



# GRAND RAPIDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, January 26, 2023  
4:00 PM**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority will be held in the City Council Chambers in the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, in Grand Rapids, Minnesota on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 4:00 PM.

## CALL TO ORDER

## CALL OF ROLL

### PRESENT

Commissioner Al Hodnik  
Commissioner Mike Korte  
President Sholom Blake  
Commissioner Tasha Connelly  
Commissioner Wayne Bruns  
Commissioner Tom Sutherland

### ABSENT

Commissioner Cory Jackson

**SETTING OF THE REGULAR AGENDA** - *This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented, or to add/delete an agenda item by a majority vote of the Commissioners present .*

## APPROVE MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the minutes from the January 12th, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Connelly, second by Commissioner Bruns to approve the minutes from the January 12th, 2023 regular meeting. The following voted in favor thereof: Hodnik, Blake, Bruns, Korte Connelly, Sutherland. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

## APPROVE CLAIMS

2. Consider approval of claims in the amount of \$32,835.24

Motion by Commissioner Hodnik, second by Commissioner Connelly to approve the claims in the amount of \$32,835.24. The following voted in favor thereof: Sutherland, Connelly, Korte, Bruns, Blake, Hodnik. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

## BUSINESS

3. Overview and update regarding proposed Sanford Fairview merger - Jean MacDonell, Pres. & CEO Fairview Range & Grand Itasca

Jean MacDonell, President and CEO of Fairview Range and Grand Itasca provided an update on the potential merger between Sandford and Fairview. There have been information sessions for the public in Bemidji, St. Paul and Worthington. There will be a session next Tuesday in Grand Rapids at the Reif Center at 6:00 the public is encouraged to attend. Some of the concerns with the merger are the loss of jobs, keeping jobs local and the ability for doctors to still refer patients to Duluth. At this point a time has not been set for the merger to be completed.

## UPDATES

4. Downtown Plan Update - Stephanie Falkers, SRF Consulting and Janna King, Economic Development Services

Janna King provided a power point presentation highlighting the feedback received from the public regarding what they would like to see in the downtown, concerns they have about the downtown and ways to make it a destination. There were two public meetings and a stakeholders meeting which were very well attended. There will be another public meeting when the new downtown plan has been finalized.

## ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

### MEMBERS & TERMS

Tom Sutherland - 12/31/2023

Tasha Connelly - 12/31/2023

Cory Jackson - 3/1/23

Mike Korte - 3/1/24

Wayne Bruns - 3/1/25

Sholom Blake - 3/1/25

Al Hodnik - 3/1/27