



Redevelopment Authority for the City of Watertown

Turning Opportunity into Results

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

5:33 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) ~~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.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Becker, Salas, Zimmermann, Zastrow, Bartz, Kuenzi, Lampe, and Wagner
 - b. Absent: None
 - c. Also Present: Jeanne Mueller, Melissa Lampe, Barb Phelps, Stephanie Juhl, John Katsich, and Peg Checkai
3. Determination of Quorum and Call to Order at 5:40 pm
4. **Review/Approve:** Minutes of Previous Meetings – April 19, 2023 and April 20, 2023
 - a. **Kuenzi motioned to approve April 19. Zastrow seconded the motion.**
 - b. **Salas motioned to approve April 20. Zastrow seconded the motion.****Both minutes were unanimously approved.**
5. Public Comment
 - a. Phelps is asking for a follow-up community Q & A conversation (and nearby residents) to hear concerns after the Town Square is open for a while. She cautioned, be very protective of the Library and all that was put into creating that building.
6. Introduction of Stephanie Juhl, Town Square Programming Director
7. Status Reports
 - a. Mueller reported on website, social media, Town Square Q & A, and showed final Town Square video.
 - b. Bartz reported Town Square commission was approved.
Lampe reported Becker provided the Council with a report on what the RDA and Executive Director do.
Lampe requested updates on Town Square funding sources and Future Fund balance.
Lampe reported a no smoking policy for parks and Town Square is in process.
 - c. Executive Director Update - Becker
 - a. Town Square – Construction
 1. Punch list walk through this week with CM Tony Meyers, Mason, Stephanie, and Kristine.
 2. Update on History Wall – received a sketch which needs to be approved by Barton. Proceeding as fast as we can.

3. Town Square Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening this Saturday, May 20.
 4. T Wall – Parking briefly discussed.
 5. Revolving Loan Fund report by Zastrow. Will have \$220,000 to lend.
RDA will reopen applications June 1 with deadline July 15. Interest rate possibly 4.95% w/\$50 application fee.
 6. DNR is nominating the Town Square for a Brownfields award.
8. Salas Report
 1. Discussed the Bethesda property. Suggests the RDA partner with Watertown Health Foundation and THRIVE to amplify their message/efforts by developing/deploying a communication program.
 9. Beltz Community Grants
 - i. Dr. John Beltz Foundation donated \$50,000/year for 3 years (2023-2025 with renewal option). Business Grant Program and Event Grant. Decision makers (sub-group of RDA board members and Dr. Beltz) Possible to layer with the Main Street Program and RDA Revolving Loan Fund.
Salas motioned to accept the Dr. John Beltz Business and Event Grant Programs contingent on review by City Attorney. Wagner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
 8. Future Agenda Focus: None
 9. Adjournment at 6:46 pm
Kuenzi motioned to adjourn, Bartz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.