



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Final Economic Development Authority

Monday, November 27, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00PM REGULAR AGENDA

President Strobel called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

- Present** 6 - Mike Strobel, Enoch Blazis, Rhonda Pownell, Board Member Randy Yoder, Andrea Berube, and Kristin Lucas
- Absent** 1 - Jessica Peterson-White

Also present: Nate Carlson, Economic Development Coordinator; Anna Watson, Economic Development Associate; Jay Herrera, Meeting Associate - Interpreter; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Lucas, seconded by Yoder, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Strobel, Blazis, Pownell, Board Member Yoder, Berube, and Lucas

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [23-1612](#) October 23, 2023 EDA Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice President Blazis, seconded by Lucas, to approve the October 23, 2023 EDA meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Strobel, Blazis, Pownell, Board Member Yoder, Berube, and Lucas

Enactment No: EDA M2023-008

PRESENTATIONS

2. [23-1613](#) Riverwalk Market Fair 2023 End of Season Presentation

Riverwalk Market Fair Board Chair Teresa Jensen and her colleagues on the Board Martha Kasper and Kathy Ness delivered a 2023 End of Season Presentation on the Riverwalk Market Fair. The speakers responded to questions and comments from the EDA.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. [23-1614](#) October 2023 EDA Financials

Economic Development Coordinator Nate Carlson reported on current EDA financials.

4. [23-1615](#) Introductory Presentation from Mercado Local

Economic Development Associate Anna Watson introduced Mar Valdecantos of Rice County Neighbors United [Vecinxs Unidxs], who spoke on the history and present of Northfield's Mercado Local. Several vendors also spoke on their involvement with the Mercado. Valdecantos and Economic Development Coordinator Nate Carlson responded to questions and comments from the EDA. The EDA continued discussion of recommendations to the City on next steps.

The EDA will create a committee of three board members to explore partnerships with Mercado Local. Carlson will contact EDA members to gauge interest.

A motion was made by Pownell, seconded by Vice President Blazis, to extend the meeting until the conclusion of business. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Strobel, Blazis, Pownell, Board Member Yoder, Berube, and Lucas

Enactment No: EDA M2023-010

A motion was made by Pownell, seconded by Yoder, to approve the creation of a three-person committee to explore partnerships with Mercado Local. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Strobel, Blazis, Pownell, Board Member Yoder, Berube, and Lucas

Enactment No: EDA M2023-010

5. [23-1616](#) MCCD Open to Business Report

Economic Development Coordinator Nate Carlson presented an update on Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) and their representation to Northfield. Carlson responded to questions and comments from the EDA.

STAFF UPDATES

6. [23-1617](#) EDA Future Meeting Schedule

Economic Development Coordinator presented the updated calendar of future EDA meetings and announced the new 2024 EDA members. There will be no EDA meeting in December 2023. The next EDA meeting will be on Monday, January 22, 2024.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Randy Yoder reported on his meeting, along with Mayor Pownell and City Administrator Ben Martig, with the Chamber of Commerce regarding facilitating better communication between the City and local business leaders.
- Mayor Pownell expressed excitement for the new EDA members and the work they will do in 2024. Pownell also reminded the EDA of the December 12, 2023 Holiday Social and

Appreciation Reception.

- President Strobel reported that the construction of his Aurora warehouse expansion is almost complete and should be ready for occupancy in January.

- Andrea Berube reported on the opening of Lux MedSpa which will have six employees by January.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice President Blazis, seconded by Yoder, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Strobel, Blazis, Pownell, Board Member Yoder, Berube, and Lucas