



VISALIA CONVENTION AND VISITORS' BUREAU

DRAFT Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, September 17, 2026 9:00 am

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 Rick Feder Brett Taylor Sintia Kawasaki-Yee		Members Absent: Cynthia Padilla-Nowakowski – E Domonique Bulter – E	Present - 8 Absent – 2 Quorum – Y	Others Present: John Lollis, COV	
TOPIC		Discussion/Recommendations		ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
	Call to Order	Chair Groover called the regular meeting to order at 9:03		Information only	Groover
	Public Comment	<i>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.</i> J. Lollis thanked VTMD and VCVB for letters of support for the grant Transit is applying for to upgrade in-park buses. Vehicles will be owned by COV.		No Public Comment	
	SEKI Report	Updates for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks were provided by Sintia Kawasaki-Yee. Shuttle season has ended, Dark Sky Festival was well attended (est. attendance 3,000), MK road construction is ongoing, Fall 2027 will see hard closure of Gen Hwy for culvert repair – likely for 2 months. Park is considered a “no fail” park.		Information Only	

		Action Items		
1.	Approval of Meeting Minutes	Approval of the minutes of the August 18, 2026 Board meeting: Motion made by W Deissler to approve the minutes with a 2nd by R Feder. Motion carried.	Approval of minutes of the 8/18/2026 board meeting.	Deissler / Feder
2.	Treasurer's Report	Groover provided an update on the financial reports with a review of the Balance Sheet and P+L Jan-Aug 2026. A transaction detail report also provided. Groover recommended that the 2026 Draft VCVB Budget be tabled while Board chair continues additional funding discussion with COV. B Taylor stressed that COV fully supports VCVB. Additionally, staff will allocate addition budget to trade show registration to accommodate an early 2027 sales trade show (Cal Travel Sports). B Taylor moved to accept the financial reports and to table the 2026 budget until talks are final with COV with a second made by Connor. Motion carried.	Approval of August Financial Reports And table 2026 budget	Taylor / Connor
3.	Proposed Changes to 2027 401K	Groover presented recommendations by the Exec Committee for changes to the employee Safe Harbor 401K benefit. B Taylor motioned that VCVB keep the 3% Safe Harbor contributions in place for 2027. Deissler made a second and all approved.	Maintain 3% Safe Harbor contributions to eligible employees	Taylor / Deissler

TOPIC		Discussion/Recommendations	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1.	Executive Committee updates	Groover provided updates: • COV Contract Allocation Board Chair working with COV on additional funding. • COV 2027 Contract Committee for formed to work with COV on 2027 proposed VCVB-COV Contract. Committee members: R Feder, W Santana, D Connor, S Mathias, C Groover and J Lollis. • VTMD appointed Domonique Butler to serve as the VTMD representative on the VCVB Board of Directors.	Information Only	Groover
2.	Staff Report	Staff provided reporting on sales and tourism efforts.	Information Only	Nagai Bianco
	Meeting Adjourned	TIME: 11:05		Groover

The next regular meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2026, 9:00 am – Visit Visalia Conference Room