



Hiawassee Downtown Development Authority Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Time: 8:30 AM
Location: 50 River Street, Upstairs Training Room
Board Present: Bradley Barrett, Nancy Noblet, Alex King, Shawn Farmer, Hannah Chriswell
Staff Present: Lily Ponitz, Jinelle Wagner
Guests Present: Leslie Howard, Jim Olson, Caitlin Ayers

- I. Call to order**
Bradley called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.
- II. Swear in newly appointed DDA board members – Hannah Chriswell, Alex King**
- III. Adopt agenda as set or amended**
Amend agenda to vote on PBC incubator lease after Executive Session.
Motion: Nancy | Second: Bradley | Approved
- IV. Approval of May, 19 2026 meeting minutes**
Motion: Bradley | Second: Nancy | Approved
- V. Financial Update – Lily**
 - DDA Budget is healthy and July there is the yearly replenishment
 - Firefly project has funds set aside
- VI. Directors Update – Lily**
 - a. Public Hearing is on Thursday, June 18th in city hall
 - b. Fireflies project is underway and working with artist on how to best make them light
 - Will need someone to take on this project for overseeing
 - c. Board member recruitment
 - Two board members still needed
 - d. Vice Chair Election will happen next meeting in July
- VII. Night Market Update – Caitlin**
 - a. The first night market in June was the biggest Caitlin has been a part of
 - b. Summer heat wants to lock in for next June and there is a band that want to already book again
 - c. There were 7 food and drink vendors, 2 non profits, and 19 artisan vendors
- VIII. Paris Business Center Update – Jinelle**
 - a. New incubator tenant is seeking approval for this meeting so they can move in
 - b. We are having consistent co-workers
 - c. Lots of up coming events and the PBC overall is doing very well bringing in funds and assistance to local businesses
- IX. New Business**
 - a. Approve invoice for mountain graphics for night market and music on the square - \$682
Motion: Bradley | Second: Shawn | Approved
 - b. WEAFF Grant for Hikewassee- Approve applying for grant
 - Funding to be used to expand the Hikeawassee program and utilize the van in the offseason.

- Grant-funded items will include: compensation for DDA director, YHC faculty, student interns, and guides; materials for public outreach displays and events.

Motion: Alex | Second: Bradley | Approved

- c. USDA RBDG Grant for PBC – Approve up-front cash funding to be reimbursed at the end of grant period (approx. \$6,000)
 - Funding to be used to expand staff resources to recruit new client businesses and pair these businesses with interns from YHC.
 - Grant will be managed by PBC, DDA is just providing cash injection for them to begin the project.

Motion: Bradley | Second: Alex | Approved

X. Old Business

- a. Fun-Draiser Planning updates – Donations, trips, volunteers
 - i. Donors are being contacted

XI. Public Comment

- Clarification of Night Market involvement was addressed

XII. Executive Session entered at 9:16

Motion: Nancy | Second: Bradley | Approved

Leaving Executive Session at 9:25

Motion: Nancy | Second: Bradley | Approved

XIII. New Incubator Tenant Approval

Voted to lease Suite A to Grass Guitars.

Motion: Nancy | Second: Bradley | Approved

XIV. Adjourn by general consent at 9:27 AM