



EDACC Board Meeting Minutes						
June 24, 2026					EDACC Conference Room	
Meeting called by	Chairman, Rick Evans - called the meeting to order @ 8:00					
Type of meeting	Board Meeting					
Facilitator	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Note taker	Linda Peplau					
Adjourned	8:42 AM					
Board Attendance	Rick Evans	Y	Mark Wills	Y	Stan Shepherd	Y
	Jim Cox	Y	Jean Garniewicz	ABSENT	Kerry Bridges	Y
	Mark Herbert	Y	Ben Stapleton	ABSENT	Rick Toole	Y
Staff/Guests	Cheney Eldridge, Anita Patel, Stuart Hilsman, Linda Peplau, Chris Driver (Hull Barrett, PC), Dr. Steven Flynt (CCBOE) & William Eubank (Thomas & Hutton)					
Meeting Agenda						
1 minute	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	Chairman, Rick Evans called for a motion to jointly approve the agenda for the June 24, 2026, EDACC Board Meeting & the minutes for the May 27, 2026, EDACC Board Meeting.					
Conclusions	Motion: Mark Wills 2nd: Jim Cox Motion carries unanimously (7-0)					
Minutes of Previous Meeting						
1 minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	See above.					
Conclusions	Motion: Mark Wills 2nd: Jim Cox Motion carries unanimously (7-0)					
DACC Financial Report						
8 minutes	Treasurer, Mark Wills					
Discussion	Treasurer, Mark Wills reported on the following items in the May 2026 financial report. • Page 1 (Balance Sheet / Statement of Net Position): ◦ Mark provided a Balance Statement report that included Total Liabilities and Total Net Assets as of May 30, 2026. • Pages 2 & 3 (Monthly Expenses): ◦ Mark reviewed and shared his observations regarding the monthly expenses for May. • Pages 4 & 5 (YTD Expenses): ◦ Mark moved directly to reporting on Page 6, noting that since we are in the 11th month of the fiscal year, Page 6 offers more detailed and meaningful information. • Page 6 (2026 FY Budget vs. Actual Expenses): ◦ Mark reported that the expenses and budget figures were reviewed and are tracking well. ◦ He also noted the totals in the “Sale of Property” category. Comments, Questions & Answers: Q: Mark Herbert inquired about the retailer associated with the former Destination Retail Grant. A: Rick Evans provided an update, noting that the initial plans for the retailer may not come to fruition. He added that sending a mailed letter with a program closure timeline will be explored.					
Conclusions	Chairman Rick Evans called for a motion to approve the May 2026 Financial Reports. Motion: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Mark Herbert Motion carries unanimously (7-0)					

Chairman's Report	
3 minutes	Chairman, Rick Evans
Discussion	Chairman Rick Evans provided the following updates: • Thanked the following individuals: ◦ Skyler Andrews (not present), for his well written journalism reports. ◦ Stuart Hilsman and Mark Wills for co- creating the Investment RFP form and process. ◦ Stuart Hilsman, for coordinating the Club Car Tour. ◦ Anita Patel, for assisting with and attending the tour/meeting with the Consul General of India at Palmetto Industries. ◦ All EDACC staff for their hard work and for keeping everyone informed of events and meetings. • Rick Evans shared an update on the CSRA Business Lending presentation delivered at the recent Executive Committee meeting, which focused on supporting small business growth in our county and will undergo further review.
EDACC Committee Reports	
3 minutes	Jim Cox, for Business Recruitment & Incentive Program Committee
Discussion	Jim Cox shared the following topics from the Business Recruitment & Incentive Program Committee: • Discussed the return of hockey to the region with the revival of the Augusta Lynx. • Emerging opportunities related to a potential training facility project for the Lynx. • Ongoing conversation regarding planned renovations to the James Brown Arena. • Discussed proposed future tax relief under consideration in upcoming House and Senate bills. • Continual discussion on potential TAD opportunities for the county. • Updates on new businesses and developments happening across the county. • Recognition of local individuals who have successfully progressed in their careers to positions in Washington, D.C. • Progress updates on Thunder Over Evans, the Evans Park project, and the Savannah Rapids expansion.
Project Updates	
7 minutes	Project Managers, Stuart Hilsman & Anita Patel
Discussion	Stuart Hilsman provided the following updates: • Stuart shared that the Club Car tour was very successful in strengthening the support partnership. • Provided an Investment management RFP update ◦ Currently in the review stage of the submitted RFPs ◦ Interviewing of contenders will be conducted to determine the final selection • Staff reported that the regional Industry Appreciation Night at the GreenJackets baseball game was successful and had a great turnout. Anita Patel shared an update regarding the visit of the Consul General of India, Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan, to Palmetto Industries on Friday, June 19, where he met with industry representatives to discuss supply issues and promote trade opportunities with India.

Economic Development Update	
11 minutes	Executive Director Cheney Eldridge
Discussion	Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge shared the following updates: • Cheney reported positively on her recent tour of Plant Vogtle, which she attended courtesy of Matt Foeshee from GP. ◦ Cheney shared her insights into the plant's power sources and energy generation used at the facility. ◦ It was confirmed that a Plant Vogtle tour for the EDACC Board is scheduled for October 2026. • A hospital tour update was provided. • Investment management RFP update: ◦ Cheney shared her insights on the RFP process after Kerry Bridges asked about investment terms. ◦ The goal is to structure the investment earnings so that funds are available as needed for payments and operational expenses. • A tower rental income update was provided following an inquiry about the current standing. ◦ The rental contract is being reviewed at this time. • FY2027 Budget: ◦ Cheney presented the FY2027 budget and noted that the Development Authority will no longer receive county appropriations, starting July 01, 2026. ◦ The current interest rate of 3.56% being received was reported. ◦ Reported that she will provide updated interest earnings once the RFP investment process is complete. ◦ A category line structure was explained, and it was noted that efforts are being made to reduce the budget across most line items compared to last year's budget. ◦ Cheney shared details regarding efforts to secure housing for the April Showcase 2027, noting that these plans will be reflected in the upcoming budget allocations. ◦ Rick Evans noted that a budget amendment can be made at any point during the year if needed, explaining that he views the budget as an operations budget that is controllable—unlike a development budget, which fluctuates based on project acquisitions. ** Chairman, Rick Evans called for a motion to approve the FY27 budget as presented by Cheney Eldridge. Motion: Rick Toole 2nd: Mark Herbert Motion carries unanimously (7-0)



Public Comments		
7 minutes	Dr. Steven Flynt (CCBOE) & William Eubank (Thomas & Hutton)	
Discussion	Dr. Steven Flynt (CCBOE) shared the following school updates: • Thanked the EDACC Board for being so involved in helping facilitate a strong future workforce for our community. • Dr. Flynt was proud to report a record year for student achievement and student engagement. • The board received updates on recent school initiatives, construction progress, approved expansions and future upgrades (HVAC, painting, roofing & parking lots). • Dr. Flynt reported on engagement between students, local businesses, and the community continues to grow rapidly across schools. • Staffing needs & new hire updates were provided (200+ new teacher hires). William Eubank (Thomas & Hutton) shared that he enjoyed hosting Cheney and the team for dinner in Savannah during the GDA conference and expressed that he appreciates hearing about the projects and progress underway at EDACC.	
Calendar of Events		
1 minute	Chairman, Rick Evans	
Discussion	Rick provided a quick overview of the upcoming calendar of events. • July 10, 2026, Property Development Committee - 8:00 a.m. • July 10, 2026, Existing Business & Workforce Committee - 9:00 a.m. • July 15, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting - 8:00 a.m. • July 22, 2026, Board Meeting – 8:00 a.m.	
Adjournment		8:42 AM
Conclusions	Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to adjourn the June 24, 2026, EDACC board meeting at 8:42 a.m. Motioned: Jim Cox 2nd: Mark Herbert Motion carries unanimously (7-0)	
Next meeting: July 22,2026		All