



Office of the City Manager
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MEMORANDUM

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To: Common Council
From: John Weidl, City Manager
Date: 10/30/2023
Re: Proposal for Extension of MoUs Deadline to June 30, 2024, for Whitewater Innovation Center & Tech Park Board Operations

Dear Members of the Council,

I am reaching out to discuss the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that delineate the operational framework for the Whitewater Innovation Center and Technology Park, as managed by the Whitewater University Technology Park, Inc. (WUTP).

Historical Context & Current Agreements: The City, in partnership with the WUTP and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, has fostered the development of the Whitewater Innovation Center and Technology Park. This partnership was formalized through two crucial MoUs:

1. **City and WUTP Board MoU:** The ownership of the Innovation Center is vested in the CDA, with the WUTP Board taking on delegated management responsibilities. This MoU, signed by the City Manager and a WUTP executive, was set to expire on February 28, 2023. This was recently extended through December 31, 2023 by the Common Council.

2. **WUTP and University of Wisconsin MoU:** The University was granted exclusive use of designated spaces within the Innovation Center and took on the management of the incubation program. This MoU provided for automatic yearly renewals post the initial five-year term.

Request for Extension: As the current agreements near their end, the WUTP Board of Directors has approved a proposal to extend the term of these MoUs until June 30, 2024 as opposed to the initial extension of December 31, 2023. This extension is sought to ensure that the City, CDA, WUTP, and UWW have sufficient time to revise and align both governing MOUs.

Proposal for Council Action: I hereby request that the Common Council ratify the extension approved by the WUTP board, allowing us the necessary time to evaluate the success of the existing arrangements and to plan any modifications that may be required for the continued prosperity of the Innovation Center and Technology Park.

John S. Weidl, City Manager