Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2026

Time: 7:30 AM

Location: Salina Downtown Inc. - Board room

---

1. Call to Order

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:31 AM
2. Presiding: Aaron Wedel

---

2. Roll Call (Checked = Present)

Board Members

- ☑ ~~Hank Boyer~~
- ☑ ~~Laurel Driskell~~
- ☑ ~~John Hendrick~~
- ☑ ~~Eric Montoy~~
- ☑ ~~Aaron Wedel~~
- ☑ ~~Mike Wilson~~
- ☐ Kristy Hartley
- ☑ ~~Jim Loader~~
- ☑ ~~Jessica Allen~~
- ☐ Kristi Nuding
- ☑ ~~Kelli Webb~~
- ☑ ~~Erica Kruckenberg~~
- ☐ Austin Walker

Staff / Others Present

- ☑ ~~Leslie Bishop (Executive Director)~~
- ☑ ~~April Rickman (Marketing & Events Coordinator)~~
- ☑ ~~Dian Gebhardt (Aesthetic Specialist)~~
- ☐ Guest

---

3. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

- ☑ Motion: Hendrick
- ☑ Second: Boyer

4. Old Business

---

5. Action Items

1. Farmers Market Coordinator candidate update and move to board vote - Amanda Reynolds - Discussion around prior discussions and pros and cons. Boyer motions to hire. Wedel seconds. Approved.
2. Facade Requests
    a. Airgas - Discussion and review - Hendrick motions - Montoy seconds - Motion Approved.
    b. Rainbow Bricks - Discussion and review - Interior language removed from proposal - Boyer motions - Kruckenberg and Hendrick seconds - Motion Approved.
    c. Framing Matters - Discussion and review - motions - seconds - Motion Approved.
    d. Garage facade request extension still pending invoices and pushed to November
3. North Salina Veterans Banner Proposal - Boyer gives background on project - 3 year plan outlined. Conflict of downtown banners on Santa Fe. Emporia already has a program similar. The groups claim is there is additional interest in the project and they are wanting to extend into more streets (5th and 7th). Discussion around date ranges in the proposal. Considering challenges of the work and conflict of other christmas decorations. Boyer thinks the commission should be part of the process due to potential funding accusations. Discussion around the purpose of banners downtown. Leslie suggests a revised proposal. Discussion around signage litigation and timing. Proposing Memorial day through end of July.

    In summary: SDI to revise proposal. Send to board. Boyer to approach the commission informally. Moving to November agenda.

---

6. Staff Reports

Executive Director Report - Leslie Bishop

Meetings & Professional Development

- Leslie attended Kansas Main Street's third-quarter training in Emporia, September 21–23.
- Leslie attended a Main Street America (MSA) webinar on September 28 regarding accreditation reporting.
- Leslie continues working on SDI's MSA accreditation requirements and reporting.
- Leslie and SDI have joined Rotary through a corporate membership.

Downtown Activity & Events

- SDI had a tremendous turnout and a great evening for the October 2 First Friday.
- Leslie was on KSAL on September 30 to promote upcoming downtown events and activities.
- Leslie has been invited back to KSAL in early November to discuss downtown's holiday events.

Parade of Lights Planning

- SDI met with City staff on September 29 to discuss the possibility of closing Santa Fe Avenue for the Parade of Lights. It was determined that closing Santa Fe was not an option.
- Salina Police Department indicated it would try to increase bike patrols during the parade. The City will also place LED traffic signs at Santa Fe and Crawford and Santa Fe and Elm to alert the public to parade activity.
- Leslie, April, and Dian will position themselves at intersections along the parade route to encourage families to remain out of the street while candy is being distributed.

Business & Community Partnerships

- Leslie, along with John H. and Dian, met with Amanda Reynolds on September 29 to discuss the Farm & Art Market Coordinator position. The initial meeting went well, and Amanda later visited the market on October 3. Leslie gave her a tour and explained the market layout and setup.
- Leslie, April, and John H. held a follow-up conversation with Amanda. Pending SDI Board approval, Amanda would like to serve as the Market Coordinator for the 2027 season.
- Leslie, April, attended the Visit Salina meetup on October 6. The group toured the Hilton Garden Inn and Courtyard by Marriott.
- Brad Anderson invited Leslie to meet with a group of Manhattan stakeholders interested in learning about downtown Salina's public art, SDI's work with the Salina Arts and Humanities (SAH), and the programming coordinated by our office. The group toured downtown and discussed SculptureTourSalina (STS) and SDI's approach to public art and downtown programming.

