

Board Meeting Minutes



Date: June 18, 2026

Time: 7:30 AM

Location: Salina Downtown Inc. - Board room

1. Call to Order

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:30 AM
 2. Presiding: Aaron Wedel
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2. Roll Call (Checked = Present)

No Record

3. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

☐ No Record

4. Old Business

5. Action Items

1. Introduced Jaden to the board
2. Discussed and approved the façade request from On the Pot. \$15,000 now and the potential for \$3,307.24 at the end of the year depending on façade budget at that time.
3. Doug Rempe – discussed but due to time and cost considerations, no action decided at the meeting.

4. Leslie – Discussed the budget request Leslie did last week with the City Commission. Everyone in attendance thought it went well and was well received. The commission will hold a special session by the end of August to discuss budgets in greater detail.
 5. April talked about the Great American Main Street Award (GASMA) application and all that the SDI staff are doing to complete that.
 6. Farmer's Market going well and seems to be well received. There are some logistical complications with the temporary location because the staff has to move items across the street in shopping carts, but overall it's going well.
 7. April discussed the partnership with Steven Kimmi. It sounds like we are going to get 4 "reels" with Steven highlighting some of the retail shops in downtown Salina. He is also going to provide content that can go on Youtube.
 8. Jigsaw Jam – 5 spots left out of 25
 9. Red, White, & BBQ – July 18th. No tickets sold yet but April & Leslie are going to create a video explaining the event. There is a feeling that a lot of people will just show up and pay for the tickets on the day of the event. The tickets will just be for the food that Seraphim is making for the event. People can come free of charge if they don't pay for food.
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6. Staff Reports

Executive Director Report - Leslie Bishop

Executive Director Report

Since the Last Meeting

Highlights

- Leslie presented the **SDI 2027 Budget Request** to the City Commission on June 8.
- Leslie and April continue working on the **Great American Main Street Award (GAMSA)** application, which is due July 10.
- SDI has paid the first installment for the new downtown Christmas pole decorations.
- The Farmers Market season is off to a strong start and continues to run smoothly.

Meetings & Professional Development

- The SDI office attended an AI Seminar at Kansas State University Salina on May 26.

- Leslie attended the North Central Kansas Tourism Meeting in Council Grove on May 28.
- Leslie attended Kansas Main Street Quarterly Training in Ottawa June 2–4. Training topics focused on historic preservation and available tax credit programs.
- Leslie met with Lauren Driscoll to discuss the Design Review process in detail. The meeting included a productive discussion regarding SDI's proposed digital messaging board at City Lights Stage. Additional updates will be shared as the project progresses.
- Leslie will participate on a Kansas Leadership Center panel on June 18 alongside Mike Hoppock and Travis Young. The panel will discuss the role of arts and culture in downtown Salina with this year's leadership cohort.

Programs, Projects & Initiatives

- The Farmers Market continues to operate smoothly and has been well received by vendors and customers.
- Construction of the Downtown Shade Pavilion continues to make significant progress. Masonry work is expected to be completed soon; however, a final completion date has not yet been established.
- Leslie and April are finalizing SDI's GAMSAs application and supporting materials ahead of the July 10 deadline.
- SDI will partner with local blogger Steven Kimmi to develop new digital advertising content for YouTube and Cohort. This marketing effort will continue through the slower third-quarter months and will replace KSN advertising during the holiday season.

Community Engagement

- The SDI office, along with Stephanie Gillig, Kat Jeske, and Morgan Baughman, will represent Downtown Salina in Theater Salina's **Dancing with the Stars** event on August 14.
- July will be a busy month for downtown events, including:
 - Jigsaw Jam
 - Red, White & BBQ
 - The Great Escape with Rolling Hills Zoo
 - The weekly Farm & Art Market

Looking Ahead

SDI remains focused on advancing key projects, strengthening downtown marketing efforts, completing the GAMSAs application process, and preparing for a busy summer season of events and community engagement.

1.

Staff Report: April Rickman

1. No notes

Staff Reports: Diane Gebhart

1. Baskets are up and looking beautiful, in spite of the storm
 2. Planter pots are filling in nicely, aside from a few missing (stolen) plants
 3. New pump has been installed on truck with new hose and watering wand. All are functioning nicely.
 4. Business as usual except for the hurricane that ripped through town and, wreaked havoc on the trees and rooftops in downtown.
 5. Trash cage liners (cans) are going missing. Three so far.
 6. Uptick in Unhoused activity to include food waste, found clothing, and panhandling.
 7. Working to get things back to "normal" after the storm, while keeping my sanity
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7. Adjournment

Motion: Boyer

Second: All

Time Adjourned: 8:35 AM

8. Next Meeting

Date: 7/16/2026