

Wednesday, May 21, 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, Steve Board, Ald. Berg, Ryan Wagner
 - B. Virtual: Karissa Hurtgen
 - C. Absent: Dave Zimmermann
 - D. Other attendees: Paape, Kaddesh, Broere, Budewitz, **Smith, Smith**, Larson Luhman, Schroeder, other residents. Virtual: Amber Smith and Zach Goodrow (WDT)
3. Determination of Quorum and Call to Order at 6:01 pm
4. Approval of meeting minutes
 - A. Regular Board Minutes 4.16.25
Berg motioned to approve
Mass seconded the motion. Motion carried, Board abstained.
5. No public comment
6. Old Business:
 - A. **Rock River District Vision**
 - a. Development update: Becker discussed the status of the talks with Intrepid Investments and continued to work on the Oxbow project.
 - b. Discussion of fundraising planning: Wagner and Becker discussed recent meeting with the Greater Watertown community Health Foundation on potential grant opportunities and other options.
 - D. **Bentzin Family Town Square: Historic Art Wall & plaques**
 - a. Update on Historic Art wall: Becker shared that planned ribbon cutting in conjunction with the "Birthday Bash" on May 31, 2025
7. New Business:
 - A. **Introduction of new board members:** Steve Board, returning board member, introduced himself
 - B. Review and discussion: Downtown parking. David Paape gave a presentation on his personal survey of downtown parking options and potential future needs for parking. Some residents and business

owners in attendance shared their feedback. Budewitz will share older parking survey results with Becker and he will pass on to the board. Paape's slides will also be shared with the RDA board.

- C. Discussion on goal setting and future planning: Arnett brought up the idea of using a facilitator. Discussion followed. Arnett will email Becker information on past school board collaboration with the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation on this topic.

8. Status Reports:

A. **Housing Rehab Grants:**

- a. The two submitted applications recommended by Thrive Ed were brought for approval.

Board motioned to approve both as presented

Mass seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Beltz Foundation Grants:

- a. Becker mentioned that he had recently spoken with two potential applicants, and John Beltz brought up the idea for another. Becker will discuss.

C. **Social media/messaging update:**

- a. Famularo's report was emailed to the board.

D. **Council update:**

- a. Berg discussed the Riverfest cost-share agreement with the city.
- b. Arnett discussed the approved plats for Edge Field and the Enclave, as well as the rezoning of the former Johnsonville site.

E. **Executive Director update:**

- a. Becker discussed the information shared regarding the city-owned property on County Rd. A.
- b. Items for next agenda:
 - a. Update on the proposed Citywide Sign Grant Program
 - b. Berg mentioned a resident's idea for use of the site by the Bentzin Family Town Square
- c. Next meeting June 18, 2025, at 6 pm

9. Adjournment at 7:15 pm

Berg motioned to adjourn.

Arnett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.