

Meeting Details

Subject:	Joliet City Center Partnership Board Meeting
Date:	Thursday, August 13, 2026
Time:	8:04 a.m.
Participants	Mike Paone, Susy Huerta, Brian Kincaid, Tim Brophy, Howard Wright, Elaine Bottomley, Amber Duffy, Pepe Sanchez, Cornell Lurry, Paulina Martinez, Bryce Jordan, Greg Peerbolte
Did not attend:	Tiffany Johnson, Michele Arana, Jim Roolf
Call-in:	Night Train Veeck
Staff Members:	Emmanuel Lopez, Jesica Aguirre
Guests:	
Meeting Handouts:	August 2026 Board of Directors Agenda; July 2026 Minutes & Financial Reports,

Meeting Notes

- I. Call to Order**
 - i. Mike Paone called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes**
 - i. **BOARD ACTION:** Motion to approve July Minutes as presented by Paone. Motion to approve by Jordan; seconded by Huerta. Motion carried anonymously.
- III. Approval of Financials**
 - i. July 2026 financials were presented. **BOARD ACTION:** Motion to approve the July 2026 financials as presented; Motion to approve by Brophy; seconded by Jordan. Motion carried unanimously
- IV. Board Chair Report – Mike Paone**
 - i. Congratulations were given to Manny on his one year anniversary with JCCP
 - ii. Board recruitment efforts are underway following several board departures, with three potential candidates currently being considered

- iii. Members were encouraged to recommend potential board and committee members connected to businesses within the SSA
- iv. The MOU with the City expires at the end of the year, with discussions ongoing regarding potential updates
- v. The first SSA Steering Committee meeting focused on SSA education, funding opportunities, boundaries, and potential changes, with continued feedback and public engagement planned; the next meeting is scheduled for September 1

V. Marketing Committee – Mike Paone

- i. **BOARD ACTION:** Motion to approve three grant applications: Amalove for \$1,000, Fiesta en la Plaza \$2,000, and Will County Community Media Network (WCCN) for \$1,500, made by Tim, seconded by Bryce. Motion carried unanimously, with a correction noted to the WCCN application name
- ii. Tiffany Johnson is on vacation, and Mike Paone presented the Marketing Committee report
- ii. A new Heritage Corridor travel magazine was released
- iii. Janet Hosey was introduced as the new Communications Manager at the public library
- iv. The WCCN application was corrected to reflect the organization's name as Will County Community Media Network

VI. Economic Development Committee – Brian Kincaid

- i. The Economic Development Committee did not meet this month
- ii. The AudioPhils sign is awaiting City approval
- iii. JJC-ECB in collaboration with Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a Federal Reserve Forum was held with approximately 50–60 attendees
- iv. Assisting a new business in the Crystal Building with business planning, marketing, and website guidance. TNT CLD Training Academy is planning a trucking school in the Crystal Building but is not currently eligible for JCCP grants due to its location
- v. Express Lane is exploring a project expected to bring approximately 100–140 jobs to the SSA, with grant eligibility being reviewed
- vi. Sabor Latino is planning a Colombian/Venezuelan restaurant in the Su Celeste building, with grant eligibility being reviewed

VII. Beautification Committee – Mike Paone

- i. An open Beautification Chair position is available, with Amber Duffy being considered
- ii. Megan Millen is no longer on board, and Mike Paone presented the Beautification Committee report
- iii. Quotes will be gathered for winter decorations for planters, with a typical winter budget of approximately \$20,000–\$21,000

- iv. The committee discussed using open spaces and vacant storefronts for window displays, directional signage, and colorful, engaging decorations

VIII. Owners & Managers Association Chair Report – Susy Huerta

- i. The OMA meeting was held on August 6 at 8:00 AM with approximately 15 attendees and included a panel discussion
- ii. The next OMA meeting is scheduled for October 1 at 8:00 AM at Mason Marianna, 124 North Ottawa Street, and will be the final OMA meeting of the year; board members are encouraged to attend

IX. Staff Report - Emmanuel

- i. Businesses expressed a need for more exposure during a recent Business in Brew discussion, leading to plans for an additional business spotlight campaign
- ii. Status Group will assist with reels and short videos highlighting local businesses, including those outside downtown
- iii. Kids Fest was moved from August 1 to September 19 from 10 am –3 pm; registration will reopen with an expanded event map
- iv. Mexican Independence Day Parade currently has two sponsors and 12 parade entries
- v. Black Joy is sold out for vendors and parade entries, with a waitlist in place
- vi. Light Up the Holidays has secured a title sponsor, Secure Bank

X. City Report – Paulina Martinez

- i. A downtown business survey will be shared to gather feedback on the impact of City Square and suggestions for future improvements
- ii. September programming is being planned, along with holiday and winter activities; programming ideas are welcome
- iii. The Starved Rock National parade is scheduled for Friday at 8 pm, with the route traveling through downtown

XI. County Report – Elaine Bottomley

- i. The County Executive is focused on children’s literacy, including the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program brought to Will County through a partnership with the county and CED
- ii. Children who meet the program’s eligibility requirements can register to receive free books each month
- iii. A golf outing will be held August 25 at Golf Course to raise funds for the program, with registration at 1 PM, golfing at 3 PM, and an after party; single player tickets and sponsorships are also available



XII. Adjourn

- i. Motion to adjourn by Huerta; 2nd by Jordan. Motion carried unanimously
- ii. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Jesica Aguirre, Staff (815)774-6064