

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 19, 2026

Time Scheduled: 7:30 AM

Location: Salina Downtown Inc. - Board room



1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at: 7:31 AM
 - Presiding: Aaron Wedel
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2. Roll Call

Board Members

- Hank Boyer
- Laurel Driskell
- Stephanie Gillig
- John Hendrick
- John Reber
- Eric Montoy
- Jera Richardson (Resigned)
- Aaron Wedel

- Matt Pestinger
- Kelli Webb
- Christi Nuding
- Erica Krukenberg
- Austin Walker

Staff / Others Present

- Leslie Bishop (Executive Director)
 - April Rickman (Marketing & Events Coordinator)
 - Dian Gebhardt (Aesthetic Specialist)
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3. Approval of Agenda, Previous Minutes & Financial Report

- Motion: Montoy
 - Second: Gillig
 - Approved
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4. Old Business

1. Lucaci Facade Request - Leslie to request a new facade request. - No Response
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5. Action Items

1. Facade Request - 215 S Santa Fe - Boyer motions to approve. Gillig seconds. Approved unanimously.
 2. Arcade Lights Project approved.
 3. 2027 Budget discussion. Considering 2% BID dues increase. Hendricks proposed 1.5% for 2027-2029 totalling 4.5% over 3 years. With a disclaimer or setting a cap. Leslie to draft a letter to review in the executive meeting and look for a motion to approve at March meeting.
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6. Staff Reports

Executive Director Report: Leslie Bishop

Meetings & Community Engagement

- Leslie attended the **2026 STS Announcement** at Arts & Humanities.
- Leslie attended the Community Marketing Initiative update with Visit Salina.
- Leslie participated in a Directors Roundtable professional development luncheon.
- Leslie attended the quarterly Entrepreneurial Development meeting at the Chamber.
- Leslie met with Linda Henderson (RHZ) to discuss planning for this year's *Great Escape* in July.
- Leslie and Dian attended the Chamber Annual Meeting.
- Leslie will attend Business After Hours at the Hilton Garden Inn on February 18.
- Leslie will attend Kansas Main Street Training and *Main Street at the Capitol* February 24–26.
- Leslie and Dian will attend the Farmers Market Pro “In-Tents” Conference February 28–March 6.

Business Development & Partnerships

- Leslie met with the General Manager and Regional Manager of Old Chicago. Old Chicago expressed interest in partnering more actively with SDI and increasing participation in downtown initiatives.
- Leslie met with the General Manager of AJ's Sports Grill, who also expressed interest in greater involvement with SDI.
- Leslie met with Eric Lander, original developer of the downtown revitalization project, to receive an update on the river project. Leslie shared ideas on how SDI could utilize the

proposed performance area and reviewed the types of events SDI hosts throughout the year.

- SDI has secured **\$8,850 in partnership funding** to date.
- Leslie made business visits throughout downtown. Feedback was very positive regarding 2025 and overall business climate.
- A new business, **Peachy Cheeks** (children's & women's boutique and gifts), will be opening at **104 S. Santa Fe**.

Programs & Events

- **Downtown Dough & Foodie Bingo** kicked off February 2 and runs through March 16.
- **Jigsaw Jam** on January 15 was sold out and very successful.
- The annual **Hot Cocoa Crawl** will take place February 20, with 12 stores participating. NEX-Tech is sponsoring the Downtown Gift Certificate giveaway.
- The Downtown Merchant Mixer had low attendance and did not justify the associated expense.

Farmers Market

- The Farmers Market currently has 6 vendors confirmed, including 2 brand-new vendors. Construction has started on shade structures.

Staff Report: April Rickman

Staff Reports: Diane Gebhart

- Spring cleaning of side streets to include removal of leaves and trash.
- Uptick in graffiti/ tagging. Working on removing as I see it. Have a plan for concentrated removal of graffiti during Spring Spruce up.
- Have caught one tagger on camera. Cameras also showing more late night "explorers" as well as police patrol.
- Parks and Rec have cleaned out the flower beds on Santa Fe. There is a plan in place for tree pruning after Feb 23.
- Making appointment for work truck to get oil changed and an overall inspection. This will happen while we are in San Diego.
- Spring Spruce up meeting was Wed. Spring Spruce up: April 18. 8:00 am - Noon
- Dumpsters at The Temple and Ashby House
- Projects include
 1. Amend flower pots.
 2. Graffiti removal

3. Pallet and other large debris removal from all trash corrals.
 4. Cleaning of the interior of these corrals.
 5. General Spring cleaning concentrated in the alleys and parking lots.
 6. Other as arises
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7. Adjournment

- Motion: Boyer
Second: Hendrick
 - Time Adjourned: 8:13 AM
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8. Next Meeting

- Date: 3/19/2026
- Time: 7:30 AM
Location: Salina Downtown Inc. - Board Room