



Faribault Economic Development Authority
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday | November 19, 2020 | Regular Meeting – held via Zoom

Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 – Meeting by Telephone or Other Electronic Means; Conditions - [Minn. Stat. § 13D.021](#) provides that a meeting of a public body may be conducted via telephone or other electronic means if meeting in a public location is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or declared emergency.

Members Present: Dave Albers, Matt Carlander, Matt Drevlow, Rod Gramse, Janna Viscomi and Kevin Voracek

Members Absent: Gary Kindseth

Staff Present: Community & Economic Development Director Deanna Kuennen, Economic Development Coordinator Samantha Markman, and City Administrator Tim Murray

1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Agenda Approval

Action: Chair, Rod Gramse called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Roll Call Present: Albers, Drevlow, Voracek, and Chair Gramse.

2. Approval Minutes

A. Minutes of December 23, 2020 EDA Meeting (majority vote)

Action: Motion was made by Albers and seconded by Viscomi to approve Minutes of December 23, 2020 as presented.

Roll Call:

Aye: Albers, Carlander, Drevlow, Viscomi, Voracek and Chair Gramse

Nay: None.

Motion carried on a 6/0 vote.

3. Routine Business: *Agenda items below are approved by one motion unless an EDA member requests separate action.*

- A. Monthly Loan Status Report
- B. Permit Activity Update Report
- C. Budget Status Report

Action: Motion was made by Voracek and seconded by Albers to receive and file the monthly status reports as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Aye: Albers, Carlander, Drevlow, Viscomi, Voracek and Chair Gramse

Nay: None.

Motion carried on a 6/0 vote.

4. Public Hearings

- A. None.

5. Items for Discussion

A. Discuss Funding Requests for Chamber/Main Street Programs

Kuennen stated that over the last few years the EDA has included funding in the annual budget for “other programs” as proposed by outside agencies that further the economic development goals of the city and fit within the EDA’s work plan. The Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce has developed two proposals for the EDA’s consideration – for programs aimed at bringing additional people and investments into the downtown. These program fit within the EDA’s “gateway” focus – specifically “continue investments into the downtown – partnering with City/HRA/HPC/Others on downtown initiatives.

1. Upstairs Downtown Digital Experience

Funding Request: \$5000. Kelly Nygaard shared with the EDA the success of the program and explained that the funding would allow additional units to be photographed and shared – expanding access to the transformations to a broader audience. After discussion regarding the ease to update the information, the EDA voiced their support.

Action: Motion was made by Albers and seconded by Voracek to approve funding in the amount of \$5000 for the Upstairs Downtown Digital Experience, and directed Staff to prepare any necessary agreements.

ROLL CALL:

Aye: Albers, Carlander, Drevlow, Viscomi, Voracek and Chair Gramse

Nay: None.

Motion carried on a 6/0 vote

2. Creative Placemaking

Funding Request: \$6900. Kelly Nygaard presented information about possible placemaking initiatives that would support downtown businesses, proposing a program that would provide small grants to businesses. The program would also include involve working with the Max Musicant Group to build upon the placemaking session held in January and bring those ideas to downtown Faribault. After much discussion, the EDA expressed concerns about the program becoming another “grant” program for businesses – and instead wanted to see refinements to the program to have a broader impact and not just benefit individual businesses. The EDA continued the item, and directed Staff to bring the item back to a future meeting.

6. Updates/Project Reports

Staff provided a summary of projects. Included was an overview of current site selector/business development projects; status of the CARES Act Funding and the additional Rice County program; mural selection (the EDA agreed to provide funding for the mural); and a joint marketing effort with Owatonna. In addition, Staff requested that the EDA name a subcommittee to work with Staff on some larger economic development initiatives and planning efforts, which will be brought back to the EDA for review and discussion. Chair Gramse and Voracek volunteered.

7. Adjourned

Action: Motion was made by Albers and seconded by Voracek to adjourn at 7:40 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Aye: Albers, Carlander, Drevlow, Viscomi, Voracek and Chair Gramse

Nay: None.

Motion carried on a 6/0 vote

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Kuennen, Director