



Hon. Charles Eaton, Chair  
Hon. Cindy Vanlandingham, Vice-Chair

David Davis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Russell Devorsky, President

**THE HEART OF TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.**

**Meeting Minutes January 25, 2024**

The Heart of Texas Economic Development District, Inc., Board of Directors met on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hilton, 113 South University Parks Drive, Waco Texas 76701.

**Members Present:**

Charles Eaton  
Cindy Vanlandingham  
David Davis  
Dick Van Dyke  
Ignacio Vazquez  
Jay Elliott

Jerry Barker  
Mathew Wright  
Randy Riggs  
Robert Hawkins

**Staff Present:**

Russell Devorsky  
Dorthy Jackson

John Minnix  
Falen Bohannon

**I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum**

At 2:13 p.m. Chair Ignacio Vazquez called the meeting to order and asked if quorum had been met. Dorthy Jackson responded that the quorum of the Executive Committee was met.

**II. Acknowledgment of Notice Giving Public Access to Meeting**

Chair Ignacio Vazquez asked if proper notice had been given and Dorthy Jackson responded that proper notice had been given.

**III. Introduction of Guests and Public Comment(s)**

No Guests

**IV. Minutes-December 14, 2023**

Jay Elliott made a motion to approve the December 14, 2023 meeting minutes. Charles Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**V. Chair Report**

Special award given to Jerry Barker for years of service.

**VI. Consideration and/or Action on the following:**

**a. Election of Officers and Members**

**1. Nominations Committee Report/Action of recommendation**

Jay Elliott made a motion to approve Charles Eaton as chair, Cindy Vanlandingham as vice-chair, and David Davis as secretary/treasurer. Mathew Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2. Re-Appointment of Members to the Board (2 year terms):**

Mathew Wright made a motion to approve the reappointment of Damaris Neelley, Calvin Rueter, Kevin Benedict, Charles Eaton, Ignacio Vazquez, David Davis,

Robert Hawkins, Dick Van Dyke, and Andrea Kosar, on the HOTEDD Board. Jay Elliott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**3. Appointment of New Board Members (if any):**

NONE

**b. Chair Recommendation for Sub Committees**

1. Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development Committee Members  
Kevin Benedict (Chair), Dick Van Dyke, Matthew Wright
2. Housing Committee Members Damaris Neelley (Chair), Ray O'Docharty, Calvin Rueter. Ignacio Vazquez
3. Education & Workforce Development Committee Members  
Robert Hawkins (Chair), Scott Felton, Linda Grant, Justin Lewis
4. Regional Marketing Committee Members  
Jay Elliott (Chair), Art Mann, Damaris Neelley, Matthew Wright
5. Revolving Loan Fund Committee  
Damaris Neelley (Chair), Kevin Benedict, Justin Lewis, Robert Hawkins, Jay Elliott. Charles Eaton, Cindy Vanlandingham
6. Workforce Committee  
Jerry Barker (Chair), Robert Hawkins, Randy Riggs, Damaris Neelley. David Davis

**c. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

1. Approval of HOTEDD to continue serving as the CEDS Committee for the Heart of Texas Region as HOTEDD must reappoint itself each year: Charles Eaton made a motion to approve the HOTEDD serving as the CEDS Committee. Jay Elliott seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Approval of the CEDS Update Advisory Committee to continue working with staff for 2024: Charles Eaton made a motion for the approval of the CEDS Update Advisory Committee to continue working with staff for 2024. Cindy Vanlandingham seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Appointment of 2024 CEDS Update Advisory Committee: Cindy Vanlandingham made a motion to approve Robert Hawkins, Damaris Neelley, Dick Van Dyke, and David Davis to be the 2024 CEDS Update Advisory Committee. Charles Eaton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**VIII. President and Staff Reports**

A. Financial Report

John Minnix gave the financial report.

B. Staff Report

Dorthy Jackson gave her staff report.

C. President Report

Russell Devorsky gave the President's report and spoke about changing by-laws to address comments about HOTEDD owning HOTCOG. The President also reported about Net1 Connect and how HOTEDD will be moving forward with procession of company.

**IX. Adjournment**

David Davis made a motion to adjourn. Cindy Vanlandingham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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Charles Eaton, Chair