City & Community Engagement

- Leslie, April, Dian, and Hank will meet with Barb Young on October 14 and members of the North Salina neighborhood group to discuss Barb's interest in having Veterans Day banners displayed downtown.
- Leslie will meet with Molly Howe of the Greater Topeka Partnership on October 14 and provide a tour of downtown.
- On October 15, Leslie will attend a roundtable with Greater Topeka Partnership at the Chamber Annex. Discussion topics will include the river project, downtown development, public-private partnerships, and housing.

Farm & Art Market

- The final Farm & Art Market of the 2026 season will be Saturday, October 17.
- Planning is underway for the 2027 season, including the selection of a Market Coordinator. Following the candidate meetings and market tour, Amanda Reynolds has expressed interest in accepting the position, pending SDI Board approval.

Looking Ahead

- **October 14:** Meeting with Molly Howe and downtown tour; meeting with Barb Young and the North Salina neighborhood group regarding Veterans Day banners.
- **October 15:** Greater Topeka Partnership roundtable at the Chamber Annex.
- **October 17:** Final Farm & Art Market of the season.
- **October 20–21:** Leslie will attend the Kansas Tourism Conference in Wichita.
- **Early November:** Leslie will return to KSAL to promote downtown holiday events.

Staff Report: April Rickman

Farm & Art Market

The final market day is this weekend. I am compiling the vendor list for submission to KDOR and gathering sales figures from downtown businesses. This data will help demonstrate economic impact for future grants and City reporting.

Sip & Stroll Salina

Sip & Stroll is this Saturday, October 17. We currently have 70 of 200 tickets sold. The KU-K-State football game may be impacting sales, though the reason for slower sales is uncertain. Era Pilates & Fitness will also host a 6:00 a.m. event in Campbell Plaza that morning.

Upcoming Events

- **Cultural Crawl:** Taking place Wednesday and Friday next week. SDI is assisting with business notifications and permitting.
- **Downtown Movie Night:** October 24 at City Lights Pavilion, featuring *The Goonies* at dark. Canyon Cocktails will serve drinks, and Revolution Church's youth group will sell concessions as a fundraiser. Starts around 7:30 pm (Dark)
- **Downtown Trick-or-Treat:** October 30, 4:00–6:00 p.m. I am coordinating locations for outside organizations participating downtown.
- **November First Friday:** November 6, featuring Urban Spelunkers from 6:00–8:00 p.m. Era Pilates & Fitness will host a Pilates event at 4:30 p.m.
- **Holiday Tree Lighting:** November 20, featuring Christmas carols performed by the Salina Youth Choir.
- **Holiday Festival & Parade of Lights:** November 21. I am recruiting Farm & Art Market vendors and confirming returning participants. The parade is full, and a waitlist has been started. Some groups have expressed disappointment about being unable to participate, but we are maintaining capacity and safety requirements.

Professional Development

I will attend the Kansas Young Professionals Summit in Manhattan on October 26.

Overall Update

Fall events and holiday preparations are progressing well. The next several weeks will be busy as we wrap up the market season, host upcoming events, and finalize holiday programming.

Staff Reports: Diane Gebhart

Fall Fix up - 6 volunteers = 14 hours

Removed pallets and other items. Thank you John Hendrick for coordinating this.

Heavy prune on planter pots

Clean sweep of Strand plaza and behind Prairieland Market

Warmer weather equals continued watering and maintenance of pots and baskets.

Baskets will come down after this weekends Sip and Stroll.

Planter pots on Santa Fe will be cleared out, tentatively October 25th. Volunteers? 9am –

On deck: All things Christmas..

Daily: ACORNS!!!!! And other as arises

---

7. Adjournment

Motion: Montoy

Second: Wedel

Time Adjourned: 8:36 AM

---

8. Next Meeting

Date: 11/19/2026

Time: 7:30 AM
Location: Salina Downtown Inc. - Board Room