



115 ERSKINE, 2nd FLOOR
 DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48201
 PHONE (313) 876-0674
 FAX (313) 664-5505
 TTY: 711

A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Corporate Board Meeting	DATE:	March 2, 2026
ATTENDEES:	DESC Corporate Board Members: Alice Thompson, Chris Uhl, Lena Barkley, Dannis Mitchell, Ric Preuss, Terri Weems, Rian English Barnhill, John Perkins, Gail Taylor	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices
	DESC Staff: Carmen Bender (remote), Lucia Seed (remote), Sheila Johnson (remote) Dana Williams, Rachel May, Robert Shimkoski, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Talitha Johnson, Stephanie Nixon, Michelle Hodges, Karen LeGendre, Phillip Caldwell Remote: Noah Kincaid, Heather P, Jerina Cleveland	CALLED TO ORDER:	2:14 pm
ABSENT:	Excused: None Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	5:06 p.m.
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Marcia Hartman, John Allen, James Willis		
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	June 9, 2026

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Call to Order	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.	
II. Welcome & Introductions Approval of agenda/minutes	Ms. Thompson asked board members to introduce themselves. Board member Terri Weems proposed a reorder of the agenda items to bring forward items that required a vote earlier in the agenda and to add a discussion item pertaining to the performance of DESC president which was meant to be on the agenda. Ms. Thompson also mentioned that succession planning was meant to be added to the agenda as well. Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the proposed amended agenda for the March 2, 2026, meeting which included moving action items related to contract approvals up in the agenda, moving Chairs report toward the end of the meeting and adding a performance discussion agenda item after public comment. Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Terri Weems Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously	



	<p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the November 17, 2025, meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Terri Weems Seconded: Chris Uhl Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
III. Program Services Committee Update	<p>Dana Williams, DESC President provided a summary of two contracts (Goodwill Industries and Center for Employment Opportunities) that were approved at the Program Services Committee meeting on March 2, 2026.</p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the Goodwill Industries Contract</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the Center for Employment Opportunities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
IV. Audit & Finance Committee Update	<p>Michelle Hodges, interim CFO reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continues to close the deficit gap identified during the 2025 audit. • The team has reviewed grants and identified areas of reallocation. • 13-week Cashflow is updated weekly; team is managing and prioritizing payables • Cost reductions, primarily at admin level, include office & facilities, technology & software, storage & records, parking & transportation <p>Chris Uhl, Audit & Finance Committee Chair reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior significant cost reductions included a switch to a new organizational health plan and a reduction in staff. <p>Dana Williams, DESC President reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on new revenue and fundraising activities including a new fiduciary partnership with City of Detroit Health Department, meeting with funders, and a new fundraising consultant, among others. • Update on CFO and Budget Director recruitment noting number of applicants and next steps. <p>Ms. Hodges closed the report with an update on the Single Audit. No findings, unmodified, clean opinion.</p>	
V. MWDB Update	Terri Weems, MWDB Executive Director reported:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident Employment Report noting an improvement in numbers reported for December 2025. • Update to workforce plan is required every two years, due this year. Extending the planning for this due to recent mayoral and MWDB co-chair change to ensure we can incorporate their vision. Will identify two key points: what the audience is (employer/employee); how will we frame our focus on the underserved. • Summary of the Revenue Estimating Conference noting a key takeaway is that the outlook for Detroit is good; more jobs on horizon and closing of gap in wages • Mayor Sheffield's 100-day priorities. Workforce fits into Mayor's plan. Identified ways Detroit at Work is aligned with Mayor Sheffield's vision and priorities including GDYT expansion, livable wage jobs, accessible and equitable high-quality services, economic impact, home ownership. 	
VI. President's Report	<p>Ahead of the President's report, Ms. Thompson asked if there was anything that the President needed to report to the board. She encouraged the president to bring concerns to the board as soon as a problem is identified and reiterated a prior request for full transparency.</p> <p>Dana Williams, DESC President's reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the board chair's question, there was nothing new to report. • Provided an update from the state noting that federal appropriations for FY2026 have been approved through 9/30/2026. • Noted that DESC is preparing the FY2027 Budget to be presented to City Council on March 20 • Addressed a list of action items from prior Board and Committee meetings and provided an update on all. Review and update of pending items. • Called attention to the contracts report attached to the printed meeting packet that included a list of the contracts approved under \$500K. 	
VII. Chairperson's Report	<p>Ms. Thompson reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged the prior requests of the Executive Committee for more transparency • Provided a DESC Board member update noting that the mayor has reappointed three expired appointments including Alice Thompson, Ric Preuss and Dannis Mitchell • Provided a liability update. The board is on solid ground; we have a good plan for insurance coverage and are in good standing. Confirmed receipt of legal confirmation with board members. • Fundraising update: fundraising consultant hired; encouraged board to contribute to the organization, addressed a question on whether contributions should be included in bylaws. <p>Board discussion ensued</p>	<p>Action item: Add annual review of bylaws to annual meeting in August</p> <p>Action item: Review Open Meetings Act Handbook and Roberts Rules of Order with board</p> <p>Action item: Provide clarity on giving requirements before including in bylaws</p> <p>Action item: Identify new chair for Program Services Committee</p>

- Requested a succession plan to be in place for the DESC board and requested a new chair be appointed for the Program Services Committee
- Update from the Executive Committee's President's Evaluation. Ms. Thompson indicated that the board would be discussing a personnel evaluation of the president and inquired of the president if the president wished the discussion to occur in public or private session. The president expressed her preference for a closed session.

Terri Weems called for a motion for closed session pursuant to section 8A of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to consider evaluation of an employee at the request of the employee:

Motion: Terri Weems

Seconded: Ric Preuss

Motion Carried – A roll call vote was approved unanimously

At 3:24 p.m. all persons other than the DESC Borad, legal counsel and the President were excused from the meeting. The doors to the meeting room were closed and the Board proceeded to closed session.

Doors to the meeting room were reopened at 5 p.m. and Ms. Thompson reopened the public meeting. Ms. Williams verbally called outside the meeting doors to inform any persons present that the meeting was back in session.

Ms. Williams verbally tendered her resignation, effective in 30 days.

Ms. Thompson confirmed the resignation effective in 30 days from March 2, 2026.

Ric Preuss moved to accept Ms. Williams' resignation effective 30 days from March 2, 2026.

Motion: Ric Preuss

Seconded: Dannis Mitchell

Motion Carried – A roll call vote was approved unanimously

Ms. Mitchell moved that Ms. Weems will step in as interim CEO, effective immediately, and that Ms. Williams would work with her on this transition.

Motion: Dannis Mitchell

Seconded: Ric Preuss

Motion Carried – A roll call vote was approved unanimously

VIII. Public Comments

None

IX. Adjournment	<p>Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Gail Taylor Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
-----------------	--	--

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May

Title: Executive Assistant to the President

Signature: /s/ Rachel May

Date: 03/03/2026

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: June 9, 2026

Initials: RMM

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 10 a.m.