



Board of Directors Meeting

9/1/2026

IN PERSON MEETING - Tourmaline Wealth Advisors, 520 Main St

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Patti, Meggie, Lori, Billy, Denise, Claire, Allie, Katherine

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the July 7, 2026 Board Meeting. Meggie moved to approve the minutes. Billy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the draft 2026 financials to date. Financial performance remains on target with the approved budget.

The Board was reminded that recruitment for the 2027 Board has begun.

Terms expiring in October 2026 include:

- Denise – may not renew, termed out
- Lori – may renew
- Risa – must retire due to a change in location

All other Board members may elect to remain or resign and were asked to notify Katherine as soon as possible. At least two Board seats are expected to be open.

Officer Update: Current officers—Meggie (President), Billy (Treasurer), and Patti (Secretary)—may also elect to remain in their positions or resign.

The Annual Meeting will be held October 8, 2026 at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. A Google Calendar invitation has been distributed. The Board discussed plans to publicly announce the Special Service Area (SSA) reconstitution at the Annual Meeting. The Board was reminded of the previously provided Reconstitution Overview presentation.

The Executive Director presented the [draft proposed 2027 budget](#). The Board discussed the proposed budget. A special meeting scheduled for September 8, 2026 would have been required if the budget was not approved at this meeting. After discussion, Billy moved to adopt the proposed 2027 budget. Patti seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No new developments were reported on the Neighbor Advisory Team.

Marketing Committee Updates

Meta Verification: The previously reported Meta verification issues have been resolved, and social media boosts have resumed.

Evanston Wine Walk – Approximately 315 tickets had been sold, representing a record level of advance sales. The event has fewer new businesses participating in it than in previous years.

Spooky Saturday – October 24. Plans include:

- Trick-or-treating from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- Frozen Ravens “SCarolers”
- Block party at the City VW parking lot
 - Pumpkin carving contest, Kids costume parade, Pet costume contest

Small Business Saturday – November 28: Northwestern Neighborhood & Community Relations will again sponsor the shopping trolley. Frozen Robins Carolers will ride the trolley, with activations planned along the route. Mystery gift bags will be available for shoppers who spend \$100 on the Mile on Small Business Saturday.

Grassroots Events

- Upcoming –
 - Women’s Wellness Series: The next event will be held September 19 at 8:30 a.m., featuring “Optimizing Your Fertility & Reproductive Health,” presented by Link Physical Therapy and Wellspring Integrative Medicine.
- Debrief
 - Skylight Vintage Festival – July 25: The event was estimated to have attracted approximately 1,000 attendees.
 - ITA Block Party for the Arts – August 2: The event was canceled due to weather.
 - Classy Closet Fashion Show – July 31: The event was reported as excellent.
 - Dempster Design Row Weekend: No update was available regarding an additional Fall weekend.
- 2027 Preview
 - Booked has expressed interest in hosting a Kate Bush *Wuthering Heights Day* as is done in many English countryside towns

Placemaking Committee Report

Dempster Gateway Mural: The Placemaking Committee approved the proposed design, pending minor changes to improve text readability. Artist Darius Dennis is expected to begin installation in mid-September. The Board discussed whether to pause the process and further examine image

representation versus the use of purely graphic elements. Katherine will follow up on the issue.

Open Studio Project – 727 Main Street: A dedication ceremony is scheduled for September 19.

Main Street Festoon Lighting: The City of Evanston has completed its administrative review. MDM has submitted a draft maintenance agreement and is in the process of providing a Certificate of Insurance and bond. MDM has also requested a re-review of the City's 20-foot height requirement.

Bib N Tucker Pop-Up Park Opportunities – 801 Main Street: The vacant lot has been seeded with millet and milo as a winter birdseed garden and is expected to host a sunflower garden in the spring, pending the property's sale and construction schedule. The space may provide opportunities for temporary activations while vacant. The Board thanked Claire for her work on the project.

Directory / Gateway Signage: Signage is currently in fabrication. The project is funded through Evanston Thrives.

Bridge Lighting: Proposals have been received. No further updates were available.

Business Openings, Closings & Development

The Board reviewed the business openings, closings, and storefront activity as of August 31, 2026.

Closing or Closed:

- Guitar Works, 709 Main Street
- Bentley's Pet Stuff, 743 Chicago Avenue

Opening in September:

- Wood & Wire (luthier), 1322 Sherman Avenue

Now Open:

- Redwood Literacy, 1315 Sherman Place
- Jade + Virtue and Gabriel Fierro Hair, 729 Chicago Avenue
- Shapiro Law Firm, 900 Chicago Avenue, Suites 104–5

Development in Progress:

- Dard Factory apartment development, 910–983 Custer Street, behind the Post Office. The building will be known as Inside Info Custer.

Coming Spring 2027:

- Evanston Animal Hospital plans to relocate from 516 Dempster Street to 740 Main Street at Tapestry Station.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.