

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 6:00 pm

In-PERSON/VIRTUAL MEETING

Room 2044, City Hall

By Phone or Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join>

For the Public, Members of the media and the public may attend by calling: (US) +1 (646)931-3860

Meeting ID: 617-065-5357

Pass Code: 959083

All public participants' phones will be muted during the meeting except during the public comment period where applicable.

RDA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

~~1) 100 W. Main St. block demolition, Town Square design etc., and publicizing town square project for possible funding from sources other than the City.~~

2) Facilitating quality development in downtown, and

3) Creating an approach and working to attract development projects downtown.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

A. Present: Mason Becker, Ald. Arnett, Jacob Maas, Ryan Nowatka. Ald. Berg and Dave Zimmermann (joined at 6:08 pm)

B. Virtual: Representatives from US EPA and ICF, Goodrow (WDT),

C. Absent: Karissa Hurtgen & Ryan Wagner

D. Other attendees: 2 residents and members of Leadership Watertown.

3. Determination of Quorum and Call to Order at 6:01 pm

4. Approval of meeting minutes

A. Regular Board Minutes 3.12.25

Maas motioned to approve

Arnett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. No public comment

6. Old Business:

A. **Beltz Grants**

a. Review and possible action: Beltz Grant Application for Bentzin Family Town Square

Zimmermann motioned to approve

Maas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. **Rock River District Development Sites**

a. Upcoming Finance Committee meeting: Becker noted that he would be presenting a timeline for implementation at the April 21, 2025, Finance meeting and invited the board members to attend.

b. Development update: Becker discussed the status of the Oxbow project as well as the two sites being evaluated by Intrepid Investments.

D. **Bentzin Family Town Square: Historic Art Wall & plaques**

a. Update on Historic Art wall: Becker shared that the installation would begin this coming Tuesday, work expected to take two days. The Art Wall was made possible by a donation from Barton Bentzin.

7. New Business:

- A. **Introduction of new board members:** Ald. Arnett and Ald. Berg both recently elected, introduced themselves
- B. Review and possible action: Sponsorship request for Bentzin Family Town Square event:
Nowatka motioned to approve to donate \$1,500 to sponsor a Badger game screening. Zimmermann seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 1 (Arnett opposed).
- C. Review and possible action: Sponsorship request for leadership Watertown project. Jody Purtell, Erin Stain, and Andrew Morales of the Leadership Watertown class gave a presentation on the plan for improving the alleyway within the south 100 block of E. Main St. (behind Bismarcks).
Maas motioned to approve to donate \$2,000 to the project. Berg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Status Reports:

- A. **Housing Rehab Grants:**
 - a. Becker shared that several applications are under evaluation, and he expects the remaining funds to be expended within the next few months. The program is currently closed to new applications until a new source of funding can be found with board approval.
- B. **Social media/messaging update:**
 - a. Famularo's report was emailed to the board. Arnett voiced interest in seeing longer term chart/data included.
- C. **Council update:**
 - a. Discussed the first meeting of the new council.
- D. **Executive Director update:**
 - a. Items for next agenda:
 - a. Arnett shared he would like to see some long-term strategy discussions around fundraising, etc.
 - b. Board members can email other ideas to Becker.
 - b. Next meeting May 21, 2025, at 6 pm

9. Adjournment at 7:12 pm

Berg motioned to adjourn.
Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.