



ALLIANCE FOR DADE, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, January 13, 2026
 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	✓
Guests	Jon Wylie	Owner, Corner Coffee	✓
	Wesley Bethune	Agent, Alfa Insurance	✓

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND ROUTINE MOTIONS

Call to Order	George Williams, Chair at 6:00 pm
Invocation	Harry Abell
Pledge of Allegiance	Harry Abell
Introduction of Guests	Jon Wiley with Corner Coffee Wesley Bethune with Alfa Insurance
Motion to Approve Minutes of meeting held on November 18, 2025	Leisa said on page 3 under Dade Community Foundation. Delete Mark Cagle, Add William Back and Jayne Griffin Motion by: Jane Dixon– as amended Second by: Leisa Cagle Vote: Unanimous approval

The two guests were introduced and board members briefly introduced themselves. No public comments.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Marcy said the financial statements for 2025 will not be finalized until February

because some 2025 invoices are still being received in January. One CD will be coming up for renewal - Live Oak Bank - paying about 4% and will probably renew as it is for another year. There is a new line on the income statement - *Investor Marketing Services* – reflecting funds received for running Banner Ads on our website. Marcy called attention to the Consignment Commission line which shows that we have sold over \$4,000 in work by local artists.

The Hawthorn project received \$725 in donations at the Jolly Holiday Market. This account has over \$3175.

Motion to Accept: Leisa Cagle

Second by: Stacey Prater

Vote: Unanimous approval

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Sandy said we have 4 new members, 18 renewals, 3 drops. December was a busy month for her and the staff - Eat & Greets well attended.

The Winter Chautauqua conference for tourism professionals on March 8-9 will showcase area attractions and skills. Northwest Georgia Travel Association is hosting this year at McLemore Resort, paid for by Dade and Walker County (50/50). There will be a pre-conference reception on March 8 at Cloudland Canyon State Park to showcase local artists and food creations. The conference will feature two speakers - Noel Durrant (Tennessee Land Trust) and Doug Chapin (CEO Rock City). David Hussey with Steel Pioneer Fire Cooking will be a presenter.

Sandy requested additional holidays for the Alliance for Dade staff. She requested: Martin Luther King Day, Columbus Day, New Years Eve (half day), Veterans Day and Presidents Day in addition to the current holidays: Thanksgiving Day, New Years Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

Josh Ingle moved to accept the additional days as presented by Sandy. After more discussion, Jane suggested adding a half day before Thanksgiving. Kathleen Reed proposed an amended motion to accept the half day on the day before Thanksgiving.

Motion to accept: Kathleen Reed

Second by: Leisa Cagle

Vote: Unanimous approval

TEAM REPORTS

Executive Team – George Williams –No update

Finance Team – Jane reported that she, George, and Marcy go through all the finances as a check and balance system. No discrepancies found.

Governance Team – Leisa Cagle is the new chair and the team includes George, Marcy, Josh and William. Leisa reviewed the *Conflict-of-Interest* section in the Bylaws and the document that Board members sign every year. She explained how many Board directors we can have and when they are elected. She also explained when Officers are elected. She said that Carey Anderson is leaving the Board, as her three-year term has concluded.

Workforce Development – Hans spoke about the currently scheduled training classes and the future ones that are under development. Future training is projected to include a Train-the-Trainer class, CPR classes (end of February) and a First Response class. The cost of our Forklift training is half of what is charged in Dalton, GA.

Tourism Funding Team – Carey Anderson explained what this team is, their responsibilities and how requests for funding are processed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Historic Marker - Stacey left a business card at a house near the 3 corners property but no response yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Director election

Leisa reported that Jon Wylie and Wes Bethune are considering joining the Alliance board. The Governance Team recommends that George, Marcy and Jane be re-elected for a second three-year term (2026-2028).

Made Motion: Leisa Cagle

Second by: Josh Ingle

Unanimous Approval

George presented Carey with a certificate of appreciation for serving on the board.

Leisa handed out the annual Conflict of Interest Statement for each board member to sign. She said you can be on other boards if this is disclosed on the Conflict-of-Interest document you sign. You cannot be an elected official and serve on the Board. Leisa collected the signed statements.

2026 Calendar the meeting dates for 2026 was a handout

SPLOST - Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax was addressed by George and William. The SPLOST is on the ballot in May 2026 (approval to continue the tax). George emphasized that Alliance for Dade will not get in the political arena. However, SPLOST has done wonders for our county - and we can be advocates for SPLOST. 16% of SPLOST goes to city and the rest goes to County. Details are on the county website under financials every month. As of December, a total of \$5 million was received by the city and county. George feels it is important for the Alliance for Dade and provides information of why this is so important. William said that we can only educate and advocate for approving the continuation of SPLOST. Williams said we should poll our members to gain their opinion on the vote.

William said that the Alliance is permitted by law to advocate for approving the continuation of SPLOST if our Investors feel that SPLOST renewal is something we should work toward. William said we should poll our members to gain their opinion on the vote.

George agreed that we poll our investors to determine their level of support for renewal of the SPLOST. George will work with Sandy and Carey to develop a Google survey.

Made Motion: Harry Abell

Second by: Stacey Prater

Unanimous Approval

Plan of Work – A hand out was provided that summarized the projects that Alliance for Dade will focus on in 2026. Sandy mentioned that Destination Dade will be a virtual session in 2026 to educate local

businesses on how to benefit from our visitors and have them feel welcome and appreciated.

OPEN FLOOR

Carey spoke about the commission seats that will be up for election in November 2026. The Board of Education will have two vacant seats - Jennifer Hartline and Jason Crisp. Ryan Faircloth has resigned from Dade Development Authority (DDA) and that seat is available.

Jane said that the Jolly Holiday event was a great success. We will be having the follow-up meeting soon. Darlene is finished tabulating the survey sheets from the event. Carey said 40 students volunteered during the event.

Hans mentioned that Lydia Berglar is no longer at the Sentinel - John Boan is the new editor/reporter.

Sandy reminded board about the ribbon cutting on Friday January 16 at 1pm for The Shed on the Brow.

No executive session.

ADJOURNMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Adjourned at 7:13 pm by George	
Next Regular Meeting	Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm Dade County Historic Courthouse Event Room on 2 nd floor
Submitted by	Harry Abell, Secretary
<i>Note: These Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Board</i>	