



Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitor's Bureau
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: May 26, 2026
Recorded by Sally Westendorf

Board Members Present: Karen Bobe, David Bodenhamer, Susan Boggs, Bill Brett, Penny Groux, Glen Kaiser, Ken Kichler, Frank Reed, Mark Stillings (a quorum was met)

Board Members Absent: Bill Bennett, Robert Craft, Tony Kennon

GSOBT Staff Members Present: Kim Chapman, Beth Gendler, Crystal Hinds, Michelle Russ, Michael Akridge, Christy Baranovics, Lauren Jones

Visitors: Steve Meyer, Cole Walker, Ford Handley, Jon Walker

Call to Order

Chairman Glen Kaiser called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Suspension of Reading & Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the April 28, 2026 meeting were presented. Mark Stillings made a motion to approve the minutes, which Susan Boggs seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed. Members absent in April abstained.

Karen Bobe arrived after the April 28, 2026, meeting minutes were approved.

Financial Update

Micheal Akridge presented the *Financial Status of the Organization as of April 30, 2026*.

New Business

Beth Gendler provided an update on Airbnb's legislative efforts and proposed gathering STR companies to develop strategies to oppose "insurance" bills, etc., that Airbnb is likely to push in Alabama during the upcoming legislative session.

There was a brief conversation about the Alabama Real Estate Commission's involvement and responsibility, and local representation. Several Board Members proposed meeting with the State's general council and/or the State Attorney General on three issues: STR "co-hosting", the Merchant of Record law(s), and the "insurance" legislation related to Airbnb's operations.

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Michelle Russ introduced Lauren Jones and Christy Baranovics, two members of the Sales team.

Glen Kaiser asked guests to introduce themselves.

Beth Gendler explained the recent updates and improvements to the Orange Beach Welcome Center.

Departmental Reports

Senior Staff provided summaries of each departmental report.

Announcements

The 2026 Board Retreat location will be held locally at Perdido Beach Resort, starting on Wednesday, 12/2, with a dinner reception, then an all-day meeting on Thursday, 12/3, including breakfast and lunch.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on June 23rd at 8:30 am, at the Orange Beach Welcome Center.

Adjourned

Chairman Glen Kaiser adjourned the meeting at 10:02 am.