



VISALIA CONVENTION AND VISITORS' BUREAU

DRAFT Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Visit Visalia • 112 E Main St

Chair: Carrie Groover		Staff: Suzanne Bianco + Sonya Nagai Menapace			
Members Present: Denise Taylor-Connor Walter Deissler Samantha Rummage- Mathias Wilhelmina Santana		Members Absent: Cynthia Padilla-Nowakowski – E Rick Feder Brett Taylor Sintia Kawasaki-Yee	Present - 5 Absent – 4 Quorum – Y	Others Present: John Lollis, COV	
TOPIC		Discussion/Recommendations		ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
	Call to Order	Chair Groover called the regular meeting to order at 9:05 am and requested the Draft budget discuss be the first item of business to accommodate the schedule of John Lollis.		Information only	Groover
	Public Comment	This time is allowed for comments on subject matters pertaining to items on the agenda. Each speaker is allowed three minutes. No action can be taken, at this time, on items mentioned in public comments.		No Public Comment	

		Action Items		
1.	2026 Draft VCVB Budget	The second draft of the 2026 VCVB Budget was presented. Groover discussed the shortfall in the budget due to insufficient funding from COV. Groover recommended that the board not approve the draft until the issue is resolved. A committee comprised of the Board Chair and Member Deissler will request an official meeting with Mayor Taylor to discuss.	Groover	No action taken
2.	Approval of Meeting Minutes	D. Connor motioned to approve July 21, 2026, meeting minutes. Deissler seconded the motion. Motion approved.	Approved July 21, 2026 minutes	Connor / Deissler
3.	Treasurer's Report	Board chair Groover provided an update on the financial reports. Deissler moved to accept the financial reports and a second was made by Mathias. Motion approved.	Approval of July Financial Reports	Deissler / Mathias
4.	Election of Chief Financial Officer	Election of Wilhelmina Santana as VCVB Chief Financial Officer Motion to elect Santana was made by Deissler with a second by Connor. Motion approved	Approval of election of W. Santana as CFO	Deissler / Connor
TOPIC		Discussion/Recommendations	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE

1.	Executive Committee updates	Groover provided an update: - Meeting Date Change: To better accommodate everyone's schedule, 2 alternate dates for board meetings were discussed. Chair to follow up on preferences. 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:00 am -OR- 4th Wednesday at 9:00 am - Future Incentive Tracking: Discussion about current and future incentive obligations to ensure budget availability - VTMD Draft Financial Percentage Request: Groover indicated that the budget percentage share will be presented to the VTMD Board for approval.		
2.	Staff Report	Staff provided reporting on sales and tourism efforts. Sonya provided overview of her efforts of the past month to increase the pipeline. Due to time constraints, tourism report wasn't provided.	Information Only	Nagai Bianco
3.	SEKI REPORT	Updates happening in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks were sent in by Sintia. Due to time constraints, report was not read to group. Staff report provided by Sintia Kawasaki-Yee on park	Information Only	Sintia Kawasaki-Yee
	Meeting Adjourned	10:25 am		Groover

The next regular meeting
Tuesday, Sept 15, 2026, 9:00 am – Visit Visalia Conference Room
(Meeting date may change based on member survey on potential new dates.)