

Wednesday, January 15, 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. Lampe, Ald. Board, Ryan Wagner, Jacob Maas, Dave Zimmermann, and Ryan Nowatka

B. Virtual: Karissa Hurtgen, RINKA representatives

C. Absent: None

D. Other attendees: 1 resident

3. Determination of Quorum and Call to Order at 6:02 pm

4. Approval of meeting minutes

A. Regular Board Minutes 12.18.24

Nowatka motioned to approve

Board seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. No public comment

6. Old Business:

A. **Downtown River Corridor Planning.**

a. Update on the branding concept. Steve Morales from RINKA shared a presentation from the last steering committee. He discussed the selected logo concept. The consensus of the board was to continue moving forward with the selected concept. Next steering committee meeting is being scheduled.

B. **Beltz Grants.**

a. Becker shared an update on the Rafah Bowls project.

b. Becker shared an update on 2025 funds that still need to be allocated.

C. **111 S. Water St.**

a. Becker discussed the Phase II ESA for the N First parking lot and continued conversations with the developer. The current pre-development agreement goes through March 1st with the opportunity for extensions.

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

- a. Becker reached out to Barton Bentzin and is waiting to hear back from him. ZTI should be pouring concrete for this in the next week or two, weather permitting.

7. New Business:

A. Review and approve RDA chair and vice-chair for 2025.

- a. Becker called for nominations for chair.

Wagner nominated Ryan Wagner for the board chair, seconded by Maas.

Nominations closed with no other nominations received. Wagner was unanimously elected chair for 2025

- b. Wagner called for nominations for vice-chair.

Wagner nominated Nowatka, seconded by Lampe.

Nominations closed with no other nominations received. Nowatka was unanimously elected vice-chair for 2025.

- c. Members of the board thanked Hurtgen for her service as vice chair and her continued membership on the board.

8. Status Reports:

A. **Housing Rehab Grants:**

- a. A check is expected to be cut soon for a completed project.
- b. Becker mentioned that he will check in with Roxanne Witte from Thrive ED and plan for a PR push in the first quarter.
- c. Wagner expressed an interest in seeing quarterly press releases on this topic. Becker will work on follow-ups.

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

- a. There was discussion of a proposed social media messaging calendar for 2025.
- b. Becker will add some more points regarding the Home Rehab Grants. The board gave consensus to move forward as planned. Any other comments or suggestions can be emailed to Mason.

C. **Council update:**

- a. Board shared feedback from the last Downtown Business Meet-up at the library. Twenty-three questions were asked. Some of the questions included subjects like potential property assessments and lateral connections. Next meetup likely after the new Main St. Director is hired.
- b. Lampe discussed the upcoming elections, including the spring primary in February.

D. **Executive Director update:**

- a. Becker gave a general development update on the information that was presented in the memo in the agenda packet. He discussed the situation with some national brands closing locations across the country. Also noted, recent small business openings.
- b. Items for next agenda: members should email Becker with ideas. Mason also noted the possibility of a special RDA meeting to discuss Rock River District cost estimates from RINKA, if they are ready ahead of the next regular meeting.
- c. Next meeting is February 19, 2025, at 6 pm.

9. Adjournment at 6:55 pm

Board motioned to adjourn.

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