

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD IN PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026

NOTE: Items appearing in these minutes are in the order they were discussed, not necessarily in the order they appeared on the agenda.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Secretary/Treasurer Michele Maserjian called the meeting to order at 1:15 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present: Secretary/Treasurer Michele Maserjian, Director Akber Lassi, Director Sydney Jakes, and Director Dean Moore.

The following Board members were absent: Vice Chairperson Adria Marshall, Director Ganaro Makor, and Chairperson Rezwan Amad.

The following staff member was present: Jacob Bouie, Economic Development Coordinator.

III. APPROVAL OF THE 7/13/2026, AGENDA

Motion made by Director Dean Moore to approve the July 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda.

The motion was seconded by Director Sydney Jakes.

The aye votes were: 4, with the nay votes: 0.

Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE 6/8/2026, MEETING MINUTES

a) 6/8/2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Director Dean Moore to approve the June 8, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The motion was seconded by Director Sydney Jakes.

The aye votes were: 4, with the nay votes: 0.

Motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any member of the public may address the Board during the time allotted for public comment. Each attendee will be allowed 3 minutes for comments at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. The public comment period will be limited to 40 minutes, and it is not a time for dialogue. If your public comment contains a series of questions, please submit those to the Planning & Economic Development Director in writing. This will facilitate follow-up by the council or staff. The DDA desires to allow an opportunity for public comment; however, the business of the DDA must proceed in an orderly, timely manner.

There were no public comments.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

a) DDA Strategic Priority Results Summary

Jacob Bouie presented the DDA Strategic Priority Results Summary prepared by Georgia Tech. Mr. Bouie reviewed the four focus areas identified in the summary: Relationship Building, Small Business Support, Placemaking, and Housing.

Directors offered comments and questions regarding the focus areas. Mr. Bouie noted that Director feedback would be provided to Georgia Tech for the next phase of the strategic planning process.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a) DDA Training Opportunities Discussion

The Board discussed two DDA training opportunities.

The first training opportunity is the Basic DDA Training offered by UGA. The in-person training is scheduled to be held in Macon, Georgia, with a registration cost of \$279. A September 2026 class and a December 2026 virtual class are available.

The second training opportunity is offered by Georgia Tech CEDR. This training is free, virtual, and is a two-hour supplemental class offered in September and November 2026.

Mr. Bouie stated that he will send the training links to the Directors. Mr. Bouie noted that new DDA Directors are required to complete DDA Basic Training within their first year, and DDA Directors are required to complete a two-hour supplemental course after the first year. Mr. Bouie stated that he will continue to look for additional DDA Basic Training opportunities.

1. UGA - Development Authority Basic Training
2. Georgia Tech CEDR - Board Boost Development Authority Training

b) DDA Quick Wins Project(s) Discussion — Placemaking Ideas

The Board continued discussion regarding potential DDA quick-win projects and placemaking ideas.

Director Dean Moore recommended that the DDA review some of the projects presented and determine which projects may be appropriate to pursue, as well as the best locations for those projects. Mr. Bouie stated that he would present the ideas to Georgia Tech for a more strategic approach.

The Board discussed active windows and vacant window displays. Discussion included code officers reviewing whether active windows meet City ordinance requirements and concerns related to windows covered with blinds, drapes, storage shelves, or similar materials and financial support from the city.

c) DDA Quick Wins Project(s) Discussion — Quarterly Business Meet & Greet

Motion made by Director Dean Moore to table the discussion to the next DDA meeting in August.

The motion was seconded by Director Sydney Jakes.

The aye votes were: 4, with the nay votes: 0.

Motion passed.

d) Discussion: DDA Business Outreach Framework

Motion made by Director Dean Moore to table the discussion to the next DDA meeting in August.

The motion was seconded by Director Sydney Jakes.

The aye votes were: 4, with the nay votes: 0.

Motion passed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a) Discussion: Availability for Joint Work Session with City Council and Georgia Tech 7/21 or 7/23

The Board discussed a potential joint work session with City Council, Urban Pulse, and Georgia Tech. Mr. Bouie noted that Urban Pulse is the economic development firm working with the City.

The work session was discussed for Thursday, July 23, 2026, at either 6:00 P.M. or 6:30 P.M. Mr. Bouie stated that he would confirm the time.

b) Discussion and Review of the DDA Regular Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed the DDA Regular Meeting Schedule. It was noted that Chairperson Rezwan Amad requested feedback on whether the current meeting schedule works for all Directors.

The Board generally agreed to consider moving the regular meeting schedule to the first Monday of the month at 6:00 P.M. The Board agreed to vote on the meeting schedule at the August meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Director Dean Moore to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 P.M.

The motion was seconded by Director Sydney Jakes.

The aye votes were: 4, with the nay votes: 0.

Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:53 P.M.