



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Meeting Minutes - Draft Economic Development Authority

Thursday, September 24, 2020

7:30 AM

[GoTo Meeting](#)

Rollcall

Present: 7 - Andrew Ehrmann, Mike Strobel, Britt Ackerman, Enoch Blazis, Rachel Leatham, Jessica Peterson White and Rhonda Pownell

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

President Strobel called the meeting to order at 7:34am.

Also present: Lisa Peterson - Chair of Riverwalk Market Fair, Teresa Jensen - Vice chair of Riverwalk Market Fair, Martha Kasper - Riverwalk Market Fair Board Member, Youth reps: Alex Baraniak and Clara Falcon-Geist.

A motion was made by Peterson White, seconded by Ackerman to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following votes:

Yes: 6 - Strobel, Ackerman, Blazis, Leatham, Peterson White and Pownell

Not Present: 1 - Ehrmann

Approval of Minutes

1. [20-483](#) August 27, 2020 EDA Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [8-27-2020 EDA Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Pownell, seconded by Leatham, to approve the August 27, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Strobel, Ackerman, Blazis, Leatham, Peterson White and Pownell

Financials

2. [20-484](#) August 2020 EDA Financials

Attachments: [1 - August EDA Finances 2020](#)
[2 - August EDA Loan Report](#)

Economic Development Coordinator Nate Carlson gave a short update regarding the financials letting the EDA know that Option 1 for preliminary levy was approved.

Andrew Ehrmann joined the meeting 7:37am.

New Business Items

3. [20-485](#) Consider the Draft Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan

Attachments: [1 - DRAFT Action Plan](#)
[2 - REAC Webpage](#)

Community Development Director Mitzi Baker introduced this item noting the next steps, funding and the EDA's role.

Old Business Items

4. [20-486](#) Riverwalk Market Fair Update

Attachments: [1 - RWMF Contract](#)

Economic Development Coordinator Nate Carlson introduced this item and answered questions posed by the EDA.

Lisa Peterson gave an update on the status of where the Riverwalk Market Fair is right now and answered questions posed by the EDA.

Staff will create a new year long contract with the Riverwalk Market Fair and bring it back to the EDA for approval.

5. [20-487](#) Staff Updates on Outstanding EDA Items

Attachments: [1 - Northfield Business Assistance Program Policy 9-1-2020 Approved](#)
[2 - Northfield Non-Profit Assistance Program Policy 9-1-2020 Approved](#)

Economic Development Coordinator Nate Carlson gave a brief update on:
- e-commerce grants noting one business will not be utilizing the grant money.
- one facade project has been completed the other has encountered problems and might not pick up until next year.

Rachel Leatham left at 8:16am and arrived back 8:21am.

Reports and Discussion Items

- a) Commissioner Comments and Reports
- b) Staff Updates and Reports
- c) Comments from the Chair

President Strobel: gave an update on 512 Division St. and the Aurora project is almost complete!

Economic Development Coordinator Nate Carlson: Southern MN Initiative Association are investing in minority entrepreneurial development. We exploring a grant application in partnership with Northfield Enterprise Center.

Rachel: finished a 6 month program to support emerging leaders, hosted by the City/Beth Kallestad, noting it is nice to see the commitment to diversity.

Enoch Blazis left 8:29am.

6. [20-488](#) EDA Future Meeting Schedule

Attachments: [1 - Future Meeting Schedule 9-24-2020](#)

Economic Development Coordinator Nate Carlson noted that the EDA will continue to meet via GoTo Meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Pownell, seconded by Peterson White, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33am.