

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: 7:32 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
- Aaron Wedel

Matt Pestinger

Kelli Webb

Christi Nuding

Erica Kruckenberg

Austin Walker

Staff / Others Present

Leslie Bishop (Executive Director)

April Rickman (Marketing & Events Coordinator)

Dian Gebhardt (Aesthetic Specialist)

3. Approval of Agenda, Previous Minutes & Financial Report

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

5. Action Items

1. Façade request from Blue Skye - 116 N Santa Fe (Monte Shadwick). This request was approved by the DRB and SDI in 2019, but then Covid...He is asking for \$8,000. installation and signage quote/estimate that would make up the rest of the \$20,000? Boyer motions to approve. **All second and approved unanimously.**
2. Reber to request Facade Calculation Spreadsheet from Mike Wilson
3. 2027 Budget Discussion continued - Wedel motions to pause BID increases and look to increase in 2028 and make a standard. Reber discusses incremental yearly asks for budget increase from city. Added to motion to request 10k from the city for budget increase
4. Holiday Decorations - Discussion around replacing snowflakes 1:1 (\$400-500 x 100 pieces) or with upgraded solar powered snowflakes. Webb suggests exploring new options and getting number on other options. Or as a back up plan just wrapping in garland. Bishop to report back at May board meeting. Webb motions to approve 30 poles wrapped in garland - \$7,538.25
5. Jady Kitchen hourly wage for 2026 Summer - Proposing increase \$2. Hendrick motions to approve. Kruckenberg seconds. **All Approve unanimously.**
6. Farmers Market Manager - Discussion around wage being too low preventing candidates from applying/accepting. Responsibilities increased to justify the increase. Boyer motion. Hendrick seconds to approve a 4k salary (with a cap of 5k for negotiation) and allow the Executive Director to use discretion in that hiring process. **Approved unanimously.**

6. Staff Reports

Executive Director Report: Leslie Bishop

Highlights

- SDI achieved the Six-Point Standards of Accreditation through Kansas Main Street for the 5th consecutive year.
 - The Holiday Festival & Parade of Lights received the Kansas Main Street Event of the Year Award.
 - Farmers Market vendor participation continues to grow, with 15 vendors currently registered.
 - Discussions have begun with Ultrashine regarding expanding downtown holiday lighting.
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Meetings & Professional Development

- Feb 24–26 Leslie attended Kansas Main Street Training and *Main Street at the Capitol* in Topeka and met with Steven Howe.
 - Feb 28 – Mar 6 Leslie and Dian attended the Farmers Market Pros IN-Tents Farmers Market Conference in San Diego. A summary was provided in the board packet.
 - Upcoming Attendance (Leslie):
 - North Central Kansas Tourism meeting — March 26
 - WE-Kan Conference in Newton — April 2
 - Main Street America Conference in Tulsa — April 11–17
 - Kansas Wesleyan University Women in Leadership Speaker Series — March 26
 - Salina Tourism meeting — April 7
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Programs & Events

- Downtown Dough & Foodie Bingo concluded March 16.
 - Blarney Stone Hunt takes place March 17.
 - Live First Fridays begin April 3, featuring Steel Scarecrow performing in Campbell Plaza.
 - Seven businesses have committed to staying open until 7 PM.
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Business & Downtown Activity

- Peachy Cheeks
 - Ribbon Cutting: March 27 at 1 PM
 - Grand Opening: March 28
 - Poppy & Vine has announced it will be closing.
 - Construction of the Downtown Shade Structure continues to progress.
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Additional Updates

- Leslie attended the Parks & Recreation meeting on March 18 regarding the City Lights Stage parking lot naming process.
- The Farmers Market Committee will meet March 23.

Staff Report: April Rickman

Staff Reports: Diane Gebhart

- **San Diego Trip / Market Conference**
 - Thank you!!!!
 - **Truck Status**
 - In good shape
 - New front brakes
 - Oil change completed
 - Battery is good
 - **Strand Plaza Planters**

Pots ordered

Tentative arrival: **Mid-April**
 - **Spring Spruce-Up April 18th**
 - Flyers distributed
 - **SAYP volunteers involved**
 - Focus areas:
 - Planter pots
 - Plazas
 - Alleys
 - Trash corrals
 - **Graffiti Removal Plan**
 - Creating a plan for removal
 - Collecting photos and addresses
 - **Planting Plan**
 - Working with **Elk Creek Gardens** on concrete pots
 - Tentative planting dates:
 - **May 17 or May 24**
 - **Hanging Baskets**
 - Planting scheduled for **week of May 17**
 - **General Cleanup**
 - Addressing trash corral issues
 - Removing stashed/odd items
 - **Wind vs. Signs**
 - Ongoing issue noted
 - **Main Street Kansas Awards**
 - Event in **Topeka**
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7. Adjournment

- Motion: Hendrick
 - Second: All
 - Time Adjourned: 8:38 AM
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8. Next Meeting

- Date: 4/16/2026
- Time: 7:30 AM
- Location: Salina Downtown Inc. - Board Room