

Meeting Details

Subject:	Joliet City Center Partnership Board Meeting
Date:	Thursday, July 9, 2026
Time:	8:05 a.m.
Participants	Mike Paone, Monica Cicimov, Susy Huerta Megan Millen, Tiffany Johnson, Brian Kincaid, Tim Brophy, Howard Wright, Elaine Bottomley, Jim Roolf
Did not attend:	Amber Duffy, and Pepe Sanchez
Call-in:	Cornell Lurry, Paulina Martinez, Night Train Veeck, Bryce Jordan, Michele Arana,
Staff Members:	Emmanuel Lopez, Jesica Aguirre
Guests:	
Meeting Handouts:	July 2026 Board of Directors Agenda; May 2026 Minutes & Financial Reports, June Financial Reports

Meeting Notes

- I. Call to Order**
 - i. Mike Paone called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes**
 - i. **BOARD ACTION:** Motion to approve May Minutes as presented by Paone. Motion to approve by Millen; seconded by Brophy. Motion carried anonymously.
- III. Approval of Financials**
 - i. May and June 2026 financials were presented. **BOARD ACTION:** Motion to approve the May and June 2026 financials as presented; Motion to approve by Brophy; seconded by Huerta. Motion carried unanimously
- IV. Board Chair Report - Paone**
 - i. Board recruitment efforts are underway to identify qualified individuals for future board positions

- ii. SSA study is underway with the City to review boundaries, funding, and property participation
- iii. Future discussions and public meetings are planned to increase SSA engagement and involvement
- iv. Work is underway with the city on a new MOU outlining future SSA operations and responsibilities

V. Marketing Committee – Tiffany Johnson

- i. Upcoming events include FIFA World Cup Watch Party July 19, Kids Fest August 1, Black Joy Parade August 29, Mexican Independence Day Parade September 12, and Light Up the Holidays November 27
- ii. Vendor registration for Kids Fest remains open through July 17
- iii. Race Fan Rally was a successful inaugural event with strong attendance and positive community response
- iv. Marketing Committee has been focused on planning and promoting upcoming events
- v. Rock & Roll Museum Cars & Guitars grant was previously approved and payment has been issued
- vi. Social media analytics report reviewed; Continued growth in social media engagement and marketing performance was reported
- vii. Social media platforms generated \$23 in revenue through content monetization

VI. Economic Development Committee – Brian Kincaid

- i. No Economic Development Committee meeting was held this month
- ii. Audiophil's sign request was approved and presented to the Board for transparency; the final sign design will not include the business address
City permit process is underway for sign installation

VII. Beautification Committee – Megan Millen

- i. Beautification Committee did not meet this month due to the summer schedule
- ii. Planters throughout downtown are growing well and have improved the appearance of the area
- iii. Megan announced her retirement from the board effective January 1 and thanked members for their support
- iv. Megan reflected on past accomplishments, including COVID emergency grants, and encouraged continued support for downtown businesses and economic development

VIII. Owners & Managers Association Chair Report –Susy Huerta

- i. OMA’s June 4 meeting was hosted at JJC with strong attendance, Meeting extended to 6pm due to good networking, and business engagement.
- ii. Business owners connected, shared ideas, and collaborated, including mentorship between established and new businesses
- iii. Next OMA meeting is scheduled for August 6 at 8:00 AM at Joliet Collective, featuring a realtor panel focused on property value
- iv. OMA will also promote the Grant Go program and provide resources to support business owners

IX. Staff Report - Emmanuel

- i. Successful Race Fan Rally event was highlighted, with appreciation expressed by everyone who attended and supported the event
- ii. Intern completed an SSA parcel list and will organize data by vacant and commercial properties for future reporting; intern also connected with the Dairy Queen CEO as part of the internship program
- iii. Kids Fest is the next major event on August 1, with \$11,500 raised toward the event goal
- iv. Emmanuel met with Route 66 Diner area property managers regarding a building wrap project to improve vacant storefronts and highlight Route 66’s centennial
- v. Baby’s Cheesesteak grant request is pending city permits before being presented to the Board
- vi. World Cup Watch Party is scheduled for July 19 to bring the community together, promote Mexican Independence Day, and support future sponsorship efforts

X. City Report – Paulina Martinez

- i. Continued activity in City Square and Centennial Park, with upcoming events being promoted through the City’s website and encouraged community participation
- ii. Rage Cage is open and operating, and Matisse continues to make progress with landscaping completed and a potential opening planned for the third quarter

XI. Other Announcements

- i. Elaine mentions County is entering the budget cycle, with the County Executive presenting a draft budget to the County Board in August
- ii. County discussed a potentially consolidated campus plan, with further details expected as the budget process moves forward
- iii. A Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago representative will speak on August 12 at noon regarding small business concerns and workforce trends at no cost, lunch included
- iv. City of Joliet Comprehensive Plan Open House will be held September 24 from 5-7 pm at Joliet West High School; community members are encouraged to attend and provide input on the plan



- v. Monica announced her resignation from the Board following the closure of her business after 12 years

Adjourn

- i. Motion to adjourn by Brophy; 2nd by Millen. Motion carried unanimously
- ii. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

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