



ALLIANCE FOR DADE, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 TUESDAY, September 9, 2025
 HISTORIC COURTHOUSE EVENT ROOM

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

Quorum Present? **Yes**

	Name		Present
Board Directors and Officers	George Williams	Chair	✓
	Jane Dixon	Vice Chair	✓
	Harry Abell	Secretary	✓
	Marcy Williams	Treasurer	✓
	Dena Abell		✓
	Stacey Prater		
	Carey Fauscett-Anderson		✓
	Josh Ingle		✓
	Hans Pfunder		✓
	Kathleen Reed		✓
	Leisa Cagle		✓
	Mark Cagle		✓
	William Back	General Counsel	✓
Staff	Sandy White	President & CEO	✓
	Patricia Cloud	Welcome Center Manager	✓

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND ROUTINE MOTIONS

Call to Order	George Williams, Chair at 6:02 pm
Invocation	Harry Abell
Pledge of Allegiance	William Back
Introduction of Guests	George Williams – Introduced our guest Allison Johnson - UGA Extension Office. Allison spoke briefly about her background and work. All Board and staff members then introduced themselves
Motion to Approve Minutes from meeting held on July 8, 2025	Motion by: Marcy Williams Second by: Leisa Cagle Vote: Unanimous approval

TREASURER'S REPORT – Marcy Williams

Motion to Accept Financial Report: Harry Abell

Second by: Carey Anderson

Vote: Unanimous approval

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Sandy White – Said the new Downtown Direction Kiosk is installed and is well received. The Autumn Splendor silent auction has items displayed on the first floor of the Historic Court House. There is a QR code to make bidding easy. She informed us that the Walker County Chamber Executive has resigned.

President’s Report attached.

Motion to accept the President’s Report: Leisa Cagle

Second by: Josh Ingle

Vote: Unanimous approval

TEAM REPORTS

Executive Team – George Williams. No updates currently

Finance Team – George Williams. George Williams, Jane Dixon and Marcy Williams met and reviewed the bank statements. The report was acceptable and approved

Governance Team – George Williams said we need to find a replacement for Josh Ingle. If you are interested in leading this team contact George Williams

Workforce Development - Hans Pfunder. Hans is working to develop a comprehensive suite of training classes. This will be developed as it is determined what is needed in Dade County for companies and workers. First Aid/First Responder and Fire Fighting training are two classes that are under development. Hans said an “Alliance Approved Stamp” for the trainings with Certificates of Completion given to graduates will encourage companies to recognize the significance of the training we provide. This is the current goal he is working towards.

Jolly Holiday Market Team - Jane Dixon. She said work is underway and meetings are on a regular basis but will become more frequent as the date approaches. A Pellett Stove will be the grand prize for one person who has the right ticket.

Two Mountains Fine Art Show Team - Marcy Williams. The show was a success, and some high school students had artwork displayed. The atmosphere was better this year by having seating, high top tables presented a better setting for the show. Marcy said the principal; Brent Cooper was a great help in providing the facilities.

Hawthorn Project – George Williams. The next meeting is September 20, 2025. Carey mentioned that Kathy Ragon would like to be a mentor and heard that we have a 501(c)(3) and was pleased that we are a non-profit organization.

Tourism Funding Team – Carey Fauscett-Anderson. The New Salem Mountain Festival was approved for tourism promotion funds. Jane Dixon, Chair for Tree City, explained the benefits and the plans they have to improve tourism. They will identify trees, tag them with a barcode on the information plaque, and then develop tour maps.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The 2026 Planning Session for Board members will be on September 10 at 5 PM in the Historic Court House. The results are to aid Sandy and George in planning 2026 budgets. One objective of the meeting is to decide how to improve revenue streams for Alliance for Dade's General Account fund.

Update on Dade Community Foundation: William Back said the paperwork has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service and he expects to get the IRS approval letter soon. Next steps are to establish a board and develop a strategic plan

NEW BUSINESS

Need Chair for the Governance team: George Williams asked for anyone who is interested in this position to contact him.

Budget Planning for 2026 is underway: George Williams said the first draft is complete and a final budget will be presented at the November 2025 Board meeting.

Proposal for Historic Marker: William said the spot is where Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia meet. This location is on private property, and the area is referred to as TAG using the first letter of the three states. William recommended a team be formed to investigate what is needed to add a marker to this location. Stacey will be the Chair and Harry, Dena and William volunteered to assist the team. It would be great to have someone from the Historical Society to join the team.

OPEN FLOOR

Harry did talk to Terry Powell about a splash pad. He talked to Ft. Payne and Scottsboro. Terry's concern is would there be enough kids to warrant a splash pad.

Jane Dixon provided information on Tree City and the team's work to develop a brochure that would be of interest to tourists. She said she provided a booklet on the table (first floor) where other information is available and quickly all the brochures were taken.

Sandy talked about the Dade Development Authority (DDA) meeting on Sept. 9. They are working to obtain big banners (2' x 6') like the Welcome to Trenton banner. This is a DDA fundraiser that would have banners up 11 months out of the year. Sandy is encouraging the DDA to apply for tourism funds for this project since it will beautify Trenton and be welcoming to tourists.

Evan Stone provided (via George) a handout with an article from the Chattanooga Newspaper. The article was about growth in our general area. A handout to each of us was distributed.

ADJOURNMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion to Adjourn at 7:10 pm	Motion to Adjourn: Harry Abell Second: Vote: Kathleen Reed Unanimous approval
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Next Regular Meeting	Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm Dade County Historic Courthouse Event Room on 2 nd floor
Attachments	President's Report
Submitted by	Harry Abell, Secretary
<i>Note: These Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Board</i>	