

GFDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 15, 2026

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Heritage Hall at Great Falls College

Approved 6/4/26

2100 16th Ave S.

Signed By: Nate Weisenburger, Secretary

Great Falls, MT 59405



Zoom Option

Meeting ID: 940 1482 9623

Passcode: 216683

IN PERSON MEETING with Zoom Option

See complete Zoom login Below.

GFDA Staff Present:

Brett Doney, Christian Leinhauser, Jake Clark, Jenn Gallmeier, Kristen Blue, Mariah Liebing, Tracy Heggem

GFDA Board Members Present:

Andreas Geranios, Brett Harris, Caroline Goulet, Dani Grebe, Dax Miller, Ed Brown (joined 8:15am), Glenn Bliss, Heather Hoyer (joined 8:25am), Jesse Waldenberg, Jim Dea, Joe Briggs, Johnna Lightbourne, Len Watkins, Mark Cappis, Mike Mills, Nate Weisenburger, Randy Gilbertson, Rebecca Engum, Reed Bassett, Shane Etwiler, Shannon Hoiland, Stephanie Erdmann, Tiffany Hensley-McBain, Tracy Jerman

Non-Voting GFDA Board Members Present:

John Faulkner

GFDA Council Members Present:

Amber Plant, Brad Talcott, Brandon Rosten, David Dahl, Jana Cooper, Jim Wingerter, Keith Cron, Mike Hallahan, Zac Griffin

Guests:

Andy Janes (Consulate General of Canada), Daniel Harrison (Cascade County Community Installation Liaison), Joe McKenney (City Commission) Meegan Bennett (McGough), Michael Carr (Touro University MT)

We encourage in person participation whenever possible. Times are approximate and agenda items may be taken out of order. Any Director with a potential conflict of interest on the agenda should state the conflict at the start of the meeting.

- 8:00 1. Introductions – Johnna Lightbourne
Introductions of Board and Council members, investors, staff and guests.
- 8:02 2. Consent Agenda – Johnna Lightbourne
a) Accept excused absences: Pat Woodall, Toby Malsam
b) Approve minutes of 4/2/26 Board meeting.
ACTION TAKEN: Motion to approve Consent Agenda. Motion seconded. None opposed. Motion carries.
- 8:04 3. GFDA Council Appointment– Johnna Lightbourne
Approve/disapprove appointment of Tony Ewalt of Sletten Construction to GFDA Council.
ACTION TAKEN: Motion to approve appointment of Tony Ewalt of Sletten Construction to GFDA Council. Motion seconded. None opposed. Motion carries.

- 8:06 4. GFDA Bylaws Updates– Johnna Lightbourne
Review and approve/disapprove Bylaws updates developed by the Bylaws task force and recommended by the Executive Committee.
ACTION TAKEN: Motion to approve Bylaws updates developed by the Bylaws task force and recommended by the Executive Committee. Motion seconded. None opposed. Motion carries.
- 8:08 5. Budget Building Parameters for FY2027 – Brett Doney
Discuss parameters for building FY2027 budget.
- 8:24 6. Tax Abatements & Tax Increment Financing – Jolene Schalper & Brett Doney
Discuss how these tools are utilized to make projects happen that otherwise would not.
- 8:52 7. Key Takeaways from Recent Industry Events– GFDA Team
Discuss key takeaways from defense, downtown, economic development, finance, foreign direct investment, and real estate events which GFDA team members have participated in.
- 9:19 8. Investor Report – Jenn Gallmeier
- 9:22 9. Pipeline Report – Jolene Schalper
- 9:30 10. CEO Report – Brett Doney
- 9:35 11. Board & Council Sharing – Johnna Lightbourne
Updates from Board and Council members on issues affecting GFDA’s mission and organization.
- 9:40 12. Public Comment – Johnna Lightbourne
Opportunity for public comment.

Zoom Login

Topic: GFDA Board Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

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