

**Fayette County Development Authority
Regular Board Meeting
June 25, 2026**

Minutes

I. Call to Order and Welcome of Guests

Chair Pat Hinchey called the board meeting of the Fayette County Development Authority to order on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fayette County Development Authority's conference room in Fayetteville.

Members Present:

Pat Hinchey
Darryl A. Hicks
Dr. Luis Matta
Tracy Young
Dr. Alvetta Thomas
Virginia Gibbs
Gary Zarlengo

Staff Present:

Niki Vanderslice
Rosie Matta
Amanda Fields

Guests:

Nathan Lee, General Council
Maggie Reenstra, Coweta-Fayette EMC
Leonardo McCarty, President and CEO, Fayette Chamber
Eric Dial, Executive Director, Fayette Forward
Penny Whiteheart, Creative EDC- via conference call

Caroline Creel, Assistant Executive Director, Fayette Forward
Dylan Shoemaker, Senior Reporter, Fayette County News
Tyler Runyon, Tourism and Economic Director, Peachtree City

II. Approval of Agenda

Gary Zarlengo made a motion to approve the agenda. Tracy Young seconded the motion. All were in favor.

III. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Luis Matta, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 28th, 2026, Regular Meeting and Executive Session. Virginia Gibbs seconded the motion. All were in favor.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Alvetta Thomas reported that the financial statements were in order. She noted there were no additional budget items to report.

V. Old Business – Organizational Assessment and Recommendations

Penny Whiteheart of Creative EDC joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams to present the organizational assessment and recommendations. Following the presentation, President & CEO Niki Vanderslice opened the floor for questions and discussion.

During the discussion, Board members emphasized that the organizational assessment process began in January of 2026 and was part of the long-term organizational plan established when Ms. Vanderslice accepted the role of President & CEO. The Board reaffirmed that the purpose of the

assessment was to strengthen the organization's leadership structure and position the Authority for long-term success.

Darryl A. Hicks stated, "We are not running you off. That is not what this is about," clarifying the Board's support for Mrs. Vanderslice and the strategic intent of the organizational planning process.

VI. Staff Updates

Staff reports were included in the Board's meeting materials and provided for review. No additional discussion was held.

VII. President's Report President & CEO Niki Vanderslice provided the following updates:

Launch Fayette- David Conti has been appointed as the new Executive Director. Steve Justice's retirement celebration is scheduled for June 30.

Piedmont Hospital Tour- Earlier in the day, several Board members and staff participated in a tour of Piedmont Fayette Hospital. An additional tour will be scheduled for those who were unable to attend.

Marketing & Communications- Katie Quattlebaum is developing a comprehensive master presentation deck consisting of 43 slides. Planning is also underway for an Economic Development 101 series, with sessions anticipated to accommodate approximately 15 participants each. A video series rollout is also in development.

Economic Development- The approximately 90-acre New Hope North property has been placed on the market.

Research & Discovery Trip- Planning continues for the 2026 Research & Discovery Trip to Cary, North Carolina.

Partner's Success Grant Program- The FY2027 grant cycle will open on July 1, with applications due by August 7.

Fayette Forward- Beginning in FY2027, the required grant match will increase to 25%, and Fayette Forward will transition to providing its own administrative support.

VIII. Partners' Reports:

Fayette Board of Education- no report

Fayette Chamber of Commerce- Leonard McClarty distributed copies of the *Source* magazine to Board members. He also provided updates on the upcoming Workforce Summit and announced a Training and Development event scheduled for July 14 at the FCDA office.

Fayette Forward- Eric Dial reported that the Soccer Housing Bureau continues to strengthen its partnership with the U.S. Soccer Federation and that the relationship remains active and productive.

Joint Development Authority (JDA)- No report.

City of Fayetteville- No report. Mayor Edward Johnson was attending the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Annual Convention in Savannah, Georgia.

Town of Tyrone- Tracy Young reported that the Night Market generated more than \$30,000 in economic activity. He shared that updating the DDA's logo and developing its own website are scheduled to be considered by the Town Council on September 11th. Additionally, the Town Council deeded two acres adjacent to Shamrock Park to the DDA to support future development opportunities. Mr. Young also announced that the Town's Fourth of July celebration is scheduled from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Peachtree City- Mrs. Virginia Gibbs reported that Peachtree City has named Tyler Runyon as its Destination and Economic Development Director. Before assuming this role, Mr. Runyon served as Executive Director of Visit Peachtree City since March 2024. She also shared that the City Council is scheduled to review the Peachtree City Annexation Study, recently completed by KB Group, during its August meeting.

IX. Executive Session

At 4:50 p.m., Dr. Luis Matta, Jr. made a motion to enter executive session for real estate matters. Darryl A. Hicks seconded the motion. All were in favor.

At 5:09 p.m., Tracy Young made a motion to adjourn the executive session, and Dr. Alvetta Thomas seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Dr. Luis Matta, Jr. made a motion to authorize Niki Vanderslice to proceed with the closing on the county-owned property at the airport, contingent upon her confirmation that the property may be used for aviation purposes. Darryl A. Hicks seconded the motion. All were in favor.

X. Adjourn

At 5:10 p.m., Dr. Luis Matta, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darryl A. Hicks seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.