

CITY OF EUHARLEE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES
January 12, 2026, 9:00AM

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Chris Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

ROLL CALL – Chris Fitzgerald - Chair, Butch Emerson, Zach Tyree, Crystal Kimberly, Todd Moore, and Katie Gobbi - Community and Economic Development Director. Chelsie Downing, not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 10, 2025 - Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comments.

STAFF REPORT –

Ms. Gobbi provided updates on current and upcoming projects:

- **Holiday Parade & Church Concert:** The Christmas parade had a strong turnout despite threatening weather. The Baptist Church postponed its planned concert due to rain; organizers indicated interest in returning next year with an indoor “rain plan.”
- **Ice Rink Planning & Power Needs:** Staff will coordinate with Georgia Power regarding electrical upgrades needed for a temporary ice rink (three-phase, higher voltage than currently available). A potential rink location discussed was the upper lawn near the dog park, due to proximity to restrooms, a nearby hydrant, and flat terrain. Members discussed benefits of tenting to reduce weather-related variables and extending rink operations into January/February to drive off-season visitation.
- **Real Estate Activity:** Ms. Gobbi reported a pending follow-up regarding potential downtown restaurant prospects after a recent deadline passed without confirmation.
- **Benchmarking Visit – Suwanee:** Two possible dates were discussed for a full-day benchmarking visit: Thursday, February 26, 2026, with Monday, February 23, 2026 as a backup. Members were asked to confirm availability.
- **Grant Follow-Up (T-Mobile):** Members discussed the prior grant application and lack of feedback. Ms. Gobbi offered to help obtain contact information and pursue an explanation to inform future applications.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Summer Kickoff Festival Planning (Strategic Work Plan)

The Board discussed initiating planning for the Summer Kickoff Festival and the need to activate an events committee.

- **Purpose/Concept:** A family-focused kickoff event to celebrate the start of summer and complement outdoor recreation programming, with possible elements including live music, vendors, children’s activities, and community partners.
- **Potential Dates:** May 30, 2026 or June 6, 2026 (final date to be determined based on park scheduling and partner use).

- Partners/Volunteers: Discussion included engaging the elementary school PTO, civic groups, and faith-based partners; subcommittee meetings will likely need to occur outside weekday mornings to accommodate parent volunteers.
- Programming Ideas (discussion only): Chalk area for kids (not a full chalk-art festival), possible 5K (noted neighborhood traffic concerns), and other future concepts (cook-offs, contests, novelty races) were discussed as brainstorming items.

Ms. Gobbi will circulate options and coordinate scheduling for an events committee meeting and partner outreach.

ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.