FloridaWest
economic development alliance

FloridaWest Nominating Committee Meeting
July 23, 2025 Time: 11:00 a.m.
3 W Garden St. Pensacola, FL
sixth Floor Conference Room

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Don Palmer called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. **Public Notice:** Tabitha Lee confirmed public notice was made on July 21, 2025.

3. **Roll Call:**

Chair Don Palmer:	Present
Past President Rick Byars:	Present
Secretary Dr. Charletha Powell:	Present
City of Pensacola Appointee Matt Davis:	Present

Staff and support: Tabitha Lee, Chris Platé
Public Present: None

4. **Public Comment:**
Don Palmer requested public comment; none was given.

5. **Approval of the Agenda:**
A motion was made by Rick Byars and seconded by Dr. Powell to approve the agenda with the addition of Approval of the August 14, 2024 Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Approval of the August 14, 2024, Minutes:**
The minutes from the August 14, 2024, meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Byars and seconded by Dr. Powell. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **Review and Recommend Nominations:**
Don Palmer initiated a discussion regarding Investor Director participation, referencing FloridaWest's bylaws and expectations for board engagement.
   - The committee reviewed Director attendance records and noted that the bylaws require all Directors, excluding Emeritus Directors, to attend no less than 75% of board meetings during the fiscal year (Bylaws Section 4.6).
   - It was noted that Mark Roy has not met the required attendance threshold. While the committee does not have the authority to remove a sitting Director, it agreed to recommend that the Board request Mr. Roy's resignation if he anticipates being unable to meet the required attendance expectations moving forward. The committee further recommended that, if he does step down, Mr. Roy be considered for continued involvement through a committee role, as his expertise remains a valuable asset to FloridaWest.
   - The committee also discussed the potential nomination of a new Investor Director. After consideration, the committee agreed to nominate Bruce Vredenburg of Hancock Bank to serve as an Investor Director, subject to approval by the Board.

A motion was made by Dr. Charletha Powell and seconded by Matt Davis to recommend that the Board request Mr. Mark Roy's resignation from the Board of Directors if he is unable to meet the required attendance expectations, and to consider appointing him to a committee role where his expertise may continue to support FloridaWest. The motion also included the nomination of Mr. Bruce Vredenburg of Hancock Bank to serve as an Investor Director. The motion carried unanimously.

Officer Nominations:
Don Palmer led the discussion on nominating officers for the upcoming term. After reviewing several potential candidates, the committee reached consensus on a slate to be presented at the Annual Meeting:

- **Past President**: David Bear (transitioning from current President)
- **President**: Ryan Tilley (moving from Vice President)
- **Vice President**: Dr. Charletha Powell (moving from Secretary)
- **Secretary**: Olevia McNally (moving from Treasurer)
- **Treasurer**: Charlie Sherrill (new)

A motion was made by Mr. Byars and seconded by Dr. Powell to approve the officer nominations as presented. Motion carried unanimously

8. **Other Business:**
Chris Platé led a brief discussion regarding potential updates to the organization's bylaws. Topics included the creation of ex-officio board positions and general by-law cleanup to clarify language and ensure consistency. No action was taken at this time; the committee acknowledged the importance of reviewing proposed changes at a future meeting.

9. **Adjournment:** Don Palmer adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Dr. Charletha Powell, Secretary
FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance