

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

6:00 pm

In-PERSON/VIRTUAL MEETING

Room 0041, City Hall

By Phone or GoToMeeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/471703029>

For the Public, Members of the media and the public may attend by calling: (US) +1 (872) 240-3412

Access Code: 471-703-029

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

RDA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1) ~~400 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.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
 - A. Present: Becker, Bartz, Hurtgen (virtual), Lampe, Nowatka, and Wagner
 - B. Absent: Zimmermann
 - C. Also Present: Mueller
3. Determination of Quorum and Call to Order at 6:07 pm
4. **Review/Approve:** Minutes of Previous Meetings – September 27, 2023
 - A. **Nowatka motioned to approve September 27, 2023 Minutes. Bartz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**
5. Public Comment: None
6. Status Reports
 - A. Downtown River Corridor Planning - Becker
 1. Recommended a third party preparing a strategic plan for the Downtown River Corridor (more than just the river's edge, plan would include one to two blocks east and west of the river).
 2. Map provided with an outline of tentative boundaries with the possibility of extending to Fisher Barton. Becker will talk with Fisher Barton to see if they are interested.
 3. Wagner suggested incorporating walking bridges over the river and a river fountain and river lighting /underlighting the bridge.
 4. **Wagner motioned to move forward with developing an RFP seeking a downtown analysis and strategic plan for the downtown river corridor. Nowatka seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - B. Community Support/Communications: Mueller
 1. Review Social Media – The Square is still receiving significant traffic.
 2. RDA Revolving Loan Fund decals distributed to all but one RLF participating business. Received well. Story will be released about RDA supporting Small Business as it gets closer to Small Business Saturday in November.
 3. RDA Board transition press release is ready when final new board member is approved.

4. Presentation: Review of Marketing & Communication efforts. Presentation will be made into a video to share and post on website.

C. Common Council Update:

1. Bartz – Common Council passed amended budget on Thursday.
Town Square Programming Director and expenses will be paid out of Fund 26 (Town Square Future Fund).

D. Executive Director:

1. Bentzin Family Town Square

- a. Punch List Items finished, dock installed, gate will need to be replaced, looking into placing a riprap hook near the dock for protection.
- b. History Wall Update – in process, should be finished and delivered before end of year. Pieces will be stored at Street Dept. A suggestion was made to inspect all the pieces and take photos/press release. Will be installed after the Main Street bridge reconstruction.
- c. Fund 26 will cover expenses for a roof on the shade structure and shade structure for the Fisher Barton Plaza. Water bill paid out of Fund 26. Parks and Recreation searching for options to regulate the water flow.

2. T Wall – Reviewed extensions given to T Wall. T Wall asked to downsize the project significantly. The Development Agreement has ceased and the city attorney has served notice that T Wall needs to return the parcel to the City in 60 days. The City of Watertown will send out an RFP seeking development of the land when parcel is secured.

3. Revolving Loan Fund

- a. RDA Financial Position Summary was reviewed.
- b. Becker was asked to look into short term CD/MMA investments with higher rates of return.
- c. Paperwork for Budget Print and Dan Rahfaldt properties in process.
- d. Balance in Revolving Loan Fund approximately \$108,290. Plan to re-market RLF opportunities in early 2024.

4. Beltz Grant status update:

- a. Still waiting for financials from Pine Hill Farm. Becker requests RDA approve a grant up to \$13,022.12 for Pine Hill Farm pending financials. **Bartz motioned to approve a grant up to \$13,022.12 for Pine Hill Farm. Wagner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Future Agenda Focus: Progress report on River Corridor RFP.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 29 at 6:00 PM

9. Adjournment at 7:19 pm

Bartz motioned to adjourn, Nowatka seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.