



Downtown Evanston Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 9, 2026, 9:30AM

Creative Coworking, 922 Davis Street

Board Members Present:

Angela Valavanis, Creative Coworking (*Chair*)

Nathan Kostant, Golub (*Vice Chair*)

Marty Cless, Core & Rind Hospitality

Sarita Kamat, Artem Pop Up Gallery

Jim Nash, Farnsworth Hill

Paul Zalmezak, City of Evanston

Not Present:

Andrew McDonald, Rotary International (*Treasurer*)

Gretchen Brauer, Wheel & Sprocket (*Secretary*)

Staff: Andy Vick, Laura Brown

- I. Call to Order at 9:32AM (Angela)
- II. Approval of March Minutes (Angela)
 - a. **VOTE:** Marty motioned to approve; Jim seconded. Exec Board unanimously approved the minutes.
- III. Treasurer's Report (Andy)
 - a. March Financials: income and expenses are on track—no concerns
 - b. 2025 Audit completed/posted to website
- IV. Executive Director update (Andy)
 - a. 2026 Northwestern CBA funding reduction
 - i. Discussed Northwestern's decision to take back \$25,000 in CBA funding for the 2026 Downtown Summer Sounds concert series. This will leave a significant gap in our concert series budget. It's too late to cancel the concert series, so we will need to dip into reserves, unless we can get Northwestern to reconsider. Angela will

reach out to Dave Davis for clarification, and write a letter to the City Manager requesting that they (1) work to restore our 2026 funding, and (2) and develop a tighter process to receive and disburse annual CBA funding for Downtown Revitalization.

- b. Future of maintenance/trash collection contract
 - i. Depending on the CBA funding agreement discussion and future payment process referenced above, Downtown Evanston will need to determine if we can continue to manage the trash collection & maintenance contract after 2026.
 - c. Special Event Parking Fees: We are still waiting to hear about parking fees for street closures during special events which would total \$6,300 for the Downtown Summer Sunds concert series.
- V. Director of Marketing update (Laura)
- a. Communications Dashboard
 - b. Upcoming Events
 - i. Refresh + Renew Wellness Open House | April 25
 - ii. Earth Day Clean-Up | April 26
 - iii. Evanston Rides! | May-October
- VI. Economic Development update (Paul)
- a. No report
- VII. Other Business (Angela)
- a. Proposed Bylaws modification for DTE Board member term limits:
"SECTION 3.1 ADDITIONAL TERM OF OFFICE. Any Class IV or Class V directors who are elected as an officer of the corporation shall be eligible to serve four (4) successive two-year terms."
 - i. **VOTE:** Angela motions to approve the modification to the bylaws; Nathan seconded. Exec Board approved unanimously.
 - b. Approval of John Rohrbach as new Executive Committee member
 - i. **VOTE:** Jim motioned to approve; Sarita seconded; Exec Board approved unanimously to approve, pending ratification by the Full Board at our May 18th meeting.
 - c. Approval of Rachel Angulo as new Class IV Board member
 - i. Andy has reached out to Rachel Angulo, owner of La Cocinita, and is still waiting to hear back. In the interest of time, the Exec recommended a vote to approve Rachel, should she accept the invitation to serve.
 - ii. **VOTE:** Angela moved to approve; Nathan seconded; Exec Board approved unanimously to approve Rachel Angulo to join the Full

Board, pending ratification by the Full Board at our May 18th meeting.

- d. Approval of Elliott Jones as new Class V Board member
 - i. **VOTE:** Jim motioned to approve; Angela seconded; Board voted unanimously to approve Elliott Jones to join the Full Board, pending ratification by the Full Board at our May 18th meeting.
 - e. Cancel May 14 Exec Committee meeting
 - i. Exec Board approved canceling the May Executive Committee meeting since the Full Board will be meeting the following week.
- VIII. Open Discussion (All)
- a. Promotion around the Women's Lacrosse Tournament (May 22 & 24)
 - b. Sidewalk, tree grates and other repairs around the Northlight Theatre area.
- IX. Adjournment at 10:54AM (Angela)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Refresh + Renew Wellness Open House: Saturday, April 25, 10AM-2PM

Earth Day Clean-Up: Sunday, April 26, Noon-2PM

Full Board Meeting at Hilton Garden Inn on Monday, May 18, 4-5:30PM