



MEMO

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To: Plan Commission
From: Director of Planning and Community Development
Date: 05-16-2023
Re: Renew Kaukauna – ARPA and RACK Program

In 2022 the Council approved ARPA funding for a program aimed at improving the City's Historic Core and gave direction to staff to develop the program and bring it back for consideration. RACK then approved matching funds to the program and similarly directed staff to create the program for further review. To that end, staff created the attached initiative with three programs within in it, all aimed at addressing different needs within the City's core.

1. **Façade Improvement Program (FIP)** a forgivable loan program to help renovate the exterior of historic buildings within the Commercial Core District. The program provides matching forgivable loans up to \$15,000.
2. **Interior Renovation Program (IRP)** a forgivable loan program to help bring up to code the interior of historic buildings within the Commercial Core District. The program provides 1/3 matching forgivable loans up to \$15,000.
3. **Downtown Beautification** is a grant program meant to beautify the downtown through use of art and plantings.

The goal of the Renew Kaukauna Initiative is to invest both public and private funds into Kaukauna's downtown to both beautify and revitalize the corridor. RACK has discussed the program at multiple meetings and made several edits. The program presented to council today has been approved by RACK and recommended for approval by the common council.

If Council chooses to move forward with this program, the funds would be made available immediately after approval and RACK would administer the oversight of each project applying for funding.

Recommendation:

Approval of the Renew Kaukauna Initiative