



DESOTO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, June 12, 2025

The Board of Directors of the DeSoto Development Corporation (DDC) met on **Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Council Conference Room located in City Hall at the DeSoto Town Center, 211 East Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, Texas 75115, The meeting was streamed live on Facebook and archived on the websites.

As authorized by Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into a closed Executive Session to seek confidential legal advice from the Corporation's attorney on any agenda item listed herein.

**“Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sec. 551.127, on a regular, non-emergency basis, members may attend and participate in the meeting remotely by video conference. Should that occur, a quorum of members, including the presiding officer, will be physically present at the location noted on this Agenda.”**

**REGULAR SESSION - THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER**  
by President Michael Baldwin at 6:05 p.m.

**Present:**

Michael Baldwin, Board President  
Mark Jones, Director  
Akilah Wallace, Director  
Dr. Micaela Herndon, Director

**Absent:**

Felicia Pierson, Secretary/Treasurer  
James Pruitt, Director

**Present via Video Conference:**

Dr. Ahmad Garrett-Price, Director

**Staff Present:**

Matt Carlson – DDC Chief Executive Officer  
Antoine Long - Economic Development Manager  
Melba Hill – Administrative Assistant III  
Soledad Garcia – Economic Development Project Coordinator  
Chanler Marble – Intern  
Keithan Sutton - Intern  
Adriana Castaneda – Deputy City Manager

**Also Present:**

Kaleb Smith, Attorney



Director Mark Jones offered the invocation.

**REGULAR AGENDA— NEW BUSINESS**— Items for discussion and/or possible action:

1. New DDC Summer interns were introduced. Keithan Sutton and Chanler Marble shared their backgrounds and aspirations. The internship will last eight weeks, ending at the end of July. The interns' capstone task is to plan the annual Young Professionals Forum, scheduled for Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. Finance Status Report as of April and May 2025 – Tracy Cormier, Director of Financial Services  
Mr. Cormier was not present to present the financial statements.
3. Projects, attraction efforts, site visits, and general operations report  
Matt Carlson – Chief Executive Officer  
  
Mr. Carlson delivered updates on the business plan goals, department goals, and staff personal and professional development plans, which are summarized in the attached report.
4. Discussion on Next Steps for the Healthy DeSoto Initiative.  
Plan to present the Healthy DeSoto project in the City Council study session in July (tentatively July 16), involving CIG experts and subcommittee members. The goal is to inform the council better, seek their approval, and engage them in the process.
5. Nominations and Election of Corporate Officer – (Vice President)  
President Baldwin opened the floor for nominations. Micaela Herndon nominated Mark Jones. Akilah Wallace was self-nominated. A voice vote resulted in an unbroken tie between the two candidates. President Baldwin, on the suggestion of legal counsel, tabled the item until the July meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The DDC Chief Executive lists items on the Consent Agenda and recommends them to the DDC Board of Directors for a single vote of approval. At the request of a board director, any item on the Consent Agenda may be removed for a separate vote.

1. Consider approving the minutes of the April 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.
2. Consider approving the financial statement for April and May 2025.

**All board items were approved unanimously on a motion by Director Micaela Herndon, seconded by Director Mark Jones.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE:**

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087



1. Update on Project Recreation.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

No action was taken as a result of the executive session

## **BOARD AND LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES**

The board acknowledged the passing of Director Felicia Pierson's father, Mr. Nathaniel Pierson.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:39 p.m.

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J. Matt Carlson—Chief Executive Officer