



# City of Northfield

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final Economic Development Authority

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Thursday, October 28, 2021

7:30 AM

Council Chambers

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### CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

*The meeting was called to order at 7:34AM.*

*Also present: Youth Representatives Clara Falcon-Geist and Xochitl Valdez, Economic Development Coordinator Nate Carlson, Meetings Associate Edward Malnar, Julie Cohrs, Charlie Kite, Mar Valdecantos*

**Present** 6 - Andrew Ehrmann, Mike Strobel, Britt Ackerman, Enoch Blazis, Rachel Leatham, and Rhonda Pownell

**Absent** 1 - Jessica Peterson White

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Strobel, seconded by Ehrmann, to approve the agenda.  
The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Ehrmann, Strobel, Ackerman, Blazis, and Leatham

**Not Present:** 1 - Pownell

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-594](#) 23 September, 2021 EDA Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [1 - 09-23-2021 EDA Minutes](#)

**A motion was made by Ackerman, seconded by Strobel, to approve the  
September 23 minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Ehrmann, Strobel, Ackerman, Blazis, and Leatham

**Not Present:** 1 - Pownell

### FINANCIALS

2. [21-595](#) September 2021 EDA Financials

**Attachments:** [1 - September EDA Finances 2021](#)  
[2 - Sept EDA Loan Report](#)

*ED Coordinator Carlson presented the September Financials. No discussion.*

### PRESENTATIONS

3. [21-596](#) Presentation - Socioeconomic Summer Interns

**Attachments:** [1 - Intern Webinar from Tatev Gevorgyan](#)

[2 - jaffar\\_shaheer\\_poster](#)

[3 - Internship essay - City of northfield](#)

*ED Coordinator Carlson introduced the presentations created by summer interns to describe their work in their absence.*

*Member Pownell arrived at 7:37AM.*

## NEW BUSINESS

4. [EDA M2021-046](#) Funding Proposal - Hispanic Holiday Market

**Attachments:** [1 - Pilot program of Hispanic Holiday Market MERCADO LOCAL](#)

*Charlie Kite and Mar Valdecantos presented efforts to launch a local community marketplace at the Northfield Depot during winter months. They are working with Rice County Neighbors United to offer racial minority vendors and business owners access to a location to conduct business. Presenters answered members' questions and provided feedback on the initiative and advertising.*

**A motion was made by Ackerman, seconded by Blazis, to approve a grant of \$950 to assist the debut of community marketplace Mercado Local. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Ehrmann, Strobel, Ackerman, Blazis, Leatham, and Pownell

## OLD BUSINESS

5. [EDA M2021-047](#) Façade Improvement Program update

**Attachments:** [1 - Northfield EDA Approved FacadeImprovementGrantProg\\_Criteria](#)

[2 - Petition FacadeImprovement NUY](#)

*ED Coordinator Carlson presented the extent and slowing speed of facade improvement requests and then introduced two proposals: to extend the duration of the Facade Improvement Grant program, and to alter the program's district to include nearby buildings such as the Union of Youth building. That building, falling outside of the program's designated zone, was agreed to be ineligible under the program as it is. Carlson answered questions about the grant program and its scope. Members discussed the operations of the EDA, limitations of its programs, and options by which the EDA or another arm of City governance may handle the Union of Youth's request for financial support.*

*Member Ackerman made a motion, seconded by Member Strobel, to maintain the Facade Improvement Grant program as is. The motion carried with unanimous approval.*

*Member Ackerman made a motion, seconded by Member Strobel, to direct City staff to review the Union of Youth's petition, explore options for supporting the Union, and to determine the most appropriate response. The motion carried with unanimous approval.*

A motion was made by Ackerman, seconded by Blazis, to extend the Facade Improvement Grant program until November 1, 2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Ehrmann, Strobel, Ackerman, Blazis, Leatham, and Pownell

## REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND PRESIDENT

*Member Strobel relayed positive community feedback, demonstrations of growth following EDA grants, and expressed thanks for the EDA's work to support the community.*

*Member Blazis reported that St. Olaf's Christmas Festival will proceed this year, bringing visitors back to campus and to town.*

## STAFF REPORTS

*ED Coordinator Carlson presented an update on the NEC contract review and expects to bring a full report to the next meeting.*

*Members discussed status of the Northfield economy, such how to account for general workplace hiring/staffing challenges at local businesses and what the City and EDA can do to assist them.*

*Member Ackerman departed at 8:42.*

6. [21-597](#) NEC Contract Committee Update

7. [21-598](#) EDA Future Meeting Schedule

**Attachments:** [1 - Future Meeting Schedule 10-28-2021](#)

## ADJOURNMENT

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:51AM.*

A motion was made by Pownell, seconded by Ehrmann, to adjourn the . The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Ehrmann, Strobel, Blazis, Leatham, and Pownell

Not Present: 1 - Ackerman