor is re-doing it.
 - e. Hotel: Colette Spranger reported that the hotel may be up for sale again.
 - f. Ice Age Trail Mammoth Hike Challenge: The Mammoth Hike Challenge—occurring during the month of October—included promotions for Ice Age Trail Communities. Evansville was listed and selfies at the Evansville Circus Mural were encouraged as documentation of participation in the challenge.
8. New Business
 - a. The Grove Society (Kris Thome): Tabled due to last-minute scheduling conflict.
 - b. Rock County Tourism Guide: Sue Berg reported that data collection—including calendar information—is underway for the 2026 Guide.
 - c. Tourism promotional/social media campaigns: Shawn Dunphy reported that a social media campaign is underway to promote the upcoming events set for October 18.
9. Activities with Tourism Potential
 - a. Evansville Underground Music – check calendar <https://evansvilleundergroundmusic.org/calendar/>
 - b. Hop Garden music <https://www.facebook.com/HopGardenEvansville>
 - c. Ice Age Trail Mammoth Hike Challenge October
 - d. Theodore Robinson (Grove Society) program with PBS Oct 11
 - e. Fall Fest and Monster Mash Oct 18
 - f. Merchant Trick or Treat Oct 25

- g. Olde Fashioned Christmas Nov 21-22
 - h. Small Business Saturday Nov 29
 - i. Annual Evansville Craft Fair Dec 6
 - j. Ecumenical Choir Concert Dec 7
10. Next meeting dates are December 11, 2025, and February 12, 2026.
11. Motion to adjourn at 7:52pm by Shawn Dunphy, seconded by Abbey Barnes. Motion passed